

## **£7.7M EXPANSION OF GROWTH DEAL BOOSTS LOCAL PLAN FOR THE MARCHES ECONOMY**

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership has agreed an expansion to its Growth Deal with the Government which will see an extra £7.7m invested in the Marches area (Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin) between 2016 and 2021. Through this deal the Government is also committing assistance to the Marches LEP to identify other funding sources to support the delivery of this deal including the Public Works Loan Board.

This is in addition to the £75.3m of funding committed by the Government on 7 July 2014. Over the lifetime of its Deal (2015-2021) the Local Enterprise Partnership estimates that up to 7000 new jobs could be created, 3000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £50m public and private investment.

The focus of the expanded deal is:

- To support local businesses by ensuring that super-fast broadband is available across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.
- To support the development of the higher education centre at Shrewsbury, and to increase opportunity for business access to the excellence in agri-tech at Harper Adams University to help drive innovation and business growth.

The Government is also committing through this deal assistance to the Marches LEP to identify other funding sources to support the delivery of this deal including the Public Works Loan Board.

The Marches Growth Deal is part of a long term plan to devolve at least £12 billion from central government to local economies. The plan aims for every part of the country to be a motor of growth for the national economy – building on the strength of the Marches.

### **Quotes**

The Prime Minister said:

“Giving local communities the power and the money to unlock growth and development and make the spending decisions that work for them is a key part of our long-term economic plan to secure a brighter future for Britain and ensure a recovery for all.

“And this is happening right here in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin , with more money announced today for key projects to boost the local economy as part of the multi-million pound expansion of the Government’s Growth Deals.

“And because the money will be in the control of a partnership of local community, business and civic leaders it means it will go on the things that really matter to people and businesses here.”

“That is what Growth Deals are all about, backing local people and investing in the infrastructure, housing and skills that will drive forward local economies, create more jobs and opportunities for hardworking people and supercharge all parts of our country.”

The Deputy Prime Minister said:

“A quiet revolution is underway in the Marches and across the country, as Growth Deals signal the death of the culture where Whitehall calls the shots. I’ve seen for myself the difference it makes to give Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and the Wrekin more power over skills, over business support, over infrastructure spending.

"I am delighted to announce the expansion of the Marches Growth Deal today.

“The Coalition Government has been relentless in our efforts to sort out the public finances and set firm foundations for growth. Growth Deals help create a stronger economy and a fairer society by boosting local economies, and providing more jobs, better transport and affordable homes.”

The LEP Chair Graham Wynn said:

“Our £75.3m Growth Deal, officially signed this month, focused on significant transport projects which will help us tackle barriers to economic growth in the Marches.

“But digital, as well as physical, connectivity is vital if the region is to achieve its potential and so we welcome this additional funding to help us move forward with our plans for further high speed broadband across the region. Tens of thousands of businesses will benefit, and those growing businesses will create hundreds of jobs.

“As well as broadband, we identified Higher Education projects in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin as priorities. The University Centre in Shrewsbury and the innovation and agri-tech centre in Newport, linked to Harper Adams University, provide significant economic growth potential for our key business sectors.

“We welcome the opportunity to a continuing dialogue with Government with the aim of securing further support for our identified projects.”

## FACTSHEET

### 1. How much is the Government investing in the Marches as part of the Growth Deal?

	Initial Growth Deal (July 2014)	Expansion – additional funding awarded (Jan 2015)	Total Expanded Growth Deal
<b>Local Growth Fund</b>	<i>£75.3m</i>	<i>£7.7m</i>	<b>£83m</b>

### 2. What proposed projects will this new tranche of funding deliver?

- To support local businesses by ensuring that **super-fast broadband** is available across Shropshire, Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin.
- Develop a **higher education centre at Shrewsbury** and to leverage the **excellence in agri-tech at Harper Adams University** to help drive innovation and business growth.

This adds to the projects that were announced in July 2014, including:

- **Telford Growth Package** - Improvements to key junctions; utilities and infrastructure delivering three employment and housing extension sites
- **Hereford City Centre Transport Package** - A new link road, enabling a major mixed-use development, integrated with the city centre, delivering retail, leisure, tourism, employment, housing, and other development
- **Marches Investment Fund** – A dialogue with Government over the creation of a new ‘Marches Investment Fund’ to unlock further housing and jobs growth in Telford – this initiative will have the potential to recycle profits for future investment across the whole of the Marches LEP area.
- **Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package** – Six major junction upgrades on main arterial routes, managing traffic and transport initiatives to reduce congestion.
- **Telford Eastern Gateway** - M54 J4 improvements and on-site infrastructure delivering 31 hectares of serviced employment land only 12 miles from the new Jaguar Land Rover engine plant.
- **Oxon Link Road** – Link road to support the growth of Shrewsbury through two large green-field urban expansions accelerating the release of land for employment and housing.

- **South Wye Transport Package** - Transport improvements to the southern elements of the Hereford transport network which supports the Enterprise Zone and a new 1,000 housing development.
- **Telford Bus Station** - Relocation of bus station as part of the town centre redevelopment, opening up new retail space and improved connectivity. It will also unlock 9.1 hectares of retail development land for development providing 300 direct jobs and support the creation of an additional 2000.
- **Skills Capital Projects** – To improve facilities at several training centres in the area.

The Government is also committing through this deal assistance to the Marches LEP to identify other funding sources to support the delivery of this deal including the Public Works Loan Board.

### **3. How does this benefit the people of the Marches?**

According to estimates by the LEP, this additional element of their Growth Deal could bring super-fast broadband to 39,000 premises and create up to 500 new jobs.

In total the Marches Growth Deal could create:

- 7,000 new jobs
- 3,000 new homes
- £50m public and private sector investment

### **4. What is the benefit for local businesses?**

This new element of the Marches Growth Deal confirms nearly £8m additional funding to ensure all businesses in the area have access to super-fast broadband which is becoming increasingly essential for business efficiency.

### **5. Facts and figures**

The Growth Deal builds on significant recent investment in growth opportunities in the Marches including:

Growing Places Fund: £8.2m

Enterprise Zone: £4m estimated local retention of business rates to March 2015

Regional Growth Fund: The Marches LEP area has to date received £3.0m investment from the Regional Growth Fund, and could also benefit from £27.0m invested in neighbouring LEPs