

Minutes of RGF Green Port Growth Programme Board Meeting

5.00pm, Wednesday 10th February, 2016

Present: Tim Rix (TR), Alan Menzies (AM), Bill Walker (BW), Paul Bell (PB), Mark Jones (MJ), Scott Yates (SY), David West (DW), Katy Swaby (KS).

In attendance: Sarah Clark (SC), Kathryn Batty (KB) minutes, Eleanor Carter (EC) DCLG, Finbarr Dowling (FD) agenda item 4, 6 and 7.

1	Apologies	Action
1.1	Apologies received from Simon Brett.	
2	Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
2.2	Item 7 [January 16 meeting minutes] KB provided an update on the status of the Green Shoots tender, stating that the Programmes Team are working with procurement with a view to issuing the tender through the OJEU procurement route next week.	
3	Declarations of interest	
3.1	Item 10 – TR declared an interest.	
4	Investment update – Siemens and ABP, update on other potential investments	
4.1	<p>FD provided an update on the work being undertaking at Alexandra Dock. The steel work for the blade factory is now 90% complete, the roof is 80% there and the cladding is 50% complete with a view to the factory being sealed by the end of February. Once the factory is sealed the appointed local M&E contractor, Neville Tucker, will commence work readying the M&E installation in advance of the factory opening on 1st September, 2016. FD confirmed he is very happy with progress, everything is going well on the factory side. On the Harbour side, specialist marine engineering is underway to secure the harbour. There has been approximately £150m investment made so far, with 500 people currently working on site of which 125 have HU postcodes.</p> <p>FD advised that a significant amount of the work has been contracted to local companies, a local timber company based in Beverley, has just secured a contract as part of the work on the Harbour side.</p> <p>FD advised that the recruitment campaign is going extremely well and expressed his delight at the calibre of local people coming through the recruitment process. 9,000 applications have been received in total, of which 130 blue collar roles have been appointed, with only 40 of these being from out of town. All of</p>	

	<p>the appointments so far have been people who were previously employed, however these being from a variety of different industries, with 36 different companies being represented. A number of employees previously employed by TATA Steel have secured employment which is very encouraging.</p> <p>TR commented that this is a great opportunity for the people hit by the closure of TATA Steel.</p> <p>FD advised that Siemens now have the full management team in place for the factory and the Harbour Master has been recruited and is due to start shortly, again the majority of these appointments are local people. They are now using their city office for assessments and encouragingly they are seeing a high volume of people coming through. The training for the quality roles will be starting at the new Hull College Group Composites Training Centre on Preston Road next week. FD also stated that the new Composites Training Centre, which houses state of the art system for painting the blades, is a facility which will be there for a long time for other industries to utilise.</p> <p>FD stated that Siemens want to be able to represent the diverse nature of the local community in their workforce, and they see this as their biggest challenge. To date only 7% of appointments have been women. They recognise that initial period of training which is currently being hosted in Denmark could be a barrier for some, and therefore Siemens are putting plans in place to address these issues. For example they are holding open days during the weekend at the new Blade School due to open next week on Preston Road to try and encourage women to come along and look at the opportunities available. They are also keen to support ex-offenders and individuals with barriers associated with mental health back to work and are working with local community organisation, charities and agencies to look at ways in which they can address this. Siemens are determined to ensure that the local community is represented.</p> <p>FD expressed his thanks to the Green Port team for all of their support with the cultural workshops deployed by Pauline Wade from the Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>FD added that the announcement by DONG Energy that the Hornsea One offshore wind farm project which is set to be the largest offshore wind farm in the world is encouraging in terms of potential future orders.</p> <p>FD concluded that all plans are going very well indeed and extended his thanks to ERYC, HCC and the Green Port team for all of their support.</p>	
5	RDI strand year 4 delivery plan	
5.1	<p>The Board noted the RDI year 4 strand delivery plan. SC advised this has now been signed off at Programme level.</p> <p>MJ stated that he was not satisfied that the arrangements for the Knowledge Fund element of the strand activity, for which HCC are the accountable body,</p>	

	<p>had been fully agreed.</p> <p>Decision: The Board approved the RDI year 4 delivery plan, subject to approval from HCC on the arrangements for the Knowledge Fund element.</p> <p>Action: SC to feed back to the strand lead and to liaise with Richard Lowther of HCC to ensure that agreement on the KF arrangements has been confirmed in the plan.</p>	SC
6	Virtual Reality Technology Ron Dearing UTC	
6.1	<p>FD presented the paper on the proposal for the Ron Dearing UTC, highlighting the driver for the centre and the perceived benefits the centre will bring to the area. Whilst acknowledging that a number of UTCs have not been without their problems, FD explained that the appeal for the UTCs is growing and highlighted the successes of the Sheffield UTC. The Ron Dearing UTC which will be based in Hull City centre will focus digital and mechatronic technology in regard to revolutionising manufacturing processes, and will create 3D virtual reality environments to support a wide range of business requirements, for example 3D printing. The centre will be multi use, enabling students to learn and providing open access to local people and companies. The centre has support from the University of Hull, the Spencer Group, KC and Siemens. The potential benefits to local SMEs are vast. The UTC will provide access to technology that would otherwise be unavailable to SMEs due to the cost of the technology.</p> <p>If the proposal is taken forward the next step would require a detailed design phase to further develop specifications, costings and open access arrangements.</p> <p>AM stated that quantifiable outputs would need to be established and agreed.</p> <p>PB highlighted the benefits that the work of the UTC could bring in relation to the work of the GPGP Business Support strand.</p> <p>Decision: Approved in principle, subject to a full business plan and conditions of funding to be agreed.</p>	
7	Greenpower Trust project	
7.1	<p>MJ presented the paper which seeks a £60k financial contribution for the Greenport Education Trust, Project Blyth, which is already being rolled out with a large number of local schools and colleges. The aim of the project is to encourage more business to work with young people through the Greenpower initiative, developing future engineering and technology skills.</p> <p>Decision: Approved, subject to specific outcomes and outputs being agreed.</p> <p>Action: SC to work with MJ to agree conditions for the approved Greenpower Trust project sponsorship.</p>	SC/MJ

