

## **MARCHES LEP GETTING BUILDING FUND**

The Government is making £900 million available through the new Getting Building Fund (GBF) for investment in local, shovel-ready infrastructure projects to stimulate jobs and support economic recovery across the country. **Marches LEP** has been allocated **£14m** from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy.

**In Marches LEP, the funded projects are expected to deliver new zero carbon housing and unlock housing at key sites in Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin; support enabling works for redevelopment of Pride Hill shopping centre in Shrewsbury; accelerate building work for New Model Institute for Engineering and Technology in Hereford; and provide new investment in the streetscape of Hereford, supporting active travel and increasing air quality. These projects align with the LEP's key priorities and will support the LEP area's recovery from Covid-19.**

### **Indicative outputs<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Direct Jobs Created</b>	800
<b>Construction Jobs Created</b>	290
<b>Jobs Safeguarded</b>	10
<b>Houses Unlocked</b>	1600
<b>Commercial Space Unlocked (sqm)</b>	44760
<b>New Learning Space Unlocked</b>	2700
<b>New Learners Assisted</b>	330
<b>Businesses Assisted</b>	250
<b>New Retrofits</b>	60

### **Summary of projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Integrated Construction Wetlands</b>	The project takes forward development of new integrated wetland sites which will function as tertiary waste water treatment works, addressing the failing levels of phosphate in the River Lugg catchment area of the Special Area of Conservation. This will unlock a high number of current planning applications which are on hold, preventing significant economic activity, jobs and growth in Herefordshire. This project also delivers strong environmental benefits, enhancing local biodiversity.
<b>Pride Hill Remodelling</b>	Repurposing of the Pride Hill shopping centre will secure a vibrant and sustainable future which contributes to Shrewsbury as a quality destination for residents and visitors. Shropshire Council is securing a leisure anchor use for the building with complementary cultural and civic uses - the project will take forward enabling works, including securing vacant possession and partial stripping out of the Centre.
<b>Tackling Fuel Poverty Through Zero Carbon Innovation</b>	Producing zero carbon homes across Telford & Wrekin using a combination of energy technologies to be retrofitted to existing homes, or fitted into brand new homes. Impacts include low energy bills easing fuel poverty in Social Housing; reducing the

<sup>1</sup> The outputs listed are locally reported and will undergo further quality assurance before being finalised and confirmed in grant offer letters.

	load on the local grid; and eliminating carbon through energy consumption. The project will concentrate on the retrofit of 68 homes (PV and Battery Storage) and 11 non-Passivhaus new builds where planning permissions have already been granted.
<b>Hereford City Centre Improvements</b>	The refurbishment of the historic core of Hereford through investment in the streetscape with high quality materials and consistent soft and hard landscaping. The project builds on temporary measures for walking and cycling implemented during COVID. This scheme will increase footfall and the economic potential of businesses, improve active travel opportunities and air quality and increase private investment in property, providing a modern city centre environment.
<b>New Model Institute for Engineering and Technology (NMiTE) Skylon Park Campus Development</b>	The Skylon Park development is a pivotal component of NMITE, located at the heart of Herefordshire's Enterprise Zone. Accelerated funding for the project will facilitate completion of the Centre for Automated Manufacturing and Centre for Future Skills sooner than currently planned, supporting local and regional businesses and jobs.
<b>Stronger Communities - New College, Wellington and surrounding site with Wrekin Housing Group (WHG)</b>	The New College site and WHG housing sites are located within or adjacent to one of the most deprived wards in the borough and are gateways into Wellington. The project will unlock this stalled site, delivering new residential units and incorporating sustainability in design, whilst also improving walking and cycling routes into Wellington.

**Marches LEP** will be expected to deliver the agreed projects but will have flexibility to deliver the greatest economic benefits to the area. Any significant changes to the projects should be discussed with the Government in advance, and all investment decisions must be undertaken in line with locally agreed audit and scrutiny arrangements.