
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 12 October 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 68 applications have been approved with a further 67 pending.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2016 80 applications have been approved with 53 applications pending.

Pathways 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 19 completers on the third cohort 13 have moved into employment. Of the first two cohorts: 14 out of 20 completers from the first cohort and 11 out of 16 from the second cohort have moved into work, giving an overall job outcome rate of 69%.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - There has finally been some take-up on the wage subsidies for disadvantaged groups with 11 companies engaged and 9 individuals in receipt of the subsidy and 11 pending. Applications from a further 3 companies are being processed.

After a slow start, outcomes are now more or less where they should be for the end of Q2. A concerted effort has been made to deal with any long standing pending applications and proactively generate new business. As can be seen from the data above, this has been largely successful.

Items for GPGP Board Consideration

The Board has received a report requesting an increase of capacity in the Pathway to Employment project. Revised outcomes for this project are shown above. These show that the job outcomes per project are: Cohort 1 – 70%, Cohort 2 – 69%, and Cohort 3 – 69%.

Business Support Strand

Strand progress

The project has (to date);

- 432 Enquiries
- 265 Enrolled
- 146 Businesses Supported
- 42 financial assistance applications have been awarded
- 81.03 f/t equivalent Jobs created (1.5 added that was missed in August report)

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £334K
- Financial assistance committed = £184K
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 37% Hull and East Riding, 13% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 50% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

Events / Workshops

- This month presentations on the work of Green Port and the importance of a local supply chain were given at the THMA USA Government visit and the EBP local market information renewable sector event.

- **Engineering & Digital event** – the team have been working with EBP to see how East Riding College can stage an engineering and digital event in November.
- **Business Growth Workshops** – The third round of workshops have now commenced with good attendance. All companies at the first session have signed up for the remaining sessions.
- **Visit to Blyth** – Visit to OREC (Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult) Blyth. This workshop/visit will take place on the 11th October and is being supported by the RDI strand. The day includes a tour of OREC, their testing facilities and a tour of the port of Blyth.
- **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.
- **Innovation Workshops** – The team are working with the RDI strand to look at a series of workshops allowing companies to drop in and look at their product/processes and links to R&D/innovation as well as repeating the tax credits workshop, which ran last year.

Supply Chain Opportunities

- Information was presented on the local supply chain at the EDG event to Scottish companies. This was a joint presentation with Helen Stinson (Inward Investment).
 - Wind Energy Hamburg Expo – the supply chain coordinator (Fred Mead) assisted on the Humber Renewables stand.
 - Supply chain events are being planned for coming months.

WiME [Women in Manufacturing and Engineering] – Currently supporting the WiME campaign by informing and educating SME's on the issues relevant to women in the sector, their legal requirements and direct business support through videos, fact sheets and packages of support.

Wider Renewables Activity

The team have been working with BVG to provide a quarterly update on the status of local offshore wind farm projects. The report highlights the total capacity, significant milestones (i.e. under development, consent, construction etc.), owners and operators and provides an understanding on the wider supply chain and links to contractors. A copy of the report is attached.

BVG have also just been commissioned to produce a report on '*Offshore Wind Sector skills requirements*'. The guide will focus on the roles required by supply chain companies and structured around the main offshore wind supply chain areas. For each area, the document will describe the products or services, and explain how they are contracted and what types of companies typically supply them. The specific functions that could be undertaken in the local area will be detailed, and the roles identified in each function will be described.

Key Observations

This month notification was received that PERA Consulting has been put into administration. As well as being a member of the business support framework, the company had recently been responsible for the local delivery of the Manufacturing Advice Services (MAS) and the RGF GROW – offshore Programme. Fred Mead, the GPGP Supply Chain Co-ordinator was employed by PERA and the Supply Chain Co-ordinator function had previously been procured through PERA. The Council's procurement team have supported the process to change the current contract through to March 2017 to ensure there is no detrimental effect to the present service, and options for post March 2017 are currently being reviewed.

Inward Investment Strand Strand Progress

Greenpower – Project Blyth

- Project Blyth launch held in Hull on 18th May 2016. Over 25 employers attended, of which almost half pledged to participate on the spot.

