
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 14 December 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 122 applications have been approved with a further 61 pending.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2016 137 applications have been approved with 60 applications pending.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - There has finally been some take-up on the wage subsidies for disadvantaged groups with 11 companies engaged and 18 individuals in receipt of the subsidy and 5 pending.

Items for GPGP Board Consideration

Discussions with vocational training providers with a view to extending the project beyond its initial pilot stage are still ongoing with the aim of reaching a firm position before the end of January 2017.

The January board meeting will receive a request to extend the Linking Lower Level Training Packages beyond the current 12 month pilot period which comes to the end of 2017.

Business Support Strand

Strand Progress

The project has (to date):

- 452 Enquiries
- 275 Enrolled
- 157 Businesses Supported
- 43 financial assistance applications have been awarded
- 97.03 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £389K
- Financial assistance committed = £257K
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 37% Hull and East Riding, 12% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 51% Out of Yorkshire and Humber.

Events / Workshops

3rd Round of Business Growth workshops complete

Following the successful completion of the latest business growth workshop, a total of nine companies attended the last session, all of whom completed action plans identifying areas of additional support including equipment, website support, marketing and strategy. The business support team are continuing to work with these companies to look at financial assistance and/or additional support where required. A 4th round of workshops is planned for 2017.

The workshop programme for 2016 is now complete. The business support strand are looking to launch their 2017 programme in early January. Current programme includes ISO 9001 & 14001 (Week commencing 6th February & 20th February).

Both ISO workshops will include a general introduction workshop for companies who do not currently have the standard and a new workshop to cover the new areas of the standard being introduced next year to ensure existing companies meet the 2015 standard. Further workshops include Offshore Wind Marine Support (19th January) and the 4th Phase of Business Growth Workshops (End of March).

Business Support Networking Event 2016

The annual Business Support networking event takes place on 14th December 2016 at Willerby Manor Hotel. To date this event has attracted significant interest with approximately 95 businesses and including additional guests, the event is set to reach 150 plus attendees. This year the event will showcase success stories across five areas (Accreditation, Marketing, Equipment, Technology and Strategy & Business Planning) in a thought provoking and engaging style using a Mind map production company who are helping to stage the event. The morning session also includes a number of guest speakers who will be sharing further supply chain opportunities. These include –

- Martin Pidd – M&W Senior Construction Manager
- Andy Reay – A2Sea
- Michiel Hendrickx – Department of International Trade

Engineering & Digital Event

The GPGP supported East Riding College in an Engineering & Digital Sector event on 29th November at the Beverley Race Course, showcasing the sectors to both schools and businesses. CPD workshops were also delivered including a session by Green Port and Local Transport Projects on tendering and winning bids.

WiME - Developing a balanced workforce

One of Green Port's aims is to increase the strength of our local engineering workforce and raise skills levels to meet the needs of the emerging renewable energy sector. As part of this work the business support team have released two short videos that showcase the role of WES and Amy Johnson and the importance of employing a diverse workforce:

Green Port Part 1- <https://youtu.be/o5dHU4fmhSQ>

Green Port Part 2- https://youtu.be/AFUj_8ifzBc

These are to be linked into the wider GP website and the team are offering a package of support for businesses including a review of their premises and processes, linking them to the funding towards apprenticeships and to support with their recruitment processes.

Supply Chain Opportunities

No additional requests this month have been received for specific support so figures remain at:

- 9 requests for suppliers from 4 Prime contracts and 5 companies have been awarded contracts
- 33 companies from the Humber region were matched directly and put forward for consideration.
- Overall total of awards identified either to companies in this region or from companies within the region = £154m
- Total value of contracts in the Yorkshire and Humber region = £67m approximately with contracts ranging between £1k and £30m.

Wider Renewables Activity

Gap Analysis of Support for the Yorkshire and Humber Bio economy has now been completed and the ERYC Inward Investment team is now working with partners to determine potential projects for the benefit of the Hull & East Riding area.

