

# e-news

July 2010



Richard Davies,  
Director, Marches Energy Agency

## Business Board to work with Shropshire's Big Purchasers

Continuing the work that has taken place over the last year, on Friday 9th July, the Shropshire Business Board played host to some of the county's largest purchasers at a meeting aimed at exploring how they might work together to build a stronger economy and support small businesses within the county.

At the packed meeting, held at Shrewsbury Town Football Club, procurement managers from Shropshire's key public sector organisations and larger private companies discussed: how to remove the barriers which small businesses experience in tendering for their work; options for getting their goods and service requirements out to the local business community; and opportunities for working together more effectively on procurement issues.

Dr. Geoffrey Davies OBE, Chairman of the Shropshire Business Board said, "Procurement is a key opportunity for the county in developing a robust local economy. The public and private organisations in the room today had a combined purchasing power of over £600 million, which serves to emphasize what we can achieve if we work together to improve our engagement with Shropshire's small businesses."

"I was particularly delighted to see the degree of enthusiasm in the room today from our local public sector partners in the NHS and Primary Care Trust, Shropshire Fire and Rescue, West Mercia Police, RAF Cosford and Shawbury among others."

Ann Johnson, Chair of Shropshire Federation of Small Businesses, who is leading the work which the Board has undertaken on local procurement, noted, "At the heart of the work we are undertaking is the creation of a

fair playing field and that means removing the blocks to small business participation."

The next step in this process will be to hold a 'meet the buyer' type event on 20th October 2010. This event will be held at the Greenhouse Meadow Stadium, Shrewsbury Town Football Club. For further details please e-mail [businessvision@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:businessvision@shropshire.gov.uk) or phone 01743 252531.



## Expertise of county's business leaders on offer Business Ambassadors launch mentoring scheme

Chairman of the Shropshire Business Board and Shropshire Business Ambassador, Dr Geoffrey Davies OBE, has launched an exciting scheme that will benefit new and growing businesses.

As one of the top priorities identified in the Business Board's Plan, small businesses and those about to set up in business will be offered the chance to be mentored by Business Ambassadors from a wide range of the county's leading businesses.

Dr Davies commented "Our intention is to offer a service to compliment the support that's available from Business Link by giving fledgling businesses an insight into the practicalities of running a business from those who have first hand experience and are operating their own successful companies in Shropshire."

Initially 10 businesses are being sought to take advantage of the mentoring scheme. Individuals who are planning to set up in business or those who wish to expand their business and would appreciate some guidance on how to move their plans to the next level can apply via the Council's Economic Development Team by e-mailing [businessvision@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:businessvision@shropshire.gov.uk)



A number of Shropshire Business Ambassadors will be involved in the mentoring scheme

# Spotlight on the Shropshire Economy out for Consultation

Spotlight on the Shropshire Economy, a comprehensive assessment of the state of the Shropshire economy, is now out for consultation. The aim of the assessment is to provide a robust and accurate picture of Shropshire's economic conditions which can inform future economic development to ensure that future investments made by the Council and its partners will be targeted in areas that will bring most benefit to Shropshire businesses and residents.

Many Shropshire businesses have already contributed to the content of this assessment via their involvement in the Spotlight on Shropshire event that was held at the Shirehall in March. All Shropshire businesses now have another opportunity to comment on the most important issues facing the local economy. Spotlight on the Shropshire Economy can be found on [www.consultshropshire.org](http://www.consultshropshire.org). Alternatively, please contact Emma Smith on [emma.smith@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.smith@shropshire.gov.uk) or on 01743 252598 for more details. Please note that the closing date for submission of your comments is 30th September 2010.

Once all submitted comments have been taken into account, the final draft will be officially launched on November 15th 2010. To book your place at this event, please contact Helen Hunter-Hayes at [helen.hunter-hayes@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.hunter-hayes@shropshire.gov.uk).

## Dates for your diary...

**July to October**

**Business Support Clinic's**

- see article within this e-newsletter

**30th September**

**Spotlight on the Shropshire**

**Economy** - Consultation closes

**4th October**

**Shropshire Business Enterprise**

**Fund** - Grants applications closes

**20th October**

**Meet the Buyer**

local procurement event

**15th November**

Launch of - **Spotlight on the Shropshire Economy**

**23rd May 2011**

**Shropshire Annual Business Summit**

## Launch of the Shropshire Market Town Revitalisation Programme

The Market Town Revitalisation programme was approved by Shropshire Council's cabinet on Wednesday 30th June 2010.

