
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 10th February 2016
STRAND UPDATE REPORT

Employment & Skills Strand

Strand Progress

Engineering Apprenticeships - the 2015-16 target for engineering apprenticeship starts is 200. Since 1st April 2015 we have approved 132 applications with 14 pending.

Engineering Up-Skilling/Specific Skills - the 2015-16 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2015 we have approved 143 applications.

A further 11 companies are engaged.

Key considerations for the board

The first intake for the Pathway to Employment project started with 20 participants on 11th January. As at 2nd February all 20 participants are still engaged in the project and working on the hand tools/workshop practice stage of their training.

40 trainees started on the Lower Level Training Packages to Advanced Apprenticeships project on 25th January.

Business Support Strand

Strand Progress

The project has (to date);

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

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £210k
- Financial assistance committed = £175k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 60% Hull and East Riding, 13% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 27% Out of Yorkshire and Humber.

NB - Following feedback from the January 16 board meeting on a grant application, amendments have been made to our enrolment form to capture any previous movements with jobs, redundancies etc. within the previous 2 years. This will enable us to report effectively on potential reasons for staff changes and address any business development or diversification methods that have been utilised to combat this.

Supply Chain Coordinator (Fred Mead) update:

Energy Works: Spencer's are now progressing with their procurement across several areas and have asked Fred to provide details of suitable companies for Louvre Panels for the fuel handling building. This is the first step in showcasing the support on offer and Fred is currently identifying companies through the Green Port Business Directory.

Work with M&W Group: Currently in the process of linking up with their local consultant tasked with engaging with businesses.

Siemens: Requested and currently awaiting an update on local companies receiving orders. Aware of some local companies gaining contracts with Siemens but unable to disclose at this time due to NDAs. It is expected that further information will be available within the next month.

Dong Supply Chain Event: As part of the Centre of Renewable Excellence (CORE) The Humber LEP are engaging with Dong Energy regarding a supply chain event taking place in Barrow on 25th February. This is a closed invite only event but Fred was asked to identify suitable companies that may be interested in attending. No details on their requirements have been made available but a list of 20 interested companies has been provided. Dong will provide a list of invitees and attendees. Following this event it is envisaged a similar event will be run in Grimsby in April to encourage local companies to attend. Fred is in contact to ensure a Green Port presence and company involvement.

East Anglia 1: Currently working with an engineering company in Great Yarmouth interest in JV Working & Partners. Fred has arranged a meeting for 16th February and is engaging with ESL & Steelridge.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand Progress - ERYC had a meeting with ABP to discuss the results of the Valuation Office's report on the Paull site and discuss current interest and ways forward.

The Enterprise Zone across the Humber has been increased and now includes additional sites within the centre of Hull as well as at Goole and Melton.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

Cultural Awareness Workshops - Pauline Wade visited Aalborg on the 13th and 14th January and put in place the in-country support arrangements for the Siemens workforce in Denmark. The programme is being managed by the Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce and after the trial workshop in early January, will begin to roll out as from 9th February and will be evaluated as per the Board's request.

Danish Business Desk – the GPH Danish Desk organised a presentation in the Port of Grenaa on the 28th January. Grenaa serves the Anholt wind farm. Of particular interest was their very small but focused and effective supply chain cluster, a model possibly worth exploring in terms of best practice and looking at options to bid for contracts internationally in partnership with Grenaa.

Delivering the presentation and visiting Grenaa were Green Port Hull Ambassadors and Board Members Simon Brett and Scott Yates, accompanied by Pauline Wade. The Programme of events consisted of Lunch with the Mayor of Grenaa, a tour of the Port, GPH Presentation followed by buffet supper.

40 businesses attend the presentation, with some companies having travelled from as far as Esbjerg for the presentation which was well received with much interest in GPH. SB and SY received some direct enquiries and a list of attendees is in the process of being passed to the inward investment and supply chain teams.

Expressions of interest re visiting Green Port Hull was the major outcome and dates for an inward mission are being identified and approved. They are the 11th and 12th April, 2016 (date tbc). The inward mission is likely to be led by the Mayor of Grenaa. The consensus of opinion was that the visit had been well received and the level of interest good.