- Significant local media coverage of the launch, including interviews on Radio Humberside and articles in local newspapers.
- Welcome pack for employers have been developed and distributed.
- Research has been commissioned, and a pre-activity attitudinal survey has been prepared ready for dissemination to signed-up teams.
- Project Blyth microsite has been designed and the 'wire framing' has been completed. Content is in development ready for a go live date imminently.
- First steering committee meeting held in May 2016.
- Agreement reached with Industrial Cadets to deliver mentor training for SME mentors.
- 21 Businesses Engaged.
- 6 Formula 21+ Cars allocated: East Riding College, Goodwin Trust, Airco Centre of Excellence, The Warren (via Siemens), Sirius College, Making Changes for Careers Project.

Germany

Pan European Seminar and Green Port Hull Dinner – Hamburg 26th September. Wind Energy Hamburg 27-30 September - As these two events have only just taken place a full report on the Green Port Hull activity in Germany will be tabled at the next Board meeting. Green Port Hull has been invited to participate in the British Chamber of Commerce Germany/ PWC Renewable Energy Conference in Hamburg on the 27 October. Pauline Wade, Scott Yates and Simon Brett are due to attend.

Scottish Business – 13-14 September 2016 - EDG Ltd had initially indicated that alongside Scottish Enterprise they would be bringing a delegation of 15 businesses all involved in the oil and gas and renewables sectors to Hull. However, only four businesses actually participated in the visit. They were 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 visited the Humber. They visited Green Port Hull and met with ABP, Siemens and Dong Energy. HCC hosted a lunch at the Guildhall and the delegation was also given an overview of the GPGP activity when they attended the University of Hull.

Companies Engaged

4 Scottish Companies – Overview of Green Port Hull and Growth Programme Support.

Greenpower – Project Blyth

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

Strand Progress

The RDI Strand has, once again, experienced a very busy month on client engagement, with assistance being given to strategic projects that will bolster the region's competence base and help to establish it as a centre of excellence for renewable energy systems.

Wider Renewables Activity

The RDI Strand provided some assistance to THMA with the organisation of the inward mission to the Humber of a delegation of state politicians and administrators from Massachusetts, USA. Alan Lowdon and Emma Platt-Lowe were present in the various presentations, with Alan Lowdon presenting to the party on RDI within the region; this followed an excellent presentation by Dawn Hall on business support and the associated GVA. Both presentations went down extremely well and illustrated the global leadership profile that the region is establishing for itself in the

offshore wind arena. The connections made will be reinforced at the International Partnering Forum for Offshore Wind 3/10-6/10 in Boston at which an increasing number of Humber and NE coast-based organisations will be present (DONG, Siemens, Atkins, JDR, PDL and Mott MacDonald).

The RDI Strand intends to engage with the larger Humber-based companies not directly involved in renewables in order to better understand the opportunity to assist them with diversification into renewables and/or to obtain insights into their RDI practices, which may be of wider use to the Region.

Key Observations

The international profile of Green Port has been further enhanced through the Wind Europe (Hamburg) event which took place in September. As the Siemens facility nears full commissioning, the US and EU demand for information on the 'recipe for success' will intensify. This will need to be 'fielded' and GPGP is an ideal vehicle for this.

Business Grants Strand

Strand progress

Officers from both Councils are currently working in conjunction with ten businesses on proposals, for potential Greenport grants these range from large investments in the £millions to relatively small incremental projects.

The cohort of Danish companies that visited in March has delayed making investment decisions pending greater clarity in relation to the position following the 'Brexit' vote.

Overview

The impact of 'Brexit' has led to increased volatility in terms of exchange risk as well as uncertainty as to future arrangements. It is believed that a number of overseas companies are currently reviewing their plans in light of these developments.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand progress

Goole Intermodal Site Investigation - scoping meeting to be held on 5th October with consultancy firm to discuss site investigation parameters before issuing tender packages to the market.

Sugarbeet feasibility study - Site Assembly strand working with Gesa Reiss from the North Yorkshire LEP to develop a brief for a feasibility study for the potential of attracting renewables sector developments in the geographic area around Selby/Goole

Programme wide update

The BBC launched Hull UK City of Culture 2017 on the 22nd September and Green Port Hull branding was included alongside Siemens.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
5th October 2016