

MARCHES LEP PERFORMANCE RISK & MONITORING COMMITTEE (PRMC) MEETING						
27 April 2023	27 April 2023 2.00 – 3.30					
Virtual Meeting						

	ATTENDANCE LIST								
Chair	Sonia Roberts	Deputy Chair of the MLEP Board							
Vice Chair	Sara Williams	Board Member							
	Frank Myers	Board Member							
	Alex Green	Board Member							
	Clare Fenton	Board Member							
Supporting Officers	James Walton	Section 151 Officer, Shropshire Council							
	Andrew Lovegrove	Section 151 Officer, Herefordshire Council							
	Ken Clarke	Section 151 Officer, Telford & Wrekin Council							
	Rachael Hart	Deputy Section 151 Officer, Herefordshire Council							
	Karen Morris	Deputy nominated by Section 151 Officer,							
		Herefordshire Council							
	Dainy Runton	Deputy nominated by Section 151 Officer, Telford &							
		Wrekin Council							
	Ben Jay	Shropshire Council AD Finance & ICT							
	Rachel Laver	Marches LEP Chief Executive							
	Mark Schneider	Marches LEP Head of Business Development &							
		Delivery							
	Kathryn Jones	Marches LEP Head of Partnerships & Strategy							
	Jo Grivell	Marches LEP Office Administrator							
	Govin Aujla	Assistant Director, Cities & Local Growth Unit							
	Alex Collins	Deputy Area Lead, Cities & Local Growth Unit							
Guest Speakers	James Newby	NMITE							
Guest Speakers	Hugo Russell	Cyber Quarter							

	AGENDA								
Item	Time	Description	Lead	Paper					
1	2.00 pm	Welcome, introductions and apologies.	SR						
		Declarations of interest	All						
2	2.05 pm	Draft minutes of last meeting on 15.2.23 and matters arising.	SR	٧					
3	2.10 pm	Marches LEP update	RL						
4	2.15 pm	Top Risk Registers Review/Update a) Corporate Risk Register b) Programme Risk Register	MS	٧					
5	2.20 pm	Performance Monitoring - exceptions a) Growth Deal & Getting Building Fund update b) Growth Hub update c) Energy Projects d) Key Account Management (KAM) e) Skills Support (SAP/Marches Careers Hub)	MS RL RL KJ KJ						
6	2.50 pm	Cyber Quarter Update	HR	٧					



7	3.10 pm	NMITE Update	JN	٧
8	3.25 pm	Any Other Business		

Next meeting: 22 June 2023

Future meetings: Thurs 24 August 2023 Thurs 26 October 2023 Thurs 14 December 2023

PRMC Meeting Date	Projects to present at meetings
Thurs 22 June	Oxon Link Road Pride Hill
	Tride tilli
Thurs 24 August	Herefordshire, Ludlow, and North Shropshire Green Skills project update (Energy Fund)
	Herefordshire City Centre Improvements
Thurs 26 October	Stronger Communities and Station Quarter
	EA Technology and National Grid monitor project (Energy
	Fund)



Distribution:

Attendees as listed above.

cc:

Will Westley, Deputy Chair of Marches LEP
Nicky Higgins, Shropshire Council, Finance
Sharron Stubbs, Shropshire Council, Finance
Ross Cook, Herefordshire Council, Economy & Environment
Katherine Kynaston, Telford & Wrekin Council
Mark Barrow, Shropshire Council

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Minutes of the Marches LEP Performance, Risk & Monitoring Committee (PRMC) Thursday 16 February 2023

