

Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 11th March, 2015

STRAND UPDATE REPORT

Employment & Skills

Apprenticeship wage subsidies - The 2014/15 target for engineering apprenticeship starts is 150. Since 1st April 2014, 140 applications have been approved.

Engineering Up-Skilling - The 2014/15 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2014 129 applications for up-skilling funding have been approved.

Specific Skills - Although target outcomes have been broadly achieved, the up-skilling budget is considerably underspent. During discussions with the Programmes team it has been suggested that the Specific Skills budget and targets are rolled into the Up-Skilling strand. If approved, specific skills training packages which would have been funded at 25% will receive 50% funding in common with other up-skilling training packages.

Renewables Pathway Project – Disadvantaged Groups - The project was advertised out for tender through Yortender with a closing date of 3rd February, 2015. Despite a high level of initial interest, the actual tender response was disappointing and failed to meet the specification detailed within the tender brief. The tender specification will be amended and re-tendered through the GROW Employment Related Services framework at the end of March, 2015. The process should take 2-3 weeks. It is likely that the first intake on this project will be at the beginning of July, 2015.

Business Support Strand

To date the project has:

- 258 enquiries
- 159 businesses enrolled
- 81 businesses supported
- 21 companies financial assistance awarded (2 of which have been successful in a 2nd application)
- 27 jobs created (2 p/t, 26 FTE)

Grants and consultancy support (to date);

- Financial assistance paid = £135k
- Financial assistance committed = £133k

- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 79% Hull and East Riding, 16% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 5% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

All scheduled workshops have taken place so far this year, with the future rolling programme available on the website for businesses to register their interest. Positive feedback continues to be received from the workshops held so far with good attendance at each.

The new directory has 81 companies, with a further 88 companies who are yet to complete their entry. The team have made all East Riding and Hull companies, who have submitted an entry, aware that business support is potentially available to them through the programme.

Site Assembly Strand

Discussions are ongoing with ABP regarding the Paull site to explore state aid compliant measures of support to offset the abnormal infrastructure costs associated with the site in order to secure a tenants(s).

Inward Investment Strand

Public Information Day - As construction has now started on the Alexandra Dock site and the submission of the planning application for the blade factory is imminent, Siemens/ABP/Hull City Council are jointly holding a Green Port Hull project update event at The Deep on 9th March. Over 2600 invitation letters have been sent out to businesses and residents neighbouring the Siemens site, a public notice was placed in the Hull Daily Mail on 27th February and the event is being promoted on the Green Port Hull website. The project update event will feature the latest plans and visuals for the development and representatives from HCC, Siemens and ABP will be on hand to answer any questions members of the public may have.

Green Port Hull, One Stop Shop - Scale Lane Bridge has been identified as a possible location for the Green Port Hull One Stop Shop. Hull City Council's property agents NPS have been tasked to produce an initial layout within the pod and some indicative costs for detailed design for an office level environment which will include sound proofing.

Graham Lagan JV, Meet the Buyer Event – The Green Port Hull branded meet the buyer event took place on the 26th February at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The JV are looking for local sub contractors/suppliers who could offer services across a range of commodities: Electrical, Groundworks, Plant Hire, Labour Hire, Piling, Formwork, Blacktop, Dredging etc. An advert was placed in the Hull Daily Mail and E-shots were sent out via the Green Port Hull website. The JV received a huge response with over 140

local businesses attending. Helen Stinson and Lianne Emery had a table at the event to promote the Green Port Growth Programme activity to the attending businesses and to promote the supplier directory. The business support strand will continue to engage with the JV Company to identify local supply chain companies.

Research, Development and Innovation Strand

General - Emma Platt-Lowe joined the RDI strand on 1st February 2015 as a part-time RDI Coordinator and has made an immediate impact focusing on a number of activities providing operational support to the RDI Director and the strand as a whole.

Discussions have continued with the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult regarding supporting the Green Port Hull Innovation Grand Challenges Programme. The RDI strand has committed to involvement in the Multi-Nodal Conference in Hull on 28/4/15, supporting the University of Hull Logistics Institute and will also be on hand to chair a workshop at the June offshore wind conference of THMA.

AL provided support to a University of Hull (Logistics Institute) application to the Supply Chain Catalyst call, which could ultimately involve local SME's in the delivery of the work.

Observations - Material progress is now being made to ensure that all business processes are in place to allow the RDI strand and the Knowledge Fund to function as per the other strands. Discussions and observations continue to reinforce Logistics Operations & Maintenance, Safety and Simulation (LOMASS) as the innovation sweet spot for the region.

Business Grants Strand

The strand has only recently started activity on the grants. The delay has been down to the strategic decision to delay the implementation of the grants, until the RGF 3 Growing the Humber Grants scheme was exhausted.

Programme level update

The delivery strands have now submitted their Year 4 delivery plans. These have been reviewed by the Programmes Team and will now be finalised and agreed with each individual strand lead. The agreed plans will be used as the basis of the Year 4 Programme Plan.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
4th March, 2015