8	Business Support Grant request	
8.1	<p>Two grant applications were considered by the Board, both of which were rejected.</p> <p>SC confirmed all businesses supported through the business support strand receive a full package of business support with some grant applications being made as part of the overall package of support. The Board discussed both grant applications and concluded that additional information regarding the full package of support being provided by the Business Support team needs to be reflected in future grant applications.</p> <p>Action: SC to confirm the outcome of the applications to Dawn Hall and to invite Dawn to the next Board meeting.</p>	SC
9	Composites Manufacturing Training Centre	
9.1	<p>MJ presented the proposal which is for a contribution towards the Hull College Group Composites Manufacturing Training Centre which is a dedicated centre for manufacturing processes using composite materials such as glass reinforced polymer. The Hull College Group has already committed a sum of money to the development of phase one of the centre and is looking for a contribution to support phase two. The centre will be in close proximity to a range of other Green Port Hull development sites and is in the Marfleet ward of Hull which is within the UK's top 1% of most socio economically deprived areas.</p> <p>SC added that state aid compliancy has been considered and is being investigated and suggested this funding application should be made through the Business Grants strand. MJ advised that he would investigate and confirm with SC.</p> <p>AM restated the need that outcomes and outputs would need to be agreed prior to any funding decision being made.</p> <p>Decision: Approved in principle, subject to the above action and agreement of funding conditions.</p>	MJ/SC
10	Green Port Property Fund	
10.1	<p>MJ presented a discussion paper for a proposal to create a Greenport Property Fund which would be a revolving fund to be used to purchase, remediate, service and develop sites with a view to bringing forward sites and premises for the low carbon industries.</p> <p>A discussion was held by the Board as to the contents of the proposal and though the benefits of such a scheme were acknowledged it was deemed in its current format that the proposal was not eligible under the GPGP. SC agreed to investigate the idea further with ERYC and HCC colleagues to determine other funding sources.</p>	

	<p>Decision: Rejected.</p> <p>Action: SC to follow up with ERYC and HCC colleagues to investigate options.</p>	SC
11	Strand update report and programme performance update report	
11.1	<p>SC highlighted a number of items on the strand report. The Supply Chain Coordinator is supporting M&W Group, with their procurement across several areas for the construction of Energy Works, providing details of suitable companies. The GPH Danish Desk organised a presentation in the Port of Grenaa, which serves the Anholt wind farm, in January. Simon Brett and Scott Yates were amongst the Green Port Hull ambassadors in attendance. The presentation generated interest with a number of companies to visit Green Port Hull and dates of an inward mission are being identified. A tender has been issued for delivery of Green Port Hull support in Northern Germany – Pauline Wade will attend the March board meeting to provide a verbal update.</p> <p>Siemens recruitment has so far made employment offers to 130 people with some of these on board in management roles, undergoing training or due to start their employment in the next few weeks. Of the 130 positions offered or under offer to date, 70% are from HU post codes. All of the senior management positions are now filled. Recruitment of the production workforce is also now well under way. Volker Fitzpatrick are committed to employ 40% of total labour for the project within 50 miles radius of Hull and 25% from within a 20 mile radius.</p> <p>Discussions are underway between the RDI strand and HCC regarding the composition of the Knowledge Fund Review Panel. The first panel is due to take place later in February.</p> <p>The Board noted the Programme Performance Update report.</p>	
11.2		
12	DCLG/BIS Update	
12.1	<p>EC explained that BIS are currently undertaking a national review of all RGF endowment programmes, of which there are 13 nationally, and as part of the exercise the RGF GPGP will be subject to a health check over the coming weeks. EC is working with SC and KB to arrange this.</p>	EC/SC
13	AOB	
13.1	<p>KB advised that following the appointment of AMION consulting the GPGP Mid Term Evaluation is now underway and a representative will be making contact with all Board members and individual attendees of the board meetings to arrange a convenient time to meet to undertake a consultation.</p>	AMION Consulting
	Meeting closed at 6.25pm	

	Date and time of next meeting: 5pm, Wednesday 9 th March 2016, Room 1, County Hall, Beverley.	
--	--	--