Preser	nt							
Sonia	Roberts (Chair)	SR	Deputy Chair of the Marches LEP Board					
Alex G	reen	AG	Marches LEP Board Member					
Clare I	enton	CF	Marches LEP Board Member					
Sara V	Villiams	SW	Marches LEP Board Member	hes LEP Board Member				
James	Walton	JW	Section 151 Officer, Shropshire Council					
Ben Ja	У	BJ	Shropshire Council AD Finance & ICT					
Karen	Morris	KM	Deputy nominated by Section 151 Officer, Herefordshire Council					
Dainy	Runton	KM	Deputy nominated by Section 151 Officer, Telford & Wrekin Coun	cil				
Rache	l Laver	RL	Marches LEP Chief Executive					
Mark S	Schneider	MS	Marches LEP Head of Business Development and Delivery					
Kathry	n Jones	KJ	Marches LEP Head of Partnerships and Strategy					
Jo Griv	/ell	JG	Marches LEP Office Administrator					
Govin	•	GA	Area Lead, Cities & Local Growth Unit					
Alex C		AC	Deputy Area Lead, Cities & Local Growth Unit					
Ben Bo	oswell	BB	Herefordshire Council – Integrated Wetlands Programme	Г				
ITEM				ACTION				
1	Welcome, apologies							
		•	one to the meeting. Mark Schneider was introduced, who					
	1 9	-	023 as Head of Business Development and Delivery. Govin					
	_	Aujla was also introduced as the new Area Lead, for Cities & Local Growth Unit. RL						
	thanked Alex Collins for all his help and support while covering the Area Lead role.							
	Apologies were received from Ken Clarke, Andrew Lovegrove, and Frank Myers.							
	Declarations of inte							
	There were no decla							
2			g and matters arising					
			eting on 15 December 2022 were reviewed, checked for					
	accuracy, and approv	ed as a	an accurate record of the meeting.					
	All actions were add	dressed	with exception:					
	projects are physica	lly com	en tasked with visiting each of the projects to see that the uplete and to capture all their output and match information. MS ion over the coming months.	MS				
AC to confirm if there is going to be deadlines i.e. 2025.			ing to be any requirement to count outputs past the programme	AC				
3	Marches LEP Update		The LEDY and Coulty I have been seen as a second se					
	£250,000 for 2023-2 approximately £140	4. The ,000 so	te: The LEP's core funding has been reduced from £375,000 to VAT due to be paid by the LEP on its activities will be in effect the net income from Government is only £110,000 an deliver for the Marches.					
	RL stressed to GA that there needs to be a very clear mandate from Government regarding what it expects of the LEP. The Government has been clear about expectation about devolution but lots of LEPs operate across areas where there isn't a clear consensus							



and appetite for a devolution deal. Therefore what is the expected role for LEPs in these circumstances. If there is additional funding available then the LEPs need to be made aware and be eligible to bid for the work. There is still no news on Growth Hub funding with 6 weeks to go to year end which is very unsettling especially for staff are on contracts that only run to end of March.

The current public lack of ministerial support for LEPs is significantly damaging and ministers need to back LEPs if they want to retain them and the value of a strong independent business voice. In the absence of that backing or a clear mandate, then they need to be clear on the future role of LEPs. This lack of direction is impacting on local business leaders who give their time, and the ongoing lack of any decision on Growth Hub funding is adding to their frustrations, as LEP officers continue worry about their future.

AC reassured the group that he is feeding all the comments into the centre.

4. Top 5 Risk Registers

MS gave an update on the exercise to consolidate all the risks as there was some duplication. The focus of the updates will be on Top Risks and any new or changed risks.

A) Corporate Risk Register

No change to the top corporate risks as they mainly relate to the same topic regarding the uncertainty of LEPs and funding.

A new risk has been listed related to the financial risk/liability to directors if the LEP should be wound up. Funding for run off cover insurance has been ringfenced for the next 6 years to manage this risk.

SR highlighted a risk on staff contracts which are extended year on year. Contracts for 2023-24 have been extended in the knowledge that there is money to cover it but that will not be possible in 2024-25 as the LEP will no longer have sufficient reserves. In the event of contracts being extended and no funding coming through the LEP is still liable to pay for that year term dependent on their length of service. Additionally staff are likely to seek employment elsewhere as there is no assurance past March 2024 which could limit the ability to operate effectively. The consultation process will start in October 2023, unless funding for 24/25 is agreed before then.

B) Programme Risk Register

The top risks relate to Oxon Link Road, where the funding has been spent but the project not yet completed, the lack of clarity on funding for the Growth Hub and reduced capacity in the LEP team also tied to lack of funding.