Green Port Hull in Germany – a tender has been issued for delivery of GPH support in North Germany. Pauline Wade to attend the March board meeting to provide an update.

Siemens Recruitment - Siemens has already hired around 130 people in Hull, with some of these on board in project management roles, undergoing training or due to start their employment within the next few weeks. They have filled all the senior management positions, in the blade factory and associated facilities, as well as many of the middle management and team lead roles. Recruitment of the production workforce is also now well under way.

The first wave of recruitment, in November 15, resulted in around 3,300 applications for 135 jobs, with a number of candidates applying for more than one position. A total of 360 candidates for the production jobs advertised will then be seen at assessment centre sessions in Hull in the weeks commencing January 25 and February 1, with individual interviews for management roles taking place in early February.

More than 125 new positions were advertised in January 16. The majority of the Operative positions are within the Finishing department where employees will carry out the finishing touches and any required repairs to the blades once they have been cast. These critical roles require people with dexterity, attention to detail and a keen focus on quality and health and safety. Of the 130 positions offered or under offer to date 70% are from HU postcodes.

Volker Fitzpatrick committed to employ 40% of total labour for the project from within a 50 mile radius for the City and 25% from within a 20 mile radius. Recruitment figures as at Jan 16: From 20 mile radius 46% and from a 50 mile radius 61%.

Companies engaged

40 Danish businesses engaged.

Research, Development and Innovation (R,D&I) Strand

Strand Progress

- SME support for the month has focussed on supporting 2 projects with a view to positioning for a Knowledge Fund application. **Greenstick Energy** where meetings have been set up to increase market awareness and extend potential commercialisation networks, and d) **Force 55** (in association with the Business Support Strand) as it prepares for its KC Stadium marketing event in February.
- Awareness raising of the RDI Strand has included a visit to **Boston Energy** in Beverley to understand its innovation requirements and to discuss options for improving its service offering. The company is an existing client of the GPH programme (Business Support Strand).
- Grant Offer Letter (GOL) finalisation with HCC remains an outstanding action. Discussions continue. Discussions are also underway with HCC regarding the composition of the Knowledge Fund Review Panel.
- Work has continued to align Project Aura with the outreach activities of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult. A visit to the Blyth facility was arranged during the month to further align both parties; all part of the logical and incremental approach to relationship building and finding common ground.
- Further engagement has taken place with Simon Green, Executive Director of the Venturefest NE organisation, in order to start the positioning process for a smaller, Humber region event.

Wider renewables activity

- In discussions with Professor Dan Parsons of the University of Hull, the importance of sedimentation management to the Humber and its environs was emphasised. The threat to the Energy Estuary's ability to support renewable energy activity is a real one, especially in relation to the adverse effect of reverse channel flow in and out of the Humber. A watching brief is to be maintained on this.

- The THMA-UKTI-Northern Powerhouse inward mission to the Eastern Seaboard of the USA is now taking bookings. It represents an excellent opportunity to showcase North of England wind expertise to the nascent US offshore wind sector. The mission runs from 28/2-5/3 and includes visits to the National Renewable Energy Lab., the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, the US Department of Energy, as well as the Port of Norfolk Virginia, time permitting. Meetings are being set up between local (US) businesses and those on the mission. AL is accompanying Mark O'Reilly on the mission.

Key observations

In an attempt to target resources more efficiently, the UK Government is now committed to a series of 'innovation audits' around the UK. The Humber LEP and the University of Hull recently contributed to a N8/Northern Powerhouse Strategic Innovation Audit (SIA) for the offshore wind/offshore energy sectors. See Bill Walker for additional insights.

Key considerations for the board

Review and sign-off of the (delayed) RDI Strategic Plan which now reflects the agreed position around Project Aura/OAIC and the Economic Impact Study. It 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

Following trade missions and inward delegations we have received an increasing level of early stage interest from tier 2 and tier 3 level suppliers, however to date this interest has not led to any applications being received. In view of the limited time left within the programme, it may be worth extending the eligibility guidelines and use the grants to try and attract generic inward investors from outside the area.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
3rd February 2016