
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 8th July 2015

STRAND UPDATE REPORT

Employment & Skills

Apprenticeship Wage Subsidies - The target to date for engineering Apprenticeships was exceeded, 405 achieved against a target of 350. The 2015-16 target for engineering apprenticeship starts is 200 and since the start of the new financial year 27 applications have been received. We anticipate that this will significantly increase at the start of the new academic year.

Engineering Upskilling/Specific Skills (now merged) – The strand fell slightly short of the target to date for upskilling, achieving 206 against a target of 250. The strand are currently looking at ways to increase take up and since the start of the new financial year 32 applications have been received. Targeted marketing and publicity, which to date has not been undertaken is expected to greatly increase interest in this activity.

Renewables Pathway Project, Disadvantaged Groups – There has been no change to the previous months report.

Business Support

To date the project has achieved the following:

- 298 enquiries
- 183 businesses enrolled
- 93 businesses supported
- 25 companies financial assistance awarded (3 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 = £161k
- Financial assistance committed = £158k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 79% Hull and East Riding, 16% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 5% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

At the Offshore Wind Connections Event (4th June 2015) the Business Support team presented 'Real Successes for Local Businesses', showcasing four local businesses who have been supported through the project e.g. Boston Energy, Pearlgreen Engineering, HFR Solutions, AIG. The session was well received attracting over 40 attendees; creating enquiries for both support through the programme and interest in the supplier directory and resulted in networking between attendees for further discussions / collaborative working.

Success stories on all 4 companies are now being drawn up via Bluestorm and will be released as Press releases and for inclusion on the website.

We had representation at **Global Offshore Wind** (24th – 25th June) directly promoting the Business Directory, one of our registered companies GEV Wind Power also launched their Blade Habitat, the model which has already been recognized for its innovation, enables an engineer to conduct essential blade maintenance in a weather-protected environment.



State Aid Certificates - 2013/14 & 2014/15 De-minimis state aid certificates have now been issued to all companies who have gained support through the strand either through reviews, attendance at workshops or gaining financial assistance. The system has now been set up to complete this exercise on an annual basis.

Green Port Directory - Through ongoing marketing there are currently 142 companies registered and 96 are being processed.

Site Assembly

ERYC have arranged a meeting with ABP to discuss options on how the site can be brought forward to the market in a mutually acceptable way.

Inward Investment

One Stop Shop - The strand continues to look at options for housing the one stop shop, with an area within Hull Library identified as a firm possibility.

Internationalisation - The procurement exercise for the GPH desk in Denmark has commenced with three Danish organisations invited to quote. Closing date is the 10th July, 2015. Start date for delivery is the 1st August, for one year with activity starting in September 2015, with the launch of the desk in Denmark and an inward mission from Denmark to Hull.

There is a joint Danish/German offshore wind conference in Hamburg on the 14th September which may be appropriate for our ambassadors to attend as part of the Internationalisation project. More information about the event is being sought by the Chamber of Commerce. We have also been offered a presentation slot to promote GPH in Hamburg; which might provide an appropriate opportunity to launch the desk.

We are also exploring options for some of the ambassadors to participate in the EWEA event in Paris in November, looking at raising the profile of GPH in the European markets.

Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I)

General - The RDI Coordinator continues to work with Hull City Council (HCC) to finalise arrangements for the appraisal, approval and monitoring of KF grants. The IPR clause issue has been resolved and progress is being made towards completion of all paperwork, albeit slower than desired.

A very successful RDI strand workshop (45 attendees) entitled, 'From Ideas to Income' was held at the Offshore Wind Connections event in Bridlington on 4th June, part of Business Week. The workshop featured talks by AL and a case study in the form of Faith Renewables, as well as a session from Terry Hogg the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult.

A meeting was held on 3rd June among the RDI Strand, Simon Green of Venturefest North East and Emma Toulson of the Humber LEP, to discuss the possibility of holding a Venturefest Hull & Humber thus adding to the RDI fabric of the Region. The seeds were sown. A follow-up session is scheduled for July with Dawn Hall of the Business Support strand also in attendance.

On the theme of RDI, a meeting was held with Emma Toulson of the Humber LEP to look at leveraging its £5m RDI budget with that of the RDI strand. The Grand Challenges are one possibility, as is support for the Composites Centre of Excellence currently being proposed or regional centre of excellence for renewable energy operations and maintenance.

The RDI strand (AL) attended day 1 of the RenewableUK Global Offshore Wind event at the ExCel, where introductions were made on the Humber Renewables stand to Lorry Wagner, CEO of Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation, which shares many similar challenges to those on the Humber. Mark O'Reilly is to follow up and incorporate LEEDCo into his US fact-finding missions.

The submission to the ORE Catapult from the Humber LEP to host a ORE Regional Coordinator was well-received and a meeting set-up with the ORE Catapult team in Hull on 27/7/15 to discuss in greater detail.

Observations - The administration tasks with HCC are drawing to a conclusion, with the end hopefully in sight.

There is a definite opportunity to link the RDI strand and the LEP innovation activities to bring additional resources to bear for bigger schemes such as a composites centre of excellence or a centre of excellence for renewables O&M. However, it is essential that the RDI strand be in the communications loop around these plans, as there is value to be added.

The ability of the RDI strand to create linkages among micro-businesses such that each benefits is now beginning to gain traction. By doing so, the bedrock of a RDI base is being created.

Business Grants Strand

Further to the last Board meeting we have held further discussions with an interested party in the grants.

We have also undertaken further investigations in relation to the offsite office requirements associated with Green Port Hull.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
1st July 2015