The remaining risk ratings related to the following projects: Wetlands, HCCI and Pride Hill have all gone down. Details of the risks can be found here.

A new risk has been identified related to management of projects, due to the absence of project staff managing the projects and any potential loss of corporate knowledge in the team. A review of the projects is under way by MS to address this.

SR clarified that all the projects identified as risks are scrutinised by the PRMC as part of the <u>Forward Plan</u>. The plan sets out the timetable for the projects to provide updates throughout the year.

5 Integrated Wetlands update

Ben Boswell, Head of Environment, Climate and Waste at Herefordshire Council gave a really informative presentation and general overview of the Wetlands programme.

Herefordshire Council is creating a number of Integrated Wetlands specifically for the purpose of removing phosphates before they reach the local rivers, which will enable the ban on further land development in some areas to be lifted. The phosphate credit system allows



developers to buy credits generated by the operation of the wetlands to offset the phosphates that their new developments will create.

Three sites have now been purchased for wetlands, and a fourth site is being pursued. The Wetlands project is ground breaking and now is best practice for the development of wetlands. The project is on track to deliver against its budget.

RL asked about progress on outputs for jobs and houses. BB advised the first site developed will unlock several hundred houses but the timeline for delivering all the outputs will depend on the amount of developments put forward and planning approval. Once developments are approved and work commences it will create the associated jobs.

SR asked for more definitive details of the pipeline of outputs. BB agreed to provide.

BB/RJ

6 Performance monitoring – Exceptions

a) Growth Deal Update and b) Getting Building Fund update

MS provided a summary of the projects. The majority have spent their funding, but none have completed their match funding with exception of Tackling Fuel Poverty. There is no concern as such, but the LEP needs to continue to track that outputs are being achieved. An audit is underway of all projects where any issues regarding outputs can be discussed.

b) Growth Hub Update

RL thanked Jo Grivell who has been covering the Growth Hub in addition to her role as LEP Office Administrator, while a member of staff is off sick.

With six weeks to go to the end of the year there is no sight of whether there will be funding for the Growth Hub for 23/24 which is incredibly frustrating. It makes it difficult to plan and to manage contracts for CRM licences etc. used by the Growth Hubs. If the Growth Hub does not get funding the LEP would have to pick up the costs of any contracts that extend into year 2023-24.

Given the lack of funding the team is considering what it can deliver going forward. This needs to be balanced with other LEP activities and where the LEP will have the maximum impact.

RL reiterated to GA/AC that it was a frustrating position to be in given the Growth Hub brand has become embedded in the business community across the Marches. It is their first port of call for advice and support. It would be a shame if all the time, effort and public money used to build the brand goes to waste especially when businesses most need it.

A joint event with Midlands Engine Investment Fund is being held at RAF Cosford on Friday 24th March. This is in response to the fact that MEIF is undersubscribed in the Marches compared with other areas and more needs to be done to maximise uptake. Details of the event are here: How finance can help your business fly - Marches Growth Hub

c) Energy Projects

RL gave the following update:

The Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire Green Skills project is going full steam ahead. The contract has been signed.

The contract has also been signed with National Grid for the EA Technology and National Grid monitor project. Still in the process of deciding where the monitors will be placed as we want them to be where they will have the biggest impact.

Marches Energy Grant scheme was launched in January, and it resulted in more enquiries received through the website in two days, compared with the previous three months. This sends a clear message that there is huge demand for this type of support. The contract with Worcestershire Council to administer the scheme is yet to be signed.



d) Key Account Management

The contract with Department for International Trade (DIT) is in place until the end of the financial year. The target of working with 30 companies has been reached. Fifteen projects have been identified and one project has been completed against a target of five. Funding for next year is still not determined.

e) Skills Support (SAP/Marches Careers Hub)

The LEP continues to work with the Employer Representative Body (ERB) to support the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). Department for Education has confirmed there will be no further funding for this work.

There is funding in place until the end of August 2023 for the Marches Careers Hub project and discussion on funding from September has commenced with the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC). Early indications are that there will be slightly less funding than in previous years.