Key Observations

Collaboration and local supply chain successes – As the team are gathering information on successful supply chain wins; it is highlighting the knock on affect to all tiers of the supply chain locally. For this reason we are currently looking at ways to showcase and present this work to help others see the range of successes and also the diverse range of services, products and, local companies that are affected.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

Green Port Hull – Virtual Business Desk Activity Germany – WindEnergy Hamburg

GPH Ambassadors Simon Brett and Scott Yates, supported by Pauline Wade visited Wind Energy Hamburg, 26 to 30th September, and engaged in ‘one on one’ meetings with potential investors. The meetings were organised by Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce and partner British Chamber of Commerce Germany, sector specialists. The Green Port Hull team were supported by the German team throughout their visit.

Greenpower – Project Blyth

Project Blyth has been extremely well received across the Humber region since its launch at Guildhall on 18th May 2016. 17 x IET Formula Goblin (primary school) teams are participating, with funding support provided by Motorola Solutions Foundation. 34 x IET Formula 24 (secondary school/youth group) teams are participating, with funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company. 10 x IET Formula 24+ (NEETS/further education) teams are also now committed thanks to the funding provided by Green Port Hull.

48 mentor companies from the Humber region are committed to supporting teams across all categories, many of them supporting multiple teams. Over 60 employee mentors from these companies attended a mentor training day on 5th December 2016. The new academic year will see all companies and mentors actively engaging with the teams in the build and design of their cars.

Greenpower with the University of Hull will be holding a ‘car jam’ at the University’s science fair on 3rd and 4th April 2017 where teams can bring along their cars to work on them, have them scrutinised and try out their cars in a confined testing area.

The additional training/race event for the Green Port Hull supported teams is likely to take place at Humber Bridge car park, with details currently being finalised for this. Further test events will take place at Blyton Park near Gainsborough on 24th May and 28th June 2017, both sessions from 5pm -7pm. These will be free test sessions open to any Project Blyth teams to attend.

A Project Blyth website has been set up to act as a portal for all teams and companies involved in the project, providing all the information they need to take part and get involved with events. This has just been launched and can be viewed at www.projectblyth.co.uk.

The culmination of the first phase of the project will be a street race in Hull City Centre on Sunday 16th July, again for all teams involved. The timetable for the day will be set early in 2017. This will be a flagship event, to which we will be extending invitations to all partner organisations involved in Project Blyth. We expect to generate significant PR coverage around this event in particular and are currently engaging with David Burns from the BBC to gain his support.

All schools/youth groups and mentor businesses will be provided with information packs detailing the activity of Green Port Hull and the Green Port Growth Programme. Participating groups as part of their engagement with Project Blyth have to produce a portfolio detailing the car build project and the skills they have learnt working on the project. As part of this portfolio they will have to research Green Port Hull and also look at potential skills and employment opportunities that are available to them in the wider engineering and renewables sector.

For clarity Green Port Hull is supporting the Formula 24+ cars and the business engagement element of Project Blyth only.

Communications and Marketing Activity

The Hub marketing activity has included city wide poster campaigns, radio advertising and region wide Facebook advertising, depicting the services of skills activity and the Hub. This has been supplemented with a Hub first anniversary release (2000 people assisted, 400 employees upskilled and 600 apprenticeships/wage subsidies) which generated regional press and radio coverage including BBC Radio Humberside interviews with jobseekers who have received support from the Hub and subsequently gained employment at the Siemens blade factory.

Engineering and manufacturing businesses are now utilising the Green Port Hull website to promote their job opportunities and over 70 vacancies have been advertised over the last few months. Regular job opportunity e-shots are sent out to job seekers.

Version four of the Green Port Hull newsletter was issued electronically on 1st December to coincide with opening of the Siemens Blade Factory. Hard copies of the newsletter are currently being printed and will be distributed throughout the region.

Global Entrepreneurship Week – Nov 16

The support provided by Green Port Hull concentrated on the post 16 age group and the main event that this revolved around was the post 16 day that took place on Wednesday 16th of November. The Guildhall was the venue for 170 students to be involved in an enterprising day of listening to motivational speakers and participating in enterprise challenges set for them. The delegates were a mix of sixth forms, college students, and apprentices from a range of industries including Manufacturing, Construction, Engineering, Business Administration, and Tourism & Leisure.

