



**The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership**  
**Capital Funding Project Call**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

<p><b>What types of projects will the Fund support?</b></p>	<p>Investment will be made in capital projects within Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford &amp; Wrekin that support the following policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The move to a net zero economy</li> <li>• Business support and innovation projects</li> <li>• Skills development and employability support</li> </ul> <p>and demonstrate strategic alignment with local, regional and national policy/guidance including, but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Herefordshire 2050 Economic Plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy 2022 2027</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Telford Vision 2032</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HM Government Environmental Improvement Plan 2023</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan and Evidence Base 2023</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Marches Energy Strategy</a></li> </ul> <p>Applications will be expected to demonstrate the achievement of outputs and positive outcomes related which are directly attributed to the project for which funding is being sought. It is anticipated that these could include <u>measurable</u> improvements by 31 March 2025 in outputs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional installed capacity, number of new sites, or annual generation (kWp).</li> <li>• Estimated greenhouse gas savings (tCO2e).</li> <li>• Total energy (kWh) savings.</li> <li>• Number of households brought out of fuel poverty</li> <li>• Total freed-up capacity (kWp).</li> <li>• Number of enterprises receiving support.</li> <li>• New jobs created (FTE)</li> <li>• Jobs safeguarded (FTE).</li> <li>• Innovative new products created.</li> <li>• Additional employment land (ha)</li> <li>• Commercial floor space (sqm)</li> <li>• New learners assisted (students enrolled).</li> </ul>
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<b>What types of projects will the Fund NOT support?</b>	The funding made available by the Marches LEP will not support the delivery of projects that increase the carbon footprint and reduce the climate resilience of the Marches.
<b>Who can apply?</b>	<p>The call is open to all incorporated organisations, including community groups with a legal structure (Companies Ltd by Guarantee with charitable status, Community Interest Companies, Community Benefit Societies and Charitable Incorporated Organisations).</p> <p>A consortium approach may also be taken. One partner should take the lead role in the application, and this body will be contracted to deliver the project on behalf of the consortium.</p>
<b>How much funding is available?</b>	The Marches LEP is making up to £487k available and applications for funding of between £20k and £250k will be considered.
<b>Who will make the decisions?</b>	The final decision for the funding will be made by the Marches LEP Board. This will be based on recommendations made by an assessment panel which will comprise members of the Marches LEP team and partners.
<b>Question Weighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Match funding (amount secured) - 10%</li> <li>• Identification of innovation solutions - 10%</li> <li>• Strategic fit with relevant local, regional and national policies/guidance - 50%</li> <li>• Evidence of relevant stakeholder support - 10%</li> <li>• Proposed management of the project (staffing, procurement, monitoring approach etc.) - 20%</li> </ul>
<b>Timetable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue brief for the bidding process - 27 October 2023</li> <li>• Deadline for submissions - 1 December 2023</li> <li>• Confirmation of successful applicants - 15 December 2023</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anticipated commencement of work following issue of funding agreement - 16 January 2024</li><li>• Completion of work and deadline for submission of final claims and evidence of defrayal - 29 March 2024</li><li>• Delivery of and reporting on measurable impact and verifiable outputs achieved – 31 March 2025</li></ul>
<b>Further Questions</b>	If you have any further questions, please contact <a href="mailto:kathryn.jones@marcheslep.org.uk">kathryn.jones@marcheslep.org.uk</a>