

---

**Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2015**

**STRAND UPDATE REPORT**

**Employment & Skills**

**Apprenticeship wage subsidies** - The 2014/15 target for engineering Apprenticeship starts is 150. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, 154 applications have been approved with a further 20 pending approval.

**Engineering Up-Skilling** - The 2014/15 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 129 applications have been approved for up-skilling funding. Interest from employers continues to grow in this area.

**Specific Skills** - Discussions are continuing with the Programme Team regarding the potential to roll the Specific Skills budget and targets into the Up-Skilling sub-strand. As previously reported, 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** - As previously reported the response to the tender released in February 2015 was disappointing. Therefore the decision has been taken to re-tender through the GROW Employment Related Services Framework. Tendering on the GROW Framework closed on 31st March at which point a mini tendering round will be conducted for the Renewables Pathway Project. It is anticipated that the project will commence at the beginning of July, 2015.

**Business Support**

**To date the project has achieved the following:**

- 262 enquiries
- 164 businesses enrolled
- 83 businesses supported
- 21 companies financial assistance awarded (2 of which have been successful in a 2<sup>nd</sup> application)
- 27 jobs created (2 p/t, 26 FTE)

**Grants and consultancy support (to date);**

- Financial assistance paid = £155k
- Financial assistance committed = £112k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 79% Hull and East Riding, 16% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 5% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

Additional workshops are currently being developed and will be advertised during April.

The strand supported an event at Hull KR Business Club event in March and discussions are being held with Team Humber Marine Alliance (THMA) regarding support for their Offshore Wind Connections Event in June (during BIZ week).

The strand continues to encourage companies with which they are engaged, to promote their successes in gaining renewable contract, as a result of support from GPGP. A number of recent examples are provided below;

Megaplant Ltd based in Hull has been successful in bidding for work for the supply of plant machinery during the construction works on Alexandra Dock. Josh Thompson, Megaplant's Sales Manager; *"We are very keen to explore new opportunities within the renewables sector as we have highlighted this as a rapidly growing market, especially in Hull at the moment. Working with the Green Port Growth Project has given us the skills and confidence to gain work from the large national companies working in the area as well as keeping regular, local customers happy. Having our equipment on the Dock at the forefront of all the new work that is going on has been fantastic for the company and its profile."*

LS Transmission Consultancy Ltd based in Little Driffield and Prodar Surveys Ltd, based in Goole has been successful in their bid to undertake surveying work on the Dong Energy Racebank Windfarm project near Kings Lynn. The work includes both traditional land surveying along the proposed on shore cable route as well as utility mapping and GPR surveying.

### **Site Assembly**

As previously reported, 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 tenant(s).

### **Inward Investment**

**JobCentre Plus** - Lorraine Alexander has now officially started her secondment and will take the lead in the strategic skills requirements of Green Port Hull. Initial meetings with Carolyn Woolway, Siemens' recently appointed HR Manager, has provided a valuable insight regarding the type of posts required for the blade manufacturing site.

**Public Information Day at the Deep, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015** – in addition to the 2,600 invitations distributed to businesses and residents neighbouring the Siemens site, a public notice was placed in the Hull Daily Mail and the event was promoted on the GPH website.

The project update event featured the latest plans and visuals for the development and representatives from HCC, Siemens and ABP were on hand to answer any questions members of the public may have. In total 168 people attended throughout the day and overall feedback from the event was extremely positive. The latest copy of the GPH Project Update brochure was circulated at the event (please see attached Project Update Brochure and Feedback Analysis Form.)

**Exhibitions** – THMA have independently taken stand space at the Offshore Europe Exhibition in Aberdeen and have, to date, signed up six local companies to attend. The strand would like to offer a package of support to eligible companies participating, up to 50% of the cost (up to a maximum of £1,000) and are proposing that the programme supports this activity by providing a number of subsidies, up to a total of £10,000 (i.e. approx. 10 companies).

### **Research, Development and Innovation**

**General** - The strand continues to make good progress in establishing the relationships, systems and processes for the strands activities, and in particular the Knowledge Fund.

The strand are working with the Inward Investment strand to coordinate input to BIZ week in June, as well as looking at the potential to scope an initial Hull 'Venturefest' focussed on RDI, technology commercialisation and access to finance.

Planning has continued around the RDI strand's involvement in the Multi-Nodal Conference in Hull in April.

The Humber LEP have facilitated an introduction to GEV Windpower, who have recently set up in Hull. The company has a novel system for the in-situ coatings of blades using an inflatable system and the strand is providing support to enable them to prove the concept. A meeting is scheduled in April.

Yorkshire Water is growing increasingly interested in the GPGP and its potential involvement in some of the strand activities. A meeting is scheduled for March to discuss this further. Arup has also showed interest following a meeting in February 2015.

Greenstick is now scoping a test programme with experts at Sheffield University which could leverage a recent Research Council UK call in the area of marine structures.

**Observations** – The strand continues to see a significant increase in awareness and interest in the strand activities and opportunities for support. Given the general endorsement of LOMASS as an RDI focal point, this will be promoted in subsequent marketing materials and the strand webpages.

### **Business Grants Strand**

Having only recently started activity, the strand is currently engaged with a small number of interested businesses, two of whom have indicated that they will shortly be completing applications.

The strand has agreed the process for the Knowledge Fund grants with the University of Hull. The application forms and legal agreements are currently being drafted.

### **Programme level update**

The Year 4 delivery plans are currently being finalised with the strand leads and the Year 4 programme plan is being drafted.

**Sarah Clark**  
**Programmes Manager**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015**