
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 8 June 2016
STRAND UPDATE REPORT

Employment & Skills Strand
Strand Progress

Apprenticeship Wage Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for apprenticeship starts is 200. Since 1st April 2016 36 applications have been approved (of which 6 include the L3 Construction Contracting Operations framework), with a further 19 pending.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2016 32 applications have been approved with a further 18 pending.

Pathway to Employment - Participants from the first Pathway to Employment continue to move into employment with 12 of the 20 participants now employed with manufacturing companies. The second cohort is now approaching the end of the 5 weeks work experience placements with a number of the businesses indicating offers of permanent positions. Final selection interviews for cohort 3 are scheduled for 15th June with a start date of 27th June.

Linking Lower Level Training Packages to Advanced Apprenticeships - To date, 27 trainees from the 40 who started the Lower Level Training Packages to Advanced Apprenticeships project on 25th January have moved into employment and a Level 3 engineering framework. Of the 27 South Humber Bank trainees that joined the project on 28th March; 10 have secured employment and Level 3 engineering framework.

Business Support Strand
Strand Progress

The project has (to date);

- 396 Enquiries
- 243 Enrolled
- 133 Businesses Supported
- 38 financial assistance applications have been awarded
- 72.43 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £265K
- Financial assistance committed = £115K
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 60% Hull and East Riding, 13% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 27% Out of Yorkshire and Humber.

Events / Workshop –taken place this month have resulted in:

Preparing your business for sustainable growth in the Renewables sector – 4 individuals attending from 4 companies of which there were 0 new enrolments on to the programme.

Offshore Wind Connections 2016 – 11th & 12th May The Spa, Bridlington

The Business Support team with help from the larger GP team supported Team Humber Marine Alliance at their annual OWC. This gave us a great marketing opportunity as well as the opportunity to meet up with a lot of our existing companies and key players within the sector to support our work of linking local businesses into supply chain opportunities.

In addition we gained 13 direct new enquiries which we are currently following up to determine how we support them going forward. The event saw 104 attendees at the Renewable UK networking evening on the 11th and 241 attendees for the actual conference on the 12th.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand Progress

Following the approval by the board for the ERGO Centre gap funding, work with ERYC's planning department has begun.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

This is Green Port Hull – 7th June Mercure Grange Park Hotel Willerby. Plans are progressing well for this Biz Week Event, with a full day of presentations scheduled including project updates from Siemens, M+W Group, ABP, Real Ventures, exhibitions showcasing renewable technologies supplied by local companies and an overview of the opportunities available to local businesses by the Green Port Growth Programme. Over 100 companies have registered to attend. For more details visit <http://greenporthull.co.uk//events/this-is-green-port-hull>

Project Blyth - Greenpower Educational Trust - Launched at the Guildhall on 18th May to an audience of over 80 businesses and school/youth groups. Working group now established to take the project forward. Work to arrange a race in the East Riding event also continues.

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

Strand Progress

Given the commitments made to both GPGP Board and BIS to hit expenditure profiles this financial year, attention has turned to ensuring that the RDI Strand Delivery Plan KPIs are achieved. This has triggered two papers (Paper 1 and Paper 2) which accompany this report (see below) which detail initiatives which will help to achieve the required goals.

The Strand has provided further inputs to the EU DemoWind project, as reported last month. The outcome is that the RDI Strand is looking to support the project as its first 'Grand Challenge', with the University of Hull as the beneficiary. This is the subject of Paper 1 which accompanies this report.

On the SME front, support has continued to flow to the portfolio of businesses that the Strand is engaged with (see below). Material progress is being made around technology de-risking, IP management and innovation networking such that the companies are able to tap in to the correct resources, as required.

The RDI Strand ran the Innovation Workshop at the THMA Offshore Wind Connections conference in Bridlington (12/5/16). The 75-minute session comprised inputs from the RDI Strand (awareness-raising of the Strand's work and the innovation process), Force 55 (as an example of a company that the RDI Strand has supported), RSM (R&D taxation), the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (on its progress over the last 12 months) and certification agency, DNV-GL (on its approach to product certification design innovation). Around 50 people attended the session, with an excellent level of interaction and feedback.

The Strand has now entered into discussions with Simon Green, Executive Director of Venturefest North East with a view to enlisting his help with a region-wide innovation mapping exercise similar to that undertaken in other regions. This will provide an excellent baseline from which catalyse the Greater Hull innovation ecosystem.

Preparations for the Strand's input into Biz Week continue with both AL and EPL in attendance.

Wider Renewables Activity

The Virginia Wind Coalition continues to fortify its links with the Green Port Growth Programme through the inclusion and use of AL in its on-line community.

Signs are increasingly positive that confidence is returning to the UK renewables sector, offshore wind, in particular. This has been fuelled by a c. 40% drop in the levelised cost of offshore wind energy over the last 4 years or so. DECC is signalling that sub-£100/MWh is the expectation by 2020 which, on current projections, looks readily achievable.

Key Observations

The DemoWind project described in Paper 1 is likely to be game-changing for the Region. There is a chance that, due to the competitive nature of the DemoWind programme, the project may not be funded at an EU level. If this is the case, Plan B will see a smaller project scoped for RDI Strand support. The EU decision is expected by mid-June.

The RDI Strand's Strategic Plan KPIs are readily achievable but focus on each as a mini project area is required. This will require designated budgets to be created for pockets of activity associated with each of the KPIs; these sub-budgets will require the overall Knowledge Fund budget to be allocated accordingly.

Business Grants Strand

Strand Progress

Further to the last meeting we have not received any grant applications to date, however it is anticipated that applications will be received in time for the next board meeting. Subsequent to the last board meeting we have received two further enquiries, from manufacturing/service companies in the area.

Through discussions with the local supply chain we have become aware that work has started on the bio-mass power station at Tanstern, by GB Bio. The scheme represents a significant investment and enhances the areas burgeoning reputation as a centre for renewable energy. A number of meetings have taken place with the principal for the scheme and officers from the East Riding and Hull.

We are currently finalising the proposition and monitoring procedures for the Danish House concept. We have also received interest from UK based companies who are interested in coming into the area and hence the remit of the scheme has been enhanced to cover UK based (non Yorkshire and Humber) based potential inward investors.

Programme wide update

Feedback on the outcome of the BIS healthcheck is still awaited. In the meantime progress continues on the delivery by all strands of their Year 5 Delivery Plans.

The final signed off report from the mid term evaluation is almost complete and will be circulated to the board on receipt.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
2nd June 2016