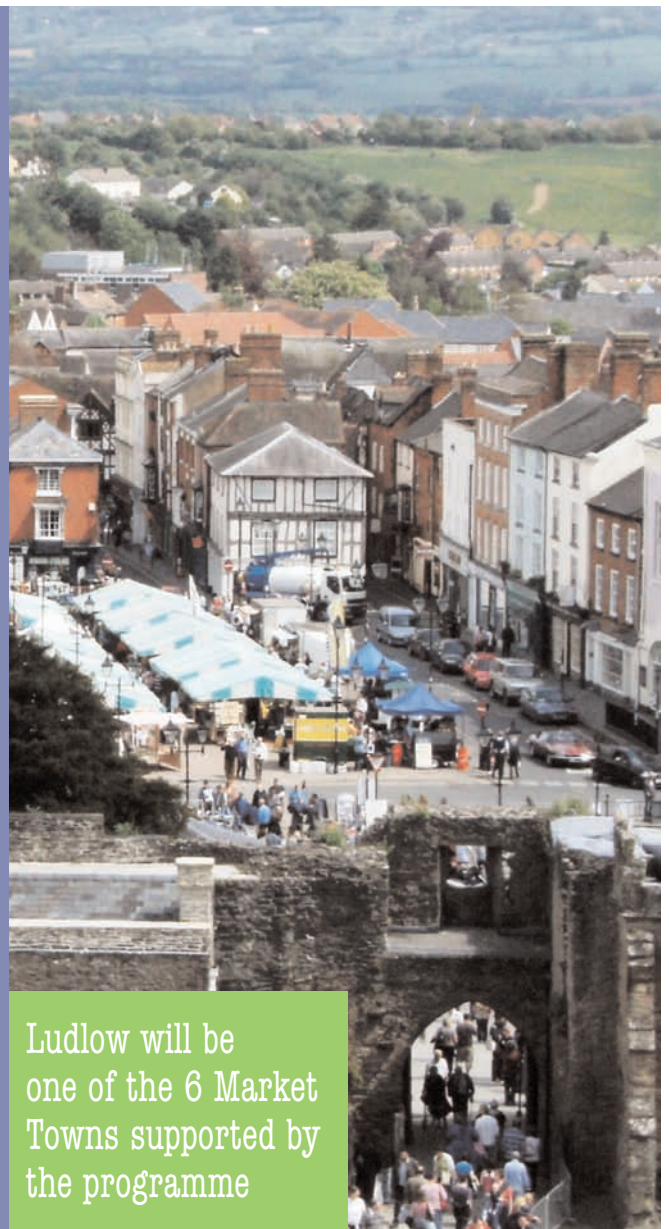
Shropshire Council recognises the importance of Market Towns to the Shropshire Economy. A recent Socio-economic assessment has shown how they are being badly affected by the recession so the Council has agreed that an immediate £3.5 million Market Town revitalisation programme should commence. It will focus on projects that will deliver the greatest economic, social and environmental impact.

£2.5 million will be made available to support the 6 largest Market Towns, these have been identified in the north as Oswestry, Market Drayton and Whitchurch and in the south Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Church Stretton. A further £0.5 million will be available for the smaller market towns throughout the county who can bid for these funds. Shropshire Council's Community Fund of £0.5 million will be made available as a challenge pot for the remaining rural settlements to bid into which will commence in 2011/12.

Shrewsbury, the county's largest market town will not be part of this programme as it is already the focus of the growth point funding programme and the Shrewsbury Vision initiative.

This Programme will be led by local Shropshire Councillors in each town & Town Councillors to work through priorities to deliver achievable projects.

Further information will be available in later newsletters, via the web-site [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk), or e-mail [economic.development@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@shropshire.gov.uk)



Ludlow will be one of the 6 Market Towns supported by the programme

# local Business Support clinics

Shropshire Council in partnership with Business Link West Midlands host local business support and advice 'clinics' for the businesses of Shropshire.

They are designed to help you...

- Access business information and research
- Get expert advice on how to improve your business performance
- Business planning and finance
- Find relevant solutions through access to quality assured suppliers
- Improve the skills of you and your employees
- Access specialist manufacturing advice
- Transform your business into a high-growth company.

The free sessions are on a one to one basis with an experienced business advisor and usually last around an hour. All of the advisors are easily approachable and highly trained in all aspects of business to help your business progress and address any problems that you may be experiencing.

There are sessions scheduled throughout the year and are held at easily accessible locations throughout Shropshire, which will enable you to slot in the Clinics with your own businesses schedule.

For further information, further advice or to organise a Business Clinic appointment please contact:

Peter Wilson on 01743 252259, or [peter.wilson@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.wilson@shropshire.gov.uk)

Frank Lauriello on 01743 2522531, or [frank.lauriello@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:frank.lauriello@shropshire.gov.uk)



If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact the project team to discuss availability on the following dates:

## BUSINESS CLINICS 2010

### North Shropshire

Friday 16th July	Wem
Thursday 22nd July	Market Drayton
Thursday 22nd July	Oswestry
Thursday 29th July	Whitchurch
Thursday 19th August	Oswestry

### Central Shropshire

Thursday 15th July	Evans Easy Space, Shrewsbury
Thursday 19th August	Shrewsbury

### South Shropshire

Tuesday 6th July	Shifnal
Tuesday 7th September	Ludlow
Tuesday 5th October	Bridgnorth

talk to us direct on 01743 252274 or visit [www.investinshropshire.com](http://www.investinshropshire.com)

Invest in Shropshire is providing news on behalf of Shropshire Council's Economic Development Service