RL highlighted an issue that some of the funding streams work to different financial years/funding periods. If the LEP is awarded future Careers Hub funding this would run past the end of 2023-24 financial year when the current Core Funding and reserves held by the LEP could be fully committed.

A decision will need to be made in conjunction with the Accountable Body whether the contract could be accepted.

7 Midlands Connect Transport Summit Update

RL gave a brief update on the summit which helped highlight transport issues in the Marches. Many local MPs attended and contributed to the discussion, and it was a very positive event. The LEP will continue to fly the flag for major transport improvement schemes across the Marches.

8 Any other business

SR thanked Alex Collins for all his support whilst deputising for the Area Lead.

Next Meeting of the Marches LEP PRMC: 27 April 2023 14:00-15:30

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	MARCHES LEP CORPORATE RISK REGISTER Last updated: 18/04/2023								
Risk No.	Risk Description	Description of Potential IMPACT (quantified wherever possible)	Current controls		IMPACT Rating (Minimal 1, Minor 2, Significant 3, Major 4, Critical 5)	RISK Rating	Rationale for Risk Changes	Risk Mitigation	Direction of Travel
TOP 5 F	RISKS - In order of Risk Rating (High to Low)								
5.5	Lack of clear mandate from government along with the winding up of 2/6 West Midlands LEPs means that the voice of West Midlands businesses is diminished and that LEPs are prematurely written off by partners.	Reputational damage for LEPs and damage to stakeholder relationships. Hard to gain traction when messaging around LEPs is so unclear. Makes it more difficult to engage in new activity and partnership working if no-one is clear what LEPs are here to do or if they will remain/	Promotion of LEP activity. Continue to deliver all programmes well and look to proactively use the limited resources e.g. the Energy Fund, Land study etc. Continue to feed into the LEP network and BEIS to highlight issues.	4	4	16	N/A	See current controls	\leftrightarrow
5.5	Lack of clear mandate from government along with the winding up of 2/6 West Midlands LEPs means that the voice of West Midlands businesses is diminished and that LEPs are prematurely written off by partners.	Reputational damage for LEPs and damage to stakeholder relationships. Hard to gain traction when messaging around LEPs is so unclear. Makes it more difficult to engage in new activity and partnership working if no-one is clear what LEPs are here to do or if they will remain/	Promotion of LEP activity. Formation of working groups with LEPs across the country, focussing on different priorities e.g. Rural, Net Zero.	4	4	16	N/A	Continue to deliver all our programmes well and look to proactively use the limited resources we have to move work along while we can e.g. the Energy Fund, Land study etc. Continue to feed into the LEP network and BEIS to highlight issues.	
2.9	The LEP are unable to recruit and retain Board Members (including Chair) due to a lack of clarity around the future role of LEP's and having a meaningful role.	The LEP would not be able to recruit to vital positions within its Board. These provide: 1) Specific areas of expertise 2) Geographic representation for the Marches Region 3) Key governance roles relating to quoracy and decision making - posing potential disruption to the LEP's core business moving forward.	The LEP continues to work with the board and its business networks to identify appropriate candidates	3	4	12	N/A	Continue to position the LEP as the voice of business and look at new opportunities to ensure the LEP remain relevant and interesting for people to give up their own time to the board. Start the recruitment campaign spring 2023 and look to use a recruitment firm if required to raise awareness of the opportunities.	
NEW RI	SKS - In order of Risk Rating								

	Direction of Travel Key							
	The risk has increased since last review date							
The risk has decreased since last review date								
\leftrightarrow	No change in the risk							
* New risk								
Red text denotes text which has changed or been added since the Risk Register was last reviewed by the								

	Marches LEP - Risk Matrix									
		Impact								
Likelihood	Minimal - 1	Minor - 2	Significant - 3	Major - 4	Critical - 5					
Very High - 5	5	10	15	20	25					
High - 4	4	8	12	16	20					
Medium - 3	3	6	9	12	15					
Low - 2	2	4	6	8	10					
Very Low - 1	1	2	3	4	5					

