

**Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015**

**STRAND UPDATE REPORT**

**Employment & Skills**

**Apprenticeship Wage Subsidies** - The 2014/15 target for engineering Apprenticeships was exceeded, 155 achieved against a target of 150. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 the strand has received 24 applications against the current year target of 200.

**Engineering Upskilling** – The strand fell slightly short of the 2014/15 target for upskilling, achieving 116 against a target of 150. The strand are currently looking at ways to increase the take up that will include targeted marketing and publicity, which to date has not been undertaken.

**Specific Skills** - Discussions are continuing with the GPG Programme Team regarding the potential to roll the Specific Skills budget and targets into the upskilling 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 upskilling 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 with a mini tendering round to follow for the Renewables Pathway Project. It is anticipated that the project will commence at the beginning of July, 2015.

**JobCentre Plus Secondment** - 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.

**Business Support**

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

- 277 enquiries
- 177 businesses enrolled
- 86 businesses supported
- 24 companies financial assistance awarded (3 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 = £157k
- Financial assistance committed = £134k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 79% Hull and East Riding, 16% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 5% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

**Workshops** - Latest workshop on offshore wind health and safety was a huge success; fully attended and good publicity with companies in attendance posting tweets during the workshop. Dates set for next two workshops with additional ones presently being developed.

The Business Support team will also be presenting a session 'Real Successes for Local People' at the Team Humber Marine Alliance (THMA) supported Offshore Wind Connections Event during BIZ week (4th June, 2015) showcasing a number of local businesses that supply the renewables industry and have accessed business support through the GPG programme. The session will cover the type of business support accessed and how this has helped the business on their journey.

**Supply Chain Support** - The team are currently developing the role of a Supply Chain Coordinator to work with the Business Support and Inward investment strand teams to directly provide the link between tender ready companies and the opportunities within the renewable sector. To support this role the Business Support strand will directly register with appropriate tender sources to ensure as many opportunities are identified as possible.

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.

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## **Site Assembly**

Activity on the Site Assembly strand has focused around the following site developments;

**Paull** – Discussions ongoing regarding the funding opportunities for the Paull site.

**Brough** - Good levels of interest from Modular Housing sector which links in with renewables via the Code for Sustainable Homes. Existing access continues to be an issue especially with the abnormal loads being proposed by some of the users and potential site assembly intervention being explored regarding linking up the EZ site with the new bridge over the railway line being constructed to access the next phase of housing development in Brough.

**Wyke Works** - The site received a small grant to pay for the planning permission fees in recognition of the wider uncertainties associated with the site. The planning permission for the site has now been awarded and the site is being actively marketed.

**Kingston Parklands** - A preferred developer has been appointed for the site. The developer, Stoneferry Estates, has obtained full planning permission for the development of a science park type development and is anticipating construction to start in May 2015.

James E Smith Timber Ltd relocated from Alexandra dock to Sutton Fields as part of the wider relocation of existing businesses. The business continues to trade and was an anchor tenant in the wider redevelopment of Nordic Business Park.

In terms of the wider physical developments that have been undertaken in the City;

- Marfleet Environmental Technology Park - The development has been completed at an approximate cost of £10m. All units with the exception of one have been leased and the final unit is in legals. The development has transformed the area and brought significant new employment into the area.
- ABP (biomass facilities) - ABP have invested significant resources in new bio-mass facilities to service the requirements of Drax power station.
- The Beacon - Horncastle's have developed three new Grade A office buildings to the west of the City, two of which are fully let.
- Burma Drive - The HCA have commenced the works associated with servicing phase 2 of the site. Marketing is due to commence in earnest shortly, there is one user currently interested in purchasing a 2 acre site.

## **Inward Investment**

**One Stop Shop** - Scale Lane Bridge requires further investigation for the location of the One Stop Shop. There is a considerable issue with noise reverberation when push chairs and skateboarders cross the bridge. NPS is liaising with the bridge designer and looking at acoustic

options but as yet NPA has not provided time scales for this. The strand is currently looking at other DDA compliant buildings in the old town as well as shop frontages in the city centre.

**Exhibitions** - THMA have independently taken stand space at the Offshore Europe Exhibition in Aberdeen and have to date got six local companies signed up 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).