Guest speakers included former BBC Apprentice runner up & successful businesswoman, Ruth Badger talking about her life story and the opportunities open to young people today. The young delegates also heard from Paul Cunningham of Swift Group about the career opportunities in their industry, as well as the EKM Systems founder and MD, Antony Chesworth, who gave an insight of how he had proved many people wrong about his business idea that is now the UK's top e-commerce platform.

"I enjoyed participating in all the activities. I enjoyed learning and getting a better view of business. You could make it better by having another activity, make the time one minute longer on the pitch." Imaan, Wyke College

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

Confirmation has now been received that DemoWind has received EU approval and will proceed once confirmation of the support of the UK (BEIS) and Dutch Government is received. This is expected before the end of this calendar year. This is excellent news and a significant step in establishing the Region as a centre of excellence for offshore renewable energy (under the Logistics theme under LOMASS).

A meeting was held with C4DI, to explore opportunities to work together (with the Business Support Strand too) in support of the start-ups and digitally focussed businesses within its community. There is a lot of interest in taking forward some of the generic data mining and analytics capability into offshore wind. Indeed, Siemens is already supporting projects within C4DI and, importantly, equity financiers such as Enterprise Ventures have already identified C4DI as a potential source of investible technology companies. This is a breakthrough for the region.

Work has continued to identify research areas that the Knowledge Fund could support. Research Hubs mirroring the LOMASS thematic areas (which align with those independently identified by the work of the Project Aura core team)

are one possibility being explored. In addition, the PhD support and Visiting Appointments opportunity is currently being finalised for formal submission. This will be firmly aligned with the Project Aura/RDI Strand strategic priorities.

Alan Lowdon attended the 2-day Innovate 2016 (Innovate UK's annual conference and exhibition) event in Manchester at which contact was established with the Northern Powerhouse Energy Initiative (principal contact, David Hodgson of DIT). A visit is to be arranged in Q1 2017 to introduce David to Project Aura and to build it into his thinking. This year's event was by far and away the best event of the last 4 years due to the subject matter, networking, format and venue.

Wider Renewables Activity

There is a growing feeling in the energy market that energy storage is rapidly gathering momentum to being commercially viable. Lithium ion battery costs have significantly reduced over the last year or so, making battery storage increasingly attractive. The fact remains, however, that the majority of the 'rare earth' materials are mined in China. This needs to be borne in mind. However, with the positive swing in the economics of chemical storage, over time, there will be a positive impact on the attractiveness and uptake of renewables in all forms.

Green gas is now beginning to appear as a viable alternative to natural gas; technologies now exist which prepare green gas (biogas from principally agricultural operations) to a sufficient quality (in terms of calorific value, particulate content for example) for injection into the grid.

Key Observations

Offshore wind is on an upward trend. Oil and gas players are increasingly looking to the Round 3 opportunities to spread their portfolios. The rapid reduction over the last 4 years in the 'levelised' cost of energy has caught many by surprise. However, this is taking hold within the sector globally. As such, governments, investors and developers are viewing the sector in an increasingly positive light.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand progress

ERGO Centre - authorisation to purchase land and enter into a partnership with The University of Hull was approved at ERYC Cabinet on the 29th November. ERYC Legal department are drafting partnership agreement. Reserved matters planning application is being processed; a decision is expected early in 2017. Tender documents for the construction contract are being prepared by Wykeland and ERYC Infrastructure & Facilities Teams.

Beverley Grovehill and Melton Rail Feasibility Studies - tender responses for master planning exercises for both tenders have been received and are in the process of being let subject to legals.

Sugar Beet Feasibility Study - tender documents for feasibility study exercise being issued via the Council's electronic open tendering system.

Business Grants Strand

Strand progress

All projects approved by the board are now in the process of being contracted having undergone final due diligence checks.

Programme wide update

Negotiations with the team at of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 continue on the final wording to be included within the contract for Green Port Hull to be a Major Partner.

The Green Shoots of Opportunity programme will go live mid-December.

An update report on GPGP activity with the construction sector activity has been circulated. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the work being undertaken with the construction sector to determine and review any additional areas of activity the GPGP could contribute to.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
7 December 2016