	MARCHES LEP PROGRAMME RISK REGISTER Last updated: 06/04/2023				sidual Risk Ratings]		
Risk No.	Risk Description	Description of Potential IMPACT (quantified wherever possible)		LIKELIHOOD Rating (Very Low 1, Low 2, Medium 3, High 4, Very High 5)	(Minimal 1, Minor	RISK Rating	Rationale for Risk Changes	Risk Mitigation	Direction of Travel
TOP 5 F	RISKS - In order of Risk Rating (High to Low)								
3.20	Programmes: Non delivery of Oxon Link Road	Loss of LGF Grant (£4.19 million); 1090 jobs, 12 hectares of employment land, 835 housing units, 1.14km of new road, 2.05km of road resurfaced & 4.26km of cycle way not delivered having an negative impact on economic development	Regular monitoring of the project has been ongoing. Update provided to LEP Board 24/01/23 following an update to PMRC in December and SCC confirmed that the project would proceed, the concerns raised by the Environment Agency & Severn Trent Water had been addressed and any additional project costs would be met by SCC	4	4	16	No changes to residual risk ratings	Please see Current Controls	\leftrightarrow
2.17	Skills Advisory Panel - Lack of partnership working to develop Marches wide projects under UKSPF	Inconsistent provision across the Marches and failure to build on good practice developed under Marches wide ESF delivery	Future role of SAP under consideration by LEP Board following cessation of central DfE funding on 31 Mar 23.	5	3	15	Future role of SAP under consideration by LEP Board following cessation of central DfE funding on 31 Mar 23.	Please see current controls	1
2.3	Programmes: Reduced capacity in the LEP Team due to absence, members of the team leaving or lack of funding.	Continuity of service could be impacted. Delays due to lost knowledge & lack of capacity to monitor projects.	Staff to work flexibly across different parts of the business to allow continuity of service and the LEP will look to use agency staff if required and but will continue to appoint to vacant business critical roles as appropriate.	3	4	12	The reorganisation of the team has created flexability	Please see Current Controls	4
NEW RI	SKS - In order of Risk Rating (High to Low)								

Direction of Travel Key								
1	The risk has increased since last review date							
←	The risk has decreased since last review date							
\leftrightarrow	No change in the risk							
*	New risk							
Red text denotes text which has changed or been added since the Risk Register was last reviewed by the Board/PRMC.								

	Marches LEP - Risk Matrix									
		Impact								
Likelihood	Minimal - 1	Minor - 2	Significant - 3	Major - 4	Critical - 5					
Very High - 5	5	10	15	20	25					
High - 4	4	8	12	16	20					
Medium - 3	3	6	9	12	15					
Low - 2	2	4	6	8	10					
Very Low - 1	1	2	3	4	5					

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Hereford Centre for Cyber & Security

