

Marches LEP – New Board Member (HE Champion)

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is seeking expressions of interest for a non-executive Board Member to fill a vacancy as our Higher Education (HE) Champion on the LEP Board.

Please refer to the following documents:

- Advert for new Board member
- Duties and Responsibilities
- Person Specification
- Marches LEP Background Information

If you are interested in applying for this position, please email rachel.laver@marcheslep.org.uk your most recent CV along with a 250-word summary of actions you consider appropriate to develop the Marches economy and the role that Higher Education plays within these.

Our Strategic Economic Plan, LEP Board Terms of Reference and other key documents can be found at www.marcheslep.org.uk

At the Marches LEP we have established a first-class public/private partnership that approaches business growth and local regeneration in a positive and commercial manner. We are looking for a Board member who will contribute to this and have fresh ideas which will help us navigate our changing role in local economic growth in line with the levelling up agenda and political devolution. We need people with strong business acumen and political astuteness who are happy to represent the LEP at a range of events.

The closing date for applications is **12.00 on Monday 27 March 2023**. If you are shortlisted for this position, you will be invited to attend a panel interview (anticipated to be held w/c 3 April 2023). If successful, it is anticipated that the term of service will formally commence in April 2023 for a period of three years.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the opportunity, please call me on 07990 086392.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Laver

Chief Executive Officer

Marches Local Enterprise Partnership

Advert

Are you passionate about making a difference to your local community and helping businesses and residents in the Marches region? If so, this role could be for you. The closing date for applications is **12.00 on Monday 27 March 2023.**

[#businessleaders](#) [#diversityintheworkplace](#) [#herefordshire](#) [#shropshire](#) [#telfordandwrekin](#) [#highereducation](#)

Board Member recruitment

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is seeking to appoint a new Board Member who will act as its HE Champion and contribute to driving inclusive economic growth in the area. The individual will contribute actively to the Board's effective governance and oversee the development and delivery of new initiatives. The LEP is seeking expressions of interest from inspirational senior leaders who have the credibility to champion the Marches at a regional and national level.

An ideal candidate will have commercial acumen, a good understanding of public/private partnership working and the ability to contribute to reaching agreement on complex issues that cut across service delivery of the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.

The Board is seeking an individual with the following experience, skills and knowledge:

- Experience of working at a senior level in higher education;
- Knowledge of:
 - undergraduate, post graduate and/or degree level apprenticeship provision;
 - business engagement and knowledge exchange activities;
 - developing research capabilities with application to local economic growth;
 - community and civic engagement.

The LEP Board meets six times a year, usually in Ludlow, and the membership will be for a minimum of 2 years. The roles are voluntary, but reasonable travel expenses will be paid where required.

The Marches LEP encourages diversity to maximise its achievements, good practice, innovation and impact and we welcome applications from everyone. We therefore reflect a positive action approach under the Equality Act 2010 and are actively seeking expressions of interest from women, who are currently under represented on the LEP Board. Appointment will be on merit alone.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please email rachel.laver@marcheslep.org.uk your CV along with a 250-word summary of actions you consider appropriate to develop the Marches economy and the role that Higher Education plays within these.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the opportunity, please call Rachel Laver (Marches LEP Chief Executive Officer) on 07990 086392.

Marches LEP Board Member (HE Champion)

Title:	Board Member and Director of Marches LEP Ltd
Accountable to:	LEP Chair
Role Purpose:	To contribute to the development of the LEP as a company that is sustainable, provides government with the voice of business and plays an integral part in supporting economic development across the Marches

Main duties and responsibilities

As a Board Member, you will:

- Be a director of a private limited company and be responsible, along with the other directors, for overseeing the sound operating of the company
- Support the delivery of the vision, strategic objectives, targets, outputs and performance of the Marches Strategic Economic Plan and other key policies
- Contribute knowledge, skills and experience to the Board's agenda, ensuring that key issues of strategy, economic and business planning, investment, delivery, compliance, and risk are addressed effectively and in a timely manner.
- Attend Board meetings once every two months and other general meetings, maintaining orderly conduct and making appropriate contributions. Strive to reach a consensus and complete any allocated actions.
- Play a part in determining any appropriate sub-committees, to achieve full representation and effectiveness and contribute to such sub-committees as appropriate.
- Take an ambassadorial role as required, publicly championing the aims of the Marches LEP, representing and promoting its aims at all appropriate levels including with key partners/stakeholders.
- Work with senior business and political figures to achieve practical outcomes for the Marches LEP.
- Ensure decisions are taken objectively and in the interests of the Partnership, accept joint responsibility for Board decisions.
- Execute the responsibilities of the role according to lawful and ethical standards.
- Declare any personal, pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

