

Minutes of RGF Green Port Growth Programme Board Meeting

5.00pm, Wednesday 15th October, 2015

Present: Tim Rix (TR), Bill Walker (BW), Mark Jones (MJ), Scott Yates (SY), David West (DW)

In attendance: Sarah Clark (SC), Eleanor Carter DCLG (EC), Richard Norris (RN) minutes, Jim Dick (JD) and Dave Bertholini (DB), CatZero, for agenda item 4, Pauline Wade, Hull and Humber Chamber (PW) for agenda item 6.

1.	Apologies	Action
1.1	<p>Apologies were received from Katy Swaby, Paul Bell, Simon Brett and Alan Menzies. It was agreed that as no quorum could be formed for this meeting, any decisions would be followed up electronically.</p> <p>Action: SC to follow up approval for any decisions requested electronically.</p>	SC
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
3.	Declarations of interest	
3.1	None declared.	
4.	CatZero – presentation by Jim Dick and Dave Bertholini	
4.1	<p>CatZero had been invited to present at the board to showcase the work of their project. JD and DB gave a presentation on CatZero, a not-for-profit organisation delivering projects for young people. The project particularly targets those not in education, employment or training, often from areas with generational unemployment, and provides encouragement, support and skills in an outdoor, ‘non-classroom’ approach to tackle individual issues. This work then culminates in a sailing challenge, designed to take participants out of their comfort zone and into an intense but controlled environment that teaches team working, self-confidence, and other vital life skills.</p> <p>On average participants achieve 6-8 qualifications, including in the areas of Health & Safety and Food Hygiene, as well as being advised on CV preparation, job interview techniques, and a healthy diet. The drop-out rate for the project is just 2%, and 65% of those who take part in the programme move into employment, education or training.</p> <p>JD and DB advised that the project complements other provision being delivered in the area and described CatZero as the missing piece of the jigsaw. JD and DB</p>	

	<p>also advised that statistics are available to confirm the project's success rate and that the project's content is being referenced as best practice in various government documents. JD and DB extended an open invitation to board members to visit the project to see it in action.</p> <p>SC queried whether the project could be targeted at participants from any area indicated as deprived. DB confirmed that the project has had success in other areas of the Humber giving Scunthorpe as an example, and that the content of the project could be tailored to a variety of sectors, including the renewables sector.</p> <p>The board thanked JD and DB for their presentation and confirmed that the GPGP would be issuing an open and competitive tender for proposals to target those disengaged and furthest from the labour market. The opportunity is expected to be open by Christmas.</p>	
5.	Investment update – Siemens and ABP, update on other potential investments	
5.1	MJ gave an update on Clugstons winning the latest construction contract, and advised that 3,200 piles have now been driven in for the blade plant. The dock filling is complete and building works for the factory are to commence in early November 15.	
6.	Feedback from Denmark business desk launch	
6.1	<p>PW provided feedback to the board on the launch of the Denmark business desk, which took place in mid September. To follow on there will be an inward trade mission at the end of November to GPH. MJ advised that further deeper work should now be undertaken to develop the GPH presence in Denmark, and the necessity to provide a presence in Aalborg in order to coordinate and receive visitors from GPH and to continue to encourage trade and cultural exchange. MJ and TR discussed the economic benefits that the Humber region has to offer to businesses in this area and the additional Denmark presence would have the intention of cultivating and further developing relationships with potential inward investors in to Hull and the East Riding. MJ requested that PW develops a proposal in the next couple of weeks which could meet this developing need.</p> <p>Action: PW to draft a proposal by 31/10/15.</p>	PW
6.2	<p>PW reported on the renewable energy conference in Hamburg, where SB presented for GPH, with SY also in attendance as an ambassador. PW advised the board that opportunities in Germany exist, and requested feedback from the board about further engagement with businesses in Hamburg and northern Germany. PW advised the board that it would not be cost-effective to have an exclusive GPH desk in Germany.</p> <p>Action: For the board to consider further activity PW should undertake to investigate the German market.</p>	ALL

<p>6.3</p>	<p>PW reported on the European exhibition taking place at the British Embassy in Paris 17th-19th November 15. PW proposed a small (invite only) GPH event during the exhibition to highlight the benefits the GPH project can provide in contributing to driving down the costs of renewable energy, particularly through research and innovation. A discussion as to who would be invited ensued and PW confirmed a draft list of potential invitees had been drawn up by MJ and PW and confirmed that any event would be targeted and invite only. DW advised that he has personal contacts that the GPH project could utilise to engage with decision makers and extend invitations to appropriate people which he is happy to share with MJ.</p> <p>Action: DW to contact MJ directly with details of potential additional Danish contacts.</p>	<p>DW</p>
<p>6.4</p>	<p>EC advised that UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) had expressed concern that they had not been involved in the GPH Denmark desk project. PW confirmed that contact had been made personally however without a response being received. After a discussion it was agreed that PW's contact details be passed on to EC's UKTI contact.</p> <p>Action: SC to pass on PW contact details to EC</p>	<p>SC</p>
<p>6.5</p>	<p>SC confirmed a letter of thanks had been sent out to the Chairman of East Riding of Yorkshire Council Councillor Peter Turner and to The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Hull Councillor Anita Harrison for their attendance and speeches at the Denmark desk opening event.</p> <p>TR requested that a separate letter be sent to PW to thank her for coordinating such a high calibre and positive launch event.</p> <p>Action: SC to issue letter of thanks to PW on behalf of TR and the board.</p>	<p>SC</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Year 4 Delivery plan – RDI strand</p>	
<p>7.1</p>	<p>BW advised that the Year 4 delivery plan would be drafted before Christmas, with new plan for board consideration in January. DW discussed aquaculture, turbines and water power in the 'energy estuary' of the Humber, and noted the necessity of a driving force behind it. TR noted the creativity and enthusiasm of the University of Hull's specialists, and speculated on how this can be utilised with appropriate resources.</p> <p>Action: BW to provide a status update of the RDI Yr 4 Plan at the November board meeting.</p>	

		BW
8.	Strand update report highlights and recommendations	
8.1	The strand update report was received and noted. SC and MJ gave an update on the GPH offices at Hull library, with staff now moved in and an official launch to be arranged at the end of October.	
8.2	SC highlighted the success of the careers events that had been held noting the high calibre of attendees.	
8.3	TR queried new grant requests, SC advised that there are several in process which will be put before the board in the near future. The board discussed getting best value and skills return on the GPH investment.	
9	DCLG/BIS Update	
9.1	EC advised that there were no updates from DCLG/BIS.	
10	AOB	
10.1	The board discussed inviting UKTI and senior civil servants to view GPH and the wider programme of activity, and concluded that it is advisable to await the outcome of discussions between PW and UKTI.	
	Meeting closed at 6.30pm	
	Date and time of next meeting: 5pm, 11 th November 2015, Room 1, County Hall, Beverley.	