Update to PRMC

27 APR 2023

Hugo Russell: Project Manager

Abi Hopkins: Project Contracts Manager

Mark Williams: Principal Management Accountant













The Cyber Quarter Offer











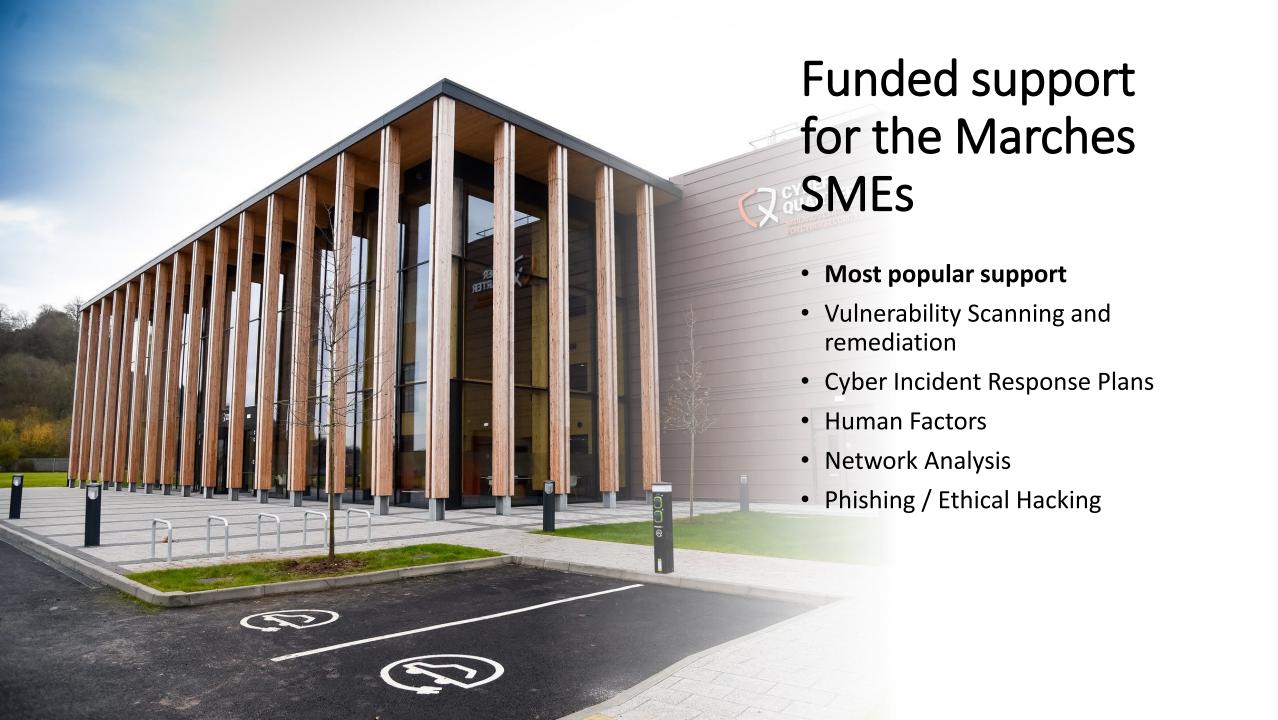






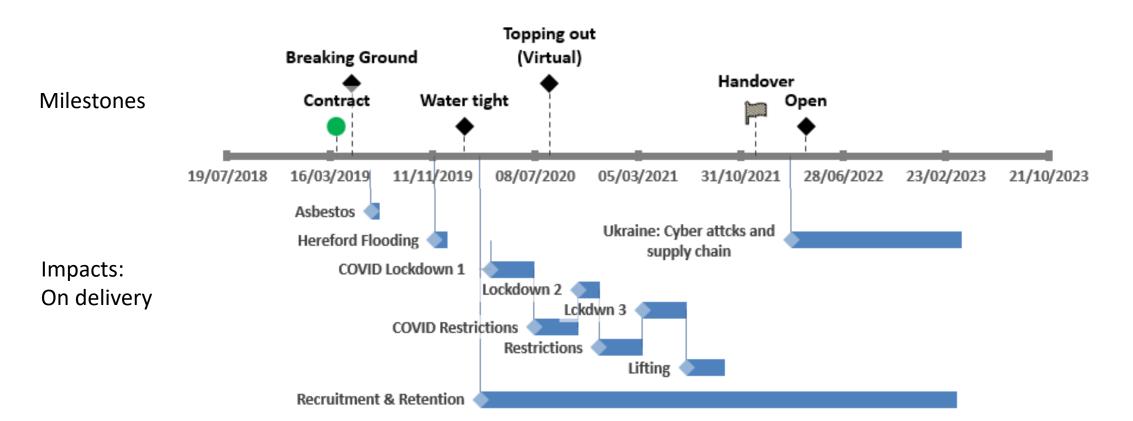








HCCS 'Cyber Quarter' Project Timeline















Outputs

ID	Description	Contract	Delivered 22-23 Q4	Remain	Pipeline	RAG
L01	Jobs Created	185	36	149	48	RED
L02	new learning / training space (m2)	106	104	DONE		Green
L03	Number of training courses provided	78	76	2	2	Green
L04	Commercial Floor Space Completed	2800	2715	DONE		Green
L05	Commercial Floor Space Occupied	2800	110	2741	Ext	RED
L06	Enterprises non- financial support	18	20	DONE		Green
L07	Number of spin-out companies	7	4	3	2	AMBER
L08	Number of new SMEs created	5	1	3	2	Green
L09	SMEs with improved training defences	18	3	15	12	Green
L10	Increase in GVA by March 2022	£8M	£1.7M	£6.3M		AMBER
L11	R&D Projects started	40	9	30	15	AMBER
L12	New products created	4	1	3	3	Green