Person specification

- Minimum of 5 years' experience of working at a senior level in higher education, with knowledge of:
 - undergraduate, post graduate and/or degree level apprenticeship provision;
 - business engagement and knowledge exchange activities;
 - developing research capabilities with application to local economic growth;
 - community and civic engagement.
- Understanding of the public sector and previous experience of partnership working
- Known within the local business community and /or local voluntary & community sector
- Experience of working in the Marches and wider region
- Commercial acumen
- Ability to analyse and interpret information, reach conclusions and take appropriate action
- Awareness of Corporate Governance
- Resilience, diplomacy and influencing skills
- Gravitas and confidence in public coupled with interpersonal skills and well-developed communication skills
- Ability to reconcile different priorities and expectations from a range of organisations
- Able to ensure the delivery of the Vision of the Marches LEP, upholding its values and standards of probity

Personal characteristics

- High emotional intelligence
- Good communication skills
- Good thinking skills
- Deep understanding of the importance of impartiality
- Affiliation with the Marches area
- Ability to devote sufficient time to the Partnership's business
- You should expect to spend approximately 1 day a month on LEP business and be able to attend at least four board meetings a year.
- The initial term of appointment is for 3 years and this can be extended a further term, so the maximum will be 6 years unless exceptional circumstances permit an additional year to be granted.

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership

The Marches Area

With a business base as rich and diverse as its landscape, the Marches is a region where enterprise and innovation have long provided economic vitality and growth. At its heart is the global birthplace of industry, part of a heritage which has sparked a dynamic business region where innovative enterprises operate alongside land-based industries and entrepreneurs flourish alongside the global players which have chosen to base their operations here.

The Marches includes the unitary council areas of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, is home to more than 710,000 people, some 32,000 businesses and contributes £14.6bn to the national economy. Located in central England, it is bordered by the industrial heartland of the West Midlands to the east and Wales to the west, providing a strategic logistical gateway for European and UK businesses through to Welsh and Irish business markets. The historic city of Hereford, the Shropshire county town of Shrewsbury and the town of Telford are the key centres of population and employment. With more than 25 market towns and many villages across its landscape, the Marches offers a unified trading area, based on common interests and a shared pride in business success.

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The Marches LEP is a partnership of business, education and the local authorities of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, which is investing in innovation, higher level skills, housing and business sites. The LEP's vision for the Marches is of a place which is:

- A place which is open for business, up for business and encourages clean, inclusive growth.
- A growing place, attracting more people to come, stay and build their careers and businesses.
- At the forefront of changes in how people live and work using new technology and improved physical and digital connectivity to enable businesses and people to develop and succeed.
- A destination not a boundary - gateway to markets in the Midlands, Wales, South West, North and Europe. A visitor destination with significant natural and cultural resources that is well known and attracts people looking for a high-quality experience.
- A collaborative and proactive place with businesses, further education institutions (FEIs), higher education institutions (HEIs), public and community organisations working together to agree what needs to happen and getting things done. Known as a good place to start and grow a business.
- A pioneer in the provision and testing of digitally driven health and social care for dispersed populations to support healthy ageing and economic participation in later life.

- A global centre of excellence in cyber security, agritech and advanced manufacturing, driving innovation in sustainable agriculture, food and drink production and energy generation.
- An inclusive place that enables residents from all communities to thrive and develop with quality jobs offering good wages, training and progression.
- The LEP is looking to continue driving economic development across the Marches, supporting investment into the area and responding to business and community needs, so that the region is an attractive place to visit, live and invest.

The Marches LEP Board

The Partnership is currently led by a 15 strong LEP Board, chaired by Sonia Roberts, a leading local business figure. The Board works closely with local business boards, networks and sector representatives to ensure effective business engagement, whilst keeping the executive function small to aid timely and effective decision making.

Current Marches LEP Board membership is as follows:

Sector	Name	Job Title and Organisation
Private Sector Chair (Equality and Diversity Champion, Community and Voluntary Sector Champion)	Sonia Roberts	CEO, Landau
Area Business Board Chairs	Frank Myers MBE	Chair of Herefordshire Business Board
	Will Westley	Chair of Telford Business Board CIC (Deputy Chair of LEP)
Marches Business Support Steering Group Chair (Small Business Champion)	Dave Courteen	MD, Mosaic Spa and Health Clubs
Enterprise Zone	Andrew Manning Cox	Chair of Hereford Enterprise Zone (Skylon Park)
Higher Education (HE Champion)	Vacant	Vacant
Food & Drink/Agri Tech	Christine Snell	Business Partner, AJ & CI Snell
Financial/Professional Services (Access to Finance Champion)	Paul Kalinauckas	Midland Engine Investment Fund Strategic Oversight Board
Post 16 Skills & Workforce Development (Skills Champion)	Graham Guest	CEO and Principal of Telford College
Manufacturing	Sara Williams	Marketing Manager, Protolabs
Construction/environmental technologies	Clare Fenton	Director, Fenton Partners
Health & Social Care	Alex Green	Director, Radfield Home Care
3 Local Authority Representatives	Cllr David Hitchiner (Alternate - Cllr Ellie Chowns)	Leader of Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Lezley Picton (Alternate - Cllr Dean Carroll)	Leader of Shropshire Council
	Cllr Lee Carter (Alternate - Cllr Richard Overton)	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Regeneration and the High Street, Telford & Wrekin Council
Co-opted Member (Energy Champion)	Gordon Coppock	Director, Pomona Solar Cooperative Ltd