
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 14 September 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 49 applications have been approved with a further 9 pending.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2016 72 applications have been approved with 38 applications pending.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - There has finally been some take-up on the wage subsidies for disadvantaged groups with 4 companies engaged and 7 individuals in receipt of the subsidy. Applications from a further 3 companies are in process.

The August figures above are lower than we have previously processed, even when taking into account the effect of holidays – both for staff and business customers. This can be at least partially explained by the growing demand for services provided through and by the Hub. Although these demands are all entirely positive, there is no doubt that the Women into Manufacturing and Engineering campaign, weekly assessments for the Pathway to Employment project, and tailor made assessment days for supply chain businesses such as Global Wind Services – all of which represent exactly the kind of services which the Hub is designed to offer – combine to stretch resources. Discussions are taking place with regard to maintaining or raising the level of Hub specific services and events while ensuring that the provision of wage and training subsidies achieves or exceeds its target outcomes.

Pathway to Employment - With the third cohort about to finish their programme, 19 participants have completed their placements. One participant has had to withdraw because of an injury sustained before the programme and he is to join the fourth cohort which will commence on 17th October. Of the first two cohorts, 23 of the 36 completers have moved into work, giving a current job outcome of 64%.

Linking Lower Level Training Packages to Advanced Apprenticeships - Now that both the North and South Bank contingents have completed their programmes total job outcomes were 41 out of 68 completers – a job outcome rate of 60%.

Business Support Strand

Strand progress

The project has (to date);

- 424 Enquiries
- 261 Enrolled
- 141 Businesses Supported
- 42 financial assistance applications have been awarded
- 76.53 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £308k
- Financial assistance committed = £163k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 33% Hull and East Riding, 10% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 57% Out of Yorkshire and Humber.

Events / Workshops

- **Business Growth Workshops** – Third round of growth workshops begin on 22nd September with promotion of workshop starting to take place.
- **Visit to Blyth** – Currently finalising a visit to the OREC (Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult) Blyth. The day has been designed to increase knowledge and awareness of the renewable energies as well as demonstrating access to testing & research facilities. The visit is being supported by the RDI strand.
- **Update to ISO 9001 Workshop** – A new workshop is also being planned to update companies on the forthcoming changes to the ISO 9001 standard. The workshop will look at the requirements and changes from the 2008 standard to the new 2015 standard.

Supply Chain Opportunities -

From directory searches, company database check (Evolutive), Emma Toulson at the Humber LEP and joint Green Port team knowledge; 24 companies were put forward for the first request, 6 companies for the second request and 4 companies for the third. Confirmation of contracts awarded is awaited.

There has been direct working with Siemens procurement team on collecting information from local and UK based suppliers winning work with for the Hull Project, including services/products supplied and value of contract.

A master record of Humber companies to share/document the overall impact of all supply chain activity across the region is being established. An online spread sheet for partners is being set up e.g. Inward Investment teams, Humber LEP, THMA etc. to enable collective inputting and access to overall impact figures.

Wider Renewables Activity

Battery Storage - Nationally eight new battery storage projects are to be built on the premise of ensuring the National Grid keep power supplies stable. National Grid have stated that maintaining the correct frequency is becoming more challenging as more renewable generation is built, because this makes the electricity system less stable and leads to more volatile fluctuations in frequency.

On a more local basis, battery storage can help businesses reduce the amount of electricity purchased from the National Grid, avoid peak tariffs and create extra revenue streams. Storage units enable surplus power generated by on-site renewables to be retained for use by the business or to purchase low-cost electricity from the grid, store and use as required. Financially storage units are a better option than exporting electricity back to the grid at a fraction of the daytime purchase price. This is known as grid balancing. The National Grid actively promote grid balancing under their DSR framework and they pay significant sums to businesses that partake in DSR.

Local companies are currently promoting this technology, with clear benefits for the business consumer as stated above. Even though planning applications will be required for the installation, the batteries are typically in a shipping container size, they are easily positioned within existing yards and there is no noise. In addition they are guaranteed for 15 years and can be recycled later.

Bio Economy – Ongoing discussions on how the Bio Economy sector can be supported has identified the need of what research, reports etc. are already available or being undertaken locally, regionally or nationally. For this reason the team are working with consultants to carry out a gap analysis of organisations involved in, and the activities they deliver for, the developing bio economy in the Yorkshire and Humber area. Activities and support may include planned, on-going and existing research, reports and other relevant documents; finance; policy; entrepreneurial activities; and funding. Timescales and purpose of support will also be inventoried.

Key Observations

The team are starting to identify a real increase in local businesses gaining work within the supply chain hence the work now being undertaken in the recording of this information for wider publication.