Finances

- £8.2m invested
 - Building £7,881,567
 - FF&E £ 340,495
- Match
 - Short fall of £1,021,000
- Grant
 - VAT status changed: Returning £114,643
 - PCR Submitted (ERDF): Returning £960,788 capital equipment













Risks, Opportunities, Impacts

- Risks
 - Operating out of contract: Finances and Outputs
 - Dilution of brand: Abertay cyberQuarter
- Opportunities
 - Disaster Recover Centre
 - Training & testing facility
- Impacts
 - Resilient and Profitable Businesses
 - Jobs safeguarded & created in cyber & business resilience







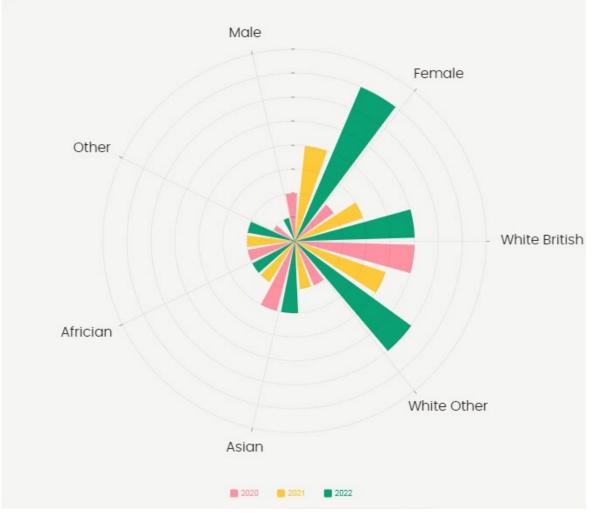






A Diverse Community

Gender often 50:50
40 year age range
With over 50% having
foreign connections it
enables a better
understanding of threats











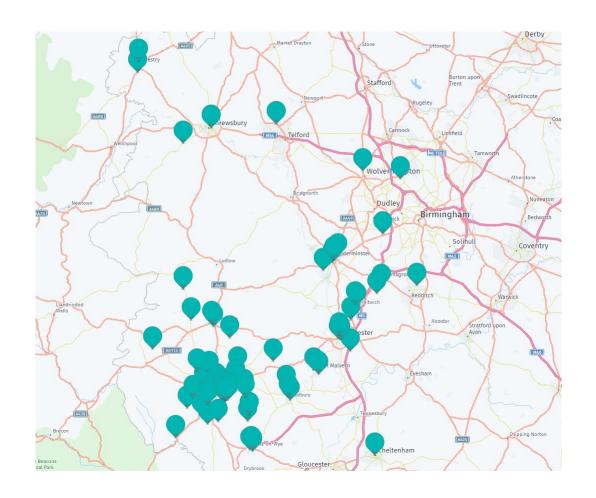




Community: Distribution of assists

136 companies across the LEP

*Register Addresses















Collaborations: Public & Organisational

- NCSC
- Police
- ROCU
- WMCRC
- IAWM
- NMITE

























Sustainability & Future Plans

- Cyber Range
 - Cyber Quarter: Secure and Stress tested
 - Secure on premises: Data retained
- Training & Workshops
 - Cyber Security Skills
 - Business Resilience & Agile Project Manager
- Office Space
 - Increasing enquiries
- Consultancy
 - Collaborations with complementary specialists













Thank You Questions?

