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**Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**STRAND UPDATE REPORT**

**Employment & Skills**

**Strand Progress**

Engineering Apprenticeships - the 2015-16 target for engineering apprenticeship starts is 200. Since 1st April 2015 we have approved 124 applications.

Engineering Up-Skilling/Specific Skills - the 2015-16 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2015 we have approved 114 applications.

A further 12 companies engaged.

**Key considerations for the board**

The 5 assessment days held during December 2015 have provided 20 participants for the first Pathway to Employment project which is to start on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 and will run until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. Assessment days will now be held every Wednesday morning, the first being held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

**Business Support**

**Strand Progress**

To date the project has achieved the following:

- 359 Enquiries
- 225 Enrolled
- 117 Businesses Supported
- 30 companies financial assistance awarded (4 of which have been successful in a 2nd application)
- 46.43 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Grants and consultancy support (to date):

- Financial assistance paid = £209k
- Financial assistance committed = £174k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 60% Hull and East Riding, 13% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 27% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

The following **workshops** have taken place this month;

- **Introduction to ISO 14001** – 5 individuals from 5 different companies.
- **R&D Tax Credits** – 7 individuals from 7 different companies.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 we hosted our first **Networking Event** at the Mecure Hotel, Willerby. More than 100 attendees from 70 local businesses attended the event, which saw presentations from Simon Brett, of ABP, giving an update on current and aspirational dock developments on the Humber, as well as Paul Savvides, the UK procurement lead for Siemens plc Wind Power. Paul talked about the growth of the 'UK's energy estuary', and the potential supply chain opportunities for our local businesses. A number of attendees took to tweeting and the 23 tweets on the day reached 4,184 accounts.

The **Supply Chain Coordinator** has made contact with Energy Works and support is being given in the identification of local contractors. This will be through either focussed events or individual introductions.

Procurement will be undertaken under an Engineer, Procure and Construct (EPC) contract by global engineering and construction company M&W Group. Hull-based specialist engineering business, Spencer Group will carry out the civils works as well as managing the construction phase. Currently awaiting the first work packages which are most likely to be for piling activities and for structural and secondary steelwork provision. A brief presentation on the opportunities for Energy Works was presented by Fred Mead at the Networking event on the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Wider renewables activity**

Referenced in last months board report the business support strand supported the **DEME Supply Chain Event** along with the Grimsby Renewables Partnership and THMA on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. DEME's operating companies - GeoSea, Tideway and OWA gave an introduction to the vast opportunities that lie with the marine contractors in the coming years. 42 people attended the event, where as well as learning more about what the UK supply chain has to offer, DEME gave them an opportunity to learn more about the company and its current and future offshore wind projects both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. Local suppliers who were eager to do business with them or the offshore wind industry in general could register their interest and capabilities with their procurement department.

The strand supported THMA by giving an overview of the GPH programme during the visit by **NovaVis, Virginia Offshore Wind Coalition from the USA**, on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015. In addition our businesses had the opportunity to attend 'Doing Business in the USA' event held by THMA and UKTI with contribution from Alan Lowdon.

### **Site Assembly**

#### **Strand Progress**

As previously reported, the Valuation Office is updating Paull site valuation work to inform future strategy on potential public sector intervention.

### **Inward Investment**

#### **Strand Progress**

Delivery of the Danish Business Desk continues with a presentation on GPH in Jutland planned for the 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. Simon Brett will present.

The Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce will be delivering the first cultural workshop for Siemens on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 for 6 middle managers going out imminently. The operatives programme will begin in February 2016.

As part of the continued Siemens Recruitment a further 60 operative vacancies will be advertised during the first two weeks of January 2016.

### **Research, Development and Innovation (R,D&I)**

#### **Strand Progress**

- The month saw the completion of all document preparation for the alignment of the RDI Strand to mutually complement the University of Hull's flagship, Project Aura (creation of the Open Access Innovation Centre). This has resulted in AL and EPL being co-opted onto the Project Aura delivery team for the next 6 months in the first instance;
- A revised RDI Strategic Plan is being produced which reflects recent discussions in relation to Project Aura/OAIC;
- SME support for the month focussed on Project DAVE (as reported in previous board papers), with assistance provided to prepare the initial Knowledge Fund application. This is now subject to review.

- A very successful R&D Funding Workshop was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 at the Village Inn. Presentations were delivered by financial advisors, Baker Tilley, who delivered a superb session on R&D tax credits, ENGIE who discussed corporate venturing and the expectations of PLCs when creating early stage investment funds, Emma Platt-Lowe took attendees through what to expect when applying for and accepting public funds for R&D, and AL who discussed the R&D 'idea to income' landscape. Overall, feedback was excellent;
- Grant Offer Letter (GOL) finalisation with HCC remains an outstanding action. Discussions continue;
- AL assisted University of Hull (UoH) in its preparation for a meeting with the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (OREC) by analysing an Operations & Maintenance white paper produced by OREC such that the UoH and the RDI Strand were able to demonstrate clear opportunity space to work with OREC in this area;
- AL represented the RDI Strand at the Green Port Hull networking event at the Mercure, Willerby, on 17th December, 2015;
- AL attended Coventry University, Water-Energy Nexus event, sponsored by NOF Energy on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015. Given its relevance to the shale and hydrogen agenda, this area will continue to be an area that the RDI Strand retains a watch on.

#### **Wider renewables activity**

- Discussions with the LEP and OREC continue in relation to the region becoming more aligned with outreach work of OREC; OAIC will be instrumental in this debate.

#### **Key observations**

- The alignment with Project Aura provides the RDI Strand with an excellent opportunity to create strong programme legacy and take a major step forward in establishing Hull and the East Riding as a centre of renewable energy innovation.

#### **Key considerations for the board**

- Review and sign-off of the (delayed) RDI Delivery Plan which now reflects the agreed position around Project Aura/OAIC and provides an excellent platform for advancing the RDI Strand and, by doing so, creating a lasting RDI legacy for the Hull, East Riding and wider Humber regions.

#### **Business Grants**

##### **Strand Progress**

Whilst there has been continued interest in the Greenport Grants, to date we have yet to receive an application, leading to an under spend against the profiled budget. Much of the interest we have received is from service companies to the offshore wind industry looking to establish relatively small operations in the UK. The earlier interest we received from companies involved in the oil and gas industry has largely fallen away reflecting the state of the market.

##### **Programme level update**

The GPGP External Audit of January 2015 – December 2015 expenditure, is being undertaken by Deloitte. The outcome is expected by the end of February, 2016. The findings will be communicated upon completion.

Preparation is underway to begin discussions on plans for Year 5 with the intention that Year 5 Delivery Plans will be available for board approval at the April or May meeting.

**Sarah Clark**  
**Programmes Manager**  
**6<sup>th</sup> January 2016**