
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 13th April 2016
STRAND UPDATE REPORT

Employment & Skills Strand

Strand Progress

Apprenticeships - The 2015-16 target for apprenticeship starts is 200. Since 1st April 2015 we have approved 160 applications with 27 pending.

Engineering Up-Skilling/Specific Skills - The 2015-16 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2015 we have approved 150 applications, with a further 18 pending.

There are 3 further companies engaged.

Key observations

Pathways to employment - of the initial intake of 20 long term unemployed people, 9 have moved into employment and some of their employers attended the event. Other potential employers were also invited and there is growing interest from manufacturing employers, in particular from the caravan industry, in the programme. The next intake starts training on 4th April.

As at the end of March, 9 trainees from the Lower Level Training Packages to Advanced Apprenticeships project which started on 25th January had moved into employment.

As a result of initial meetings, the holiday homes industry is now working more closely with Green Port and partners. A local caravan company are also looking into developing a Jobcentreplus work experience project within their own internal skills academy, offering young unemployed candidates a voluntary placement, with the opportunity to progress into full-time employment if suitable. Another East Riding based caravan company is running a general recruitment exercise, and looking to work more closely with Jobcentreplus as well as other partners.

Several local holiday homes companies were part of a special feature in the March edition of the Hull and East Riding Business magazine. Alongside the main leader article, there were news pieces about Coachman caravans and Victory Leisure, and a full page profile on Atlas caravans. This media coverage provides further evidence that the forward-thinking businesses in the manufacturing sector are reviewing and developing their recruitment practices. This is needed, as there is continued pressure on workforce supply.

Wren Kitchens have announced a further 600 new jobs as part of a £40m expansion plan for their North Lincolnshire manufacturing facility, having already been supported recently to hold recruitment days in Hessle and Goole. Legal and General Homes have also announced a recruitment programme of 450 positions for their high-spec manufacturing unit in Sherburn in Elmet, which will inevitably attract workers from the Humber area. With continued interest in the Enterprise Zones, it is important to maintain links where there are likely to be redundancies and therefore pools of potential employees, for example with the Tata taskforce and the local coal fired power stations, in order to ensure that skilled people are not lost from the area.

Discussions have been taking place with a number of local companies, discussing the merits of developing a project to showcase and promote women into engineering and manufacturing, maximising the links with the Amy Johnson Festival 'Engineered' project.

Business Support Strand

Strand Progress

The project has (to date);

- 376 Enquiries
- 231 Enrolled
- 129 Businesses Supported

- 31 companies financial assistance awarded (4 of which have been successful in a 2nd application)
- 72.43 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £256k
- Financial assistance committed = £115k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 60% Hull and East Riding, 13% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 27% outside of Yorkshire and Humber.

Events/Workshops

Our series of workshops focusing on business growth after the demise of Growth Accelerator and MAS continued this month with 'Building effective Business Management & Control systems' which resulted in: 5 individuals from 5 different companies of which no companies were new onto our books.

The second business growth workshop this month was 'Creating Demand in the Renewable Energies sector', which resulted in 6 individuals from 6 different companies, of which 1 company was new onto our books, 4Innovation.

Social Media (Intermediate) – 25 people from 16 companies attended our latest Intermediate Social Media Workshop. Bluestorm supported the team in showcasing 'live' tweets & interactions throughout the session so delegates could see what was happening with our hashtag #GPGevent. This resulted in over 300 tweets, re-tweets or mentions reaching approx. 25,000 accounts and tweets placed on over 150,000 timelines. The team also managed to get @greenporthull and #GPGevent trending locally. Companies continued to use the hashtag after the event; tweeting what they had learnt and showcasing their new interactions. A success story is being drawn up to highlight the benefit of social media in business. Examples of 'tweets' are shown below:



The screenshot shows four tweets from the #GPGevent event. The first tweet is from Ctsprocess (@Ctsprocess) replying to LCS Group Ltd, thanking the team at @LCSGroup and @greenporthull. The second tweet is from Stead Engineering (@steadeng) thanking @LCSGroup and @greenporthull. The third tweet is from Mason Clark (@MasonClark44) thanking @LCSGroup and @greenporthull. The fourth tweet is from PureRenewables (@PureRenewables) thanking @greenporthull and @LCSGroup.

Note: The business support team are increasing their interactivity on twitter, within the last 90 days the account has gained 142 new followers taking the total to 1,624. Of the 1,624 – 65% are based within the Yorkshire & Humber region.

Opening of Hull College Composites Centre

A Business Support strand representative attended launch of the centre to promote business support and wider Green Port Programme to delegates.

Supply Chain Coordinator Update

Clugston 'Meet the Buyer' event – The attendee list from Matthew Hazelton at Clugston was received. 31 of 59 company attendees indicated they are interested in Green Port assistance therefore in the process of contacting those companies.

M+W Group– See wider renewables activity comments below

Siemens update – Following successful contracts of work being identified for local businesses, a further discussion/update meeting has been scheduled.

Wider Renewables Activity

Established contacts with M+W Group who are building Energy Works and support/working arrangements agreed with regard to supporting their supply chain.

We are working with the M+W Group to explain our offer of support, so we can then arrange, put on events or set up 1-2-1 meetings with agreed locally identified companies/suppliers.

In the meantime, local contacts in relation to their request regarding accommodation have been forwarded to them.