Due to external factors hitting the onshore wind and solar sectors such as planning applications and feed in tariffs there has been major media around businesses within these fields ceasing to trade. It is pleasing to note that at

present even though changes have hit some of our companies, none have ceased to trade as reported nationally. In most cases this has been due to the foresight of the companies covering a range of services and products and being able to recognise other opportunities e.g. LED Lighting, Ground and Air Source Heat Pumps, Battery Storage etc. and primarily supporting commercial businesses to reduce energy consumption. The team supported these companies by showcasing these technologies at the 'This is Green Port Event' and continue to do so through success stories and PR.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

- **WIME (Women in Manufacturing and Engineering) Event 19 and 20 August 2016** - Organised by Green Port Hull/JCP, alongside Siemens, Swift and Airco the event was aimed at encouraging women to consider manufacturing and engineering as a career choice. Female engineers and apprentices from both companies were on hand to answer questions and also demonstrate the blade manufacturing processes and how to operate an F-Gas Rig. The working group will meet again in September.
- The event was widely promoted through social media channels and the Hull Daily Mail as well as interviews on BBC Radio Humberside, Viking Radio on the run up to the event. BBC Look North attended the event on the day.
- In total 105 people attended the WIME events as well as 35 careers advisors. All feedback has been very positive and both Siemens and Airco were delighted with the calibre of the attendees. The aim is to recruit more local engineering and manufacturing business to the WIME campaign and hold further events in the New Year.

Germany - Wind Energy Hamburg 27-30 September:

9 companies have taken stand space on the joint Green Port Hull/Humber Renewables Exhibition stand. GPH ambassadors Simon Brett and Scott Yates will be accompanied by Pauline Wade. A programme of activity will include 'business to business' meetings with German companies interested in engaging with GPH.

On the 26th September, 2016, GPH will present at a (pre Wind Energy Hamburg) pan European Seminar organised by the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany. GPH presenter will be Simon Brett, supported by Scott Yates and Pauline Wade who will be available to meet with interested companies on a one on one basis during the networking session and dinner.

A 'by invitation' only GPH Dinner will take place in Hamburg for key decision makers from the Renewable Energy Industry that may be in Hamburg for the Summit and Exhibition. Invitations are currently being sent out.

Scottish Business – 13-14 September 2016

EDG Ltd is bringing a delegation of Scottish businesses involved in the oil and gas/renewable sector to visit the Humber. They will be given a tour of Green Port Hull and the investment opportunities the north bank has to offer along with an overview of the support available from the Green Port Growth Programme.

US Delegation – 21-22 September 2016

Led by Team Humber Marine Alliance, a delegation of US Government Officials will visit the Humber. They will visit Green Port Hull on 21st and meet with strand leads from the Green Port Growth Programme.

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

Strand Progress

The RDI Strand has experienced a very busy month on client engagement and administration.

Wider Renewables Activity

A meeting was held with Gesa Reiss of the York & North Yorkshire, East Riding LEP to discuss the wider bio-energy space and potential joint support to local companies with new technologies and foreground IP. Follow-up meetings are being arranged.

Input has been provided by the RDI Strand into the forthcoming THMA-led inward mission comprising US Offshore Wind policy makers from the Eastern Seaboard. The Humber is the only port facility being visited in the UK. Interest stems from relationships established and profile generated during the THMA-Northern Powerhouse-UKTI outward mission earlier this year. Following an invitation received on the back of that visit in relation to GPGP RDI, Alan Lowdon is presenting at the forthcoming International Partnership Forum for Offshore Wind in New England.

Key Observations

The international profile of Green Port Hull and the Green Port Growth Programme is now significant. Given the growth of the offshore wind sector in the USA, Brazil, China and Japan, it is very likely that the Humber region will continue to attract the attention of those developing the sector in these countries and elsewhere.

Business Grants Strand

Strand progress

The first grant application has recently been received. The company is applying for a grant of £40k and this will come forward subject to due diligence at the next board meeting. It is also anticipated that we may receive a large application for a grant of £600k at either the October or November board meeting.

During the last month we have received two further enquiries and we are currently working with a number of parties on their proposals.

Inward investment enquiries into the area have cooled since the announcement of Brexit, in particular from Denmark.

Programme wide update

Further development work on the Green Shoots project has been made and in light of the target areas of ESF provision being in some cases very similar to the target demography of Green Shoots the plan being worked on is to open a 'local grant fund' utilising the existing established processes of the GPGP rather than procurement of a deliverer/delivery agents to support those furthest from the labour market.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
8th September 2016