
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 9th November 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 92 applications have been approved with a further 65 pending.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2016 110 applications have been approved with 56 applications pending.

Pathway to Employment - The fourth cohort started their programme on 17th October. Of the first three cohorts: 14 out of 20 completers from the first cohort, 11 out of 16 from the second cohort, and 14 out of 19 from the third cohort have moved into work, giving an overall job outcome rate of 70%.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - There has finally been some take-up on the wage subsidies for disadvantaged groups with 11 companies engaged and 13 individuals in receipt of the subsidy and 15 pending. Applications from a further 3 companies are in process.

Additional contacts made

- Attendance at THMA Meeting.
- Attendance at Enterprise Summit regarding maritime trades training.
- Attendance at Bond Holders Meeting.
- Meeting with Veterans Association to discuss the Greenport Programme.
- Meeting with Yorkshire Fisherman's Association to discuss the Greenport Programme regarding maritime trades training.

Items for GPGP Board Consideration

The Board has recently approved a request to increase the capacity of the Pathway to Employment project. A request to extend the Linking Lower Level Training Packages to Advanced Apprenticeship Frameworks beyond its initial pilot project is now being worked up with training providers and will be submitted to a future board meeting for consideration.

Business Support Strand

Strand progress

The project has (to date):

- 442 Enquiries
- 272 Enrolled
- 149 Businesses Supported
- 43 financial assistance applications have been awarded
- 93.03 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £348K
- Financial assistance committed = £244K
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 38% Hull and East Riding, 9% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 53% out of Yorkshire and Humber.

Events / Workshops

Visit to Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (OREC) and Port of Blyth



The event was organised by Team Humber Marine Alliance on Tuesday 11th October. The Green Port Growth Business Support strand embarked on a visit to the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (OREC) and a tour of the Port of Blyth. The group of delegates were given a tour of the facilities at OREC, this included their testing facilities for electrical components, turbine blades up to 100 metres and turbine nacelles for tidal and wind. The tour was led by Catapult's Business Development Manager, who provided a useful presentation on how they operated and how companies could get involved in using the facilities available.

The afternoon session included a tour of the Port of Blyth looking at their key investments over the past year and the growth of the renewable activities. The day finished with a look around their new training facilities and wind training centre for Northumberland College. Overall the day gave a good insight into the workings of Research & Development to improve and reduce the cost of energy production within the wider renewable sector.

Enterprise Support Summit - Supporting the work of our local Growth Hubs; the team exhibited at the first Enterprise Support Summit event at the Guildhall on Tuesday 11th October. The day gave potential new start-ups and existing businesses the opportunity to meet local business support providers in the area.

Supply Chain Opportunities - This month has seen the team finalise an electronic process to help report on specific supply chain opportunities which includes recording the number of opportunities received from prime contractors in the area and directly matching the local supply chain to these opportunities as well as recording contracts won.

Figures to date show:

- 9 requests for suppliers from 4 'prime' contracts including requests for port services, accommodation, PPE, cleaning services and office equipment.
- 33 companies from the Humber region were matched directly and put forward for consideration.
- From the 9 requests, 5 companies have been awarded contracts and feedback on others is awaited.

In addition, a master record to document the overall impact of all supply chain activity across the region has been established, to directly show contracts won and their value. Data is to be consistently fed in by Inward Investment teams, Humber LEP, THMA, and the R&D strand/University of Hull. Figures and information so far collated show the total value of contracts in the Yorkshire (10%) and Humber (90%) region, amounting to £28,627,000 with contracts ranging between £1k and £12m.

Wider Renewables Activity

Job roles within the Offshore Wind Sector - Following on from work the team have undertaken with BVG Associates to identify key players and their supply chains within the sector, it has been identified that from the many hundreds of roles involved in the offshore wind industry; many are realistically within the reach of individuals within our region. For this reason, work has been commissioned on identifying the types of activity that might create employment and a report on 'Job roles within the Offshore Wind Sector' is due to be completed late December/early January.