Key consideration for the Board

Financial assistance applications attached for Danbrit Shipping Ltd.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand Progress

Site Assembly has been working with partners to pull together supporting information and associated costs in conjunction with a redesigned year 5 delivery plan. The updated delivery plan has included a number of new projects.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

Green Port Hull – Internationalisation

The planned trade and inward investment mission from Denmark to Green Port Hull is scheduled for the 18-19 April. A delegation of senior business owners and representatives will attend a variety of meetings and meet with selected Humber businesses, culminating in a lunch at the Guildhall with the Lord Mayor of Hull and Leader of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Outputs achieved to date

- 72 companies identified as key industry players with potential to invest in Green Port Hull
- 45 companies participating in two trade missions
- 2 Danish companies are in the pipeline and are looking at premises in and around Green Port Hull and are being assisted by Hull City Council, Economic Development Department.
- 1 Danish company engaged with two potential local partners in the offshore service sector.
- Facilitation of a twice weekly airline service between Humberside Airport, Billund and Aalborg in Denmark. Service to be launched on the 15th April, 2016.
- It is anticipated that 9 direct jobs will be created if the two Danish companies being assisted by Hull City Council invest in Green Port Hull.
- Indirect jobs created and secured as a result of the air service into Humberside airport from Denmark have still to be evaluated.

Green Port Hull – Communications and Marketing and Exhibition Design Tender

Advertised on YorTender as part of the wider Hull City Council, Marketing Framework Agreement. 12 companies submitted PQQ's which have been evaluated and 9 companies will be invited to submit full ITT.

Cultural Awareness Workshops

Cultural Workshop programme is ongoing, with workshops now being delivered for Siemens' Danish workforce as part of their stay in Hull. A summary of the evaluations from the first Workshops in Denmark is attached.

Project Blyth - Greenpower Educational Trust

As well as the GPGP funding, Greenpower has been successful in attracting funding support from the Careers Education Company to roll the project out throughout the Humber. The provisional date for the project launch is 18th May. The GPGP funding will complement the CEC funding as it will be focused on Business Engagement, support for 18-25 formula 24+ category and the delivery of two race events. Documentation is being drawn up by Hull City Council to enable Greenpower Education Trust to access the GPGP funding.

This is Green Port Hull – Mercure Grange Park Hotel, Willerby – 7th June 16

As part of the BIZ WEEK programme, this is a full day event providing an opportunity for businesses to find out about Green Port and how they can benefit from the GPGP's activity and meet with the strand leads. An exhibition area where private sector partners will provide updates on respective projects will be set up, for example Energy Works, Siemens, Hull Solar Farm, Real Ventures and Greenpower are expected to attend. A series of topical workshops/presentations will also take place throughout the day. All strand leads are currently working on a detailed programme of activities.

Green Port Hull Danish Business Desk Activity

The SLA with the British Danish Chamber of Commerce ends in April 16. GPGP Board approval is being sought for the continuation of the Business Desk activity in Denmark.

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

Strand Progress

The month has seen the preparation for, and execution of, the mid-term review of the RDI Strand, executed by Amion consultants. Part of this review has been to highlight the emerging requirement for the RDI Strand to develop a 'Proof of Concept' support facility within the Knowledge Fund. This reflects the profile of the local 'walk-ups' who, without exception, require early stage assessment and de-risking support in advance of a formal Knowledge Fund application.

The strand lead took part in the UKTI-THMA-Northern Powerhouse Offshore Wind Inward Mission to the Eastern Seaboard of the USA. The mission proved very successful in cementing relationships with Humber-based companies.

The RDI Strand's involvement in Project Aura has started in earnest. The Project Aura team has submitted its response to a request from OREC to feed into its EU Horizon2020 proposals. Feedback from OREC is awaited. The value of joining up the East Coast offshore energy ecosystem is already starting to be realised and bear fruit through greater clarity, openness and willingness to cooperate across universities and businesses.

Further discussions have been held with Simon Green of Venturefest North East around delivering a scope of work on the culture of innovation in the Humber region and how this can be facilitated.

SME support for the month has continued with a number of Knowledge Fund applications, all of which are at various stages of the process.

The strand lead has begun to engage the High Value Manufacturing Catapult in discussions around innovation in serial production of wind turbine blades. This is likely to be one of the core 'grand challenge' areas to emerge from the RDI Strand within the coming months.

The strand lead was in attendance at the (22/3/16) Westminster Higher Education Forum Catapult Review workshop at which progress against the strategic objectives of the Catapult initiative was carried out. The Hull region needs to be fully conversant with the strategic positioning at Treasury around the Catapult network.

Wider renewables activity

The previously mentioned Hydrogen Corridor continues to be promoted by Northern Gas Networks. A wider, Northern Powerhouse opportunity exists.

An Israeli company has contacted the strand lead to discuss its osmosis-based technology for estuarial power generation. The Humber has been identified as having a perfect profile for the citing of a demonstrator system of this potentially 'game-changing' technology.

Business Grants

The strand continues to have interest in the business grants from a number of potential renewable energy and associated clients. Currently, the Humber LEP's funding is due to come to an end in October and the existing pot of funding is dwindling. In light of this and the growing pressure to utilise the 'Greenport funding' consideration should be given to expanding the remit of the scheme to incorporate wider economic opportunities outside the renewable energy and associated supply chain areas.

Programme wide update

The GPGP mid-term evaluation being undertaken by AMION Consulting is now well underway and is due for completion in the coming weeks. A representative from AMION Consulting is to attend the May Board meeting to present key findings from the evaluation.

All year 5 strand delivery plans have been finalised and approved by the ERYC Programmes Team. These plans, along with the overarching Programme level plan are included within the board papers for the April meeting for Board approval.

As previously reported BIS will be conducting a Health Check of the Programme – this will take place between 11th and 13th of April.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
6th April 2016