It is anticipated that as the GPGP progresses, more companies will come forward asking for support to attend exhibitions that are outside of those already approved by the GPGP Board. For example Seawork in Southampton is popular with the companies involved in the work boats. In these instances it is requested that the Board agree to delegate the authority for approving these subsidies in line with the GPGP eligibility criteria to the Programme Manager and Inward Investment strand lead, up to a maximum value of £1,000 per company.

**Public Right of Way Opening** - Works on the diversion of the PROW on Alexandra Dock are now drawing to a close. ABP is organising the official opening of the footpath which will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

**Internationalisation – Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce (HHCC)** - HHCC continues to work in conjunction with the British Danish Chamber of Commerce and is looking to bring another trade delegation to H&ERY in June 2015. A reciprocal visit to Denmark is planned for Aug/Sept 2015

The strand is also researching the opportunities for engagement with the French Renewable Energy Industry. Contact has been made with the Chamber in France who has agreed to work with this HHCC by providing introductions and networking opportunities. The marine renewable energy market in France has taken time to get going and the way it works is completely different to the way things happen in the UK. Now that some of the obstacles are being removed, contracts are being signed and there is international engagement. The development contractors are breaking new ground and there may be opportunities for trade and partnership. An event is being organised by Marine-Renewable Energy (MRE) - THETIS MRE. It is their 4<sup>th</sup> International Convention on Marine Renewable Energy. Simon Brett, will represent the Port of Hull at one of the plenary sessions. The HHCC will attend the event in order to gather information, network, identifying contacts and companies that may be relevant to Green Port Hull.

A number of interventions are currently being explored to support the recruitment plans, in collaboration with JCP, including;

- For job seekers - an understanding of the nature of the work involved, understanding of health and safety, support to create a good CV and competency based interview
- Development of an internet resource to promote the project, Siemens Hull recruitment requirements and an overview of the potential roles and working conditions
- Pre recruitment events at venues throughout Hull & the East Riding which could include representation from Siemens HR, NCS to support CV's, JCP, promotion of skills strand

pathways project, training providers, access to PCs/Tablets to demonstrate on line application process etc.

### **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI)**

**General** - The strand continues to make good progress in establishing the relationships, systems and processes to enable the RDI as a whole and the Knowledge Fund (KF) in particular, to function.

Preparations are now underway for the RDI strand workshop at the THMA-supported BIZ week, Bridlington in June 2015. Faith Renewables is to be used as a case study to showcase the type of support that can be packaged.

Input has been provided to Emma Toulson of the Humber LEP on the potential role of the RDI strand in securing and supporting an Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Regional Coordinator for the Humber, the expressions of interest for which must be submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The RDI Director has been appointed by DECC as one of three UK assessors for the forthcoming, high profile EU DemoWind (offshore wind demonstration) programme. This will generate significant profile for the RDI strand as well as increasing the GPGP's EU networks. The RDI Director has also been requested to assess two proposals for the EU OceanErNet programme.

The RDI strand is to attend the forthcoming All Energy exhibition in Glasgow in May and the RenewableUK Global Offshore Wind event in London in June of this year. Both events are expected to provide excellent networking opportunities. Support will be provided to those manning the Humber Renewables stand at the Glasgow event.

**Observations** - The strand is nearly complete in its ability to transact with clients. All administration now cascades and supports the overall GPGP objectives. The final step is to agree the last couple of points in relation to the Knowledge Fund approval and monitoring process.

As per the action at the end of last year at the GP Supply Chain Working Group i.e. to seek out synergies between the Humber and North East regions, the increased activity with the Blyth site of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and the linkages being facilitated between Hull and Durham Universities, in particular, this initiative is starting to gain traction. There is still a lot to do with GROW Offshore on this, but momentum is now gathering.

The RDI strand continues to see a significant increase in awareness of, and interest in, its existence 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 RDI strand webpages.

The ability of the RDI strand to link micro-businesses with the likes of Siemens is proving to be very popular with all involved parties.

### **Business Grants Strand**

The process and procedures for the grants are now agreed and mirror the previous GBI national grant scheme. The grants have not been marketed to date as we are looking to have a soft opening in order to address any glitches before an increase in demand occurs. The strand is awaiting the return of two applications. Both parties have indicated that these will be returned imminently.

In the last quarter the strand have received a further two early stage inward investment enquiries in relation to the wider sector.

### **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.

**Kathryn Batty**  
**Programmes Coordinator**  
**6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015**