Gap analysis of Bioeconomy Support - In line with the Green Port Programme's aim to capitalise on renewable energy opportunities various discussions have taken place in relation to how can we further support the Bio Economy sector. To support this and to help recognise what is already being undertaken, 4 Innovation Research & Consultancy Ltd have been commissioned to undertake a gap analysis of organisations already undertaking activities within the sector to help us to determine if and what support should be considered. An initial draft report has now been received and a meeting is planned for 11th November to discuss its findings and to help identify where Green Port could add the most value to support this sector.

Key Observations

REWIND Apprenticeships - Following on from a monitoring visit, a potential issue has been identified in the provision of apprenticeship programmes for electrical rewind employees. Currently there is approximately 6 companies locally who offer this service but seem to be recruiting from a small pool between each organisation and the majority of employees are being identified as being in their late 50's upwards. For this reason further investigation is being made into the issue to identify potential routes to support new employees in to the sector.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

Scotland - Contact has been made with the Scottish Development International and the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce under whose umbrella the smaller energy associations located in Aberdeen sit. A meeting to discuss joint GPH/Scottish activity has been set for 17th November 2016. PW to attend the December board meeting to provide an update.

Cultural Workshops - The Cultural workshops concluded in August 2016. Siemens operatives are now being trained in Hull and are no longer being sent out to Aalborg. The workshops concluded with the delivery of cultural awareness to groups of Siemens personnel moving to Hull from Europe. Siemens have confirmed their satisfaction with the programme of workshops delivered and this is also reflected in the evaluation forms completed by the participants which are held at the Chamber on file.

Wind Energy Exhibition Hamburg 27-30 September 2016 - Green Port Hull/Humber Renewables jointly exhibited at the Wind Energy exhibition in Hamburg. The strand was co-ordinated by Team Humber Marine Alliance with 10 private sector business co-exhibiting. Please see attached reports – Appendix 1 and 2 for further details.

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

Strand Progress

News is imminently awaited on the EU DemoWind project submission.

Following on from the THMA inward mission in March, and having accepted the invitation to take part in the ports session at the International Partnering Forum for Offshore Wind, on 4th October, Alan Lowdon presented to an audience of c. 150 on Green Port Hull, GPGP and the RDI Strand. The GP model is held in very high regard and the audience was keen to hear about the RGF project, its regional influence and to gain a better understanding of region's journey into offshore wind. The role of Siemens, the local authorities and the University of Hull featured strongly. Interest was such that the entire Q&A slot was taken up answering Humber-related questions. Siemens representative gave personal thanks for portraying them in a very positive light.

A meeting was held between the University, ERYC and the Chamber to discuss market intelligence in relation to EU offshore wind-active regions. It was agreed that a simple, regular information update from BVG would provide the quality of information sought by businesses, as well as informing the internal teams.

Key Observations

As mentioned above, Green Port Hull and the Green Port Growth Programme are now increasingly recognised internationally as being excellent best practice in regional regeneration around offshore wind. Being associated with the GPH/GPGP is becoming a recognised hallmark. Ultimately, the wider Humber region will be better positioned to export products and services to the offshore wind markets, which are currently emerging.

Business Grants Strand

Strand progress

3 business grant applications are included on the agenda for November 16.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand progress

Goole Intermodal Terminal - Ecological walkover survey has been commissioned in order to inform the next phase of site investigation works which will include canal bed testing and vessel draught feasibility.

ERGO Centre - The project is going to ERYC Capital Board for final approval on 29th November. LGF grant offer letter for £1m has been signed.

Paull site - A Humber LEP-led meeting showcasing the Humber sites was held on 25th October. There is a company potentially interested in a 'waste to energy' project on the Paull site.

Feasibility Studies - Beverley Grovehill, Sugarbeet, Melton Rail - tender documents are being issued via the Council's electronic tendering system YORconsult imminently.

Programme wide update

The draft contract for the agreement with Hull UK City of Culture 2017 has been drawn up and remains with ERYC's legal team for review.

Further discussions with the Council's legal team on the Green Shoots project continues.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
3rd November 2016