Hugo Russell



Cyber Quarter



www.cyberquarter.co.uk



European Union









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MARCHES LEP PRMC April 2023

James Newby President and CEO

Marches LEP Funded Projects

1. LGF NMITE Blackfriars August 2019 £2,74	40,000
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2. LGF Skylon Park June 2020 £1,600,000

3. GBF Skylon Park June 2020 £5,660,000

LGF NMITE Blackfriars

This project is to support the establishment of NMITE.

A brand new engineering based HE provider delivering University level teaching in Hereford.

A key requirement to deliver courses is having appropriate teaching and learning space for students to learn in.

NMITE secured a 50 year lease from the Department for Education on the former Robert Owen School building on Blackfriars Street in Hereford.

This project will allow the buildings to be improved, adapted and equipped to provide 3205m2 of teaching and learning space at the Blackfriars site.

LGF NMITE Blackfriars

OUTPUTS									
	Previously claimed		2022	2/23	202	3/24	Total Contracted	Ashioved to date*	
Description	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Figures	Achieved to date*	
Employment								-	
Jobs Created/Safeguarded		37					37	37	
Skills and Education									
Area of new or improved learning/training floorspace (m2)	3,205	3,462					3,205	3,462	
Number of New Learners Assisted (in courses leading to a full qualification)	270	85		49			270	134	
Business and Enterprise									
Number of enterprises receiving non financial support (Companies Supported)	60	66	15	40			75	106	
Additional Outputs									
GVA (Added Annually)	3,240,000	6,979,582	1,620,000		1,620,000		6,480,000	6,979,582	
Number of Undergraduates	250	27		34			250	61	
Match funding	3,133,750	2,207,416					3,133,750	2,207,416	

LGF and GBF NMITE Skylon Park

The Skylon Park Campus development is a pivotal component of NMITE

Comprising of two cutting-edge, world-class buildings and teaching facilities

The Centre for Advanced Timber Technology (CATT)

The Centre for Automated Manufacturing (CAM)

Located at the heart of Herefordshire's Enterprise Zone, each building will be a beacon for skills training.







GBF NMITE Skylon Park

GET BUILDING FUND OUTPUTS											
Description		Previously Claimed		2/23	2023	3/24	Total Contracted	Achieved to date*			
		Actual	Forecast Actual		Forecast	Actual	Figures	Acineved to date			
Employment											
Jobs Created/Safeguarded	26			26			26	26			
Construction Jobs	95	95	5	5			100	100			
Skills and Education											
Area of new or improved learning/training floorspace (m2)	2,500			2,500			2,500	2,500			
Number of New Learners Assisted (in courses leading to a full qualification)			200	110			200	110			
Business and Enterprise											
Companies Supported			125	85	125		250	85			
Match funding					480,000		480,000	-			

LGF NMITE Skylon Park

GROWTH DEAL OUTPUTS														
	Prevously Claimed		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26		2026/27		Total Contracted	Achieved to date*
Description	Forecast	Actual	Forecast Actual		Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast Actual		Forecast	Actual	Figures	Achieved to date
Employment														
Jobs Created/Safeguarded					85		84		26				195	-
Skills and Education														
Area of new or improved learning/training floorspace (m2)			160	221									160	221
Number of New Learners Assisted (in courses leading to a full qualification)			100	110	210		250		250				810	110
Business and Enterprise														
Companies Supported									125		250		375	-
Additional Outputs														
Number of Undergraduates					50		200		250		250		750	-
Match funding	1,854,579	1,854,579	3,292,827	3,292,827	2,618,844								7,766,250	5,147,406



Marches LEP Funded Projects

Blackfriars site

NMITE has been awarded additional funding from the government's Stronger Towns programme which should provide sufficient qualifying capital funds to address this shortfall by the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

Skylon Park

The CATT building has now been completed (September 2022) and NMITE is launching a full operational programme of activities which will be enabled by the new facility.

The building was conceived and planned before the pandemic so was seriously impacted by the lockdowns and the significant escalation of construction costs which occurred after the LEP grant was agreed.

To ensure the project was delivered, the building scope was reduced and additional value engineering reduced costs further to a point where the project could be viably delivered. The reduced size building and the planned activities it will support will meet all the outputs required by the LEP grant but does leave a significant matched funding challenge.

End