



Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 20th November 2013

Strand Update

Skills Strand

Engineering Apprenticeships - As changes have been made to the claim periods the 86 applications received in Q2 have not all been approved due to the shortened timescales. 65 of those applications have been approved for Level 3 Engineering Apprenticeships, ready for payment in claim 6 (Oct – Nov 13). Going forward into the next claim period (Dec 13- Feb 14) we currently have approx 51 applications pending the administrative process of setting up the subsidy. The target for 2013-14 is 100 wage subsidies and if all of these applications are approved we will have exceeded the target for 2013-14

Engineering Up-Skilling - There is a similar picture in engineering up-skilling packages. Against a target of 70 up-skilling packages for 2013-14, 54 applications have been received, 52 have been offered and 2 are currently pending. Of the 54 we have paid 22 with 30 waiting on evidence to make payments.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - As previously reported at the last Board meeting this element of the project has yet to take off. An engineering focussed networking meeting will be arranged shortly after Christmas where we will explain our offer to current employers and training providers and as a result envisage that additional take up, particularly under this element of the project will increase.

Specific Skills - To date we have received 4 applications under this strand all have been approved and paid.

Business Support Strand

This month the project has:

- 4 Enquiries
- Enrolled 1 company
- Completed 1 review
- 1 grant approval by board
- 1 approval for Consultancy support, 1 commissioned
- 1 grant payment with 1 job outcome

The figures provided above are accurate as at 8.11.13

Concerns by team at present on number of enquiries, however no direct marketing has been undertaken. The team plan to use the business directory as a direct marketing tool to support businesses in their quest to be part of the supply chain.

Grants - the first grant payments have been processed.

Procurement – We are in the final stages of completion of the framework with a view to sending it out to tender prior to Christmas break. Changes have been made following guidance from ERYC's legal team and



all specific requested support (grants or consultancy) by businesses will now be in the form of a financial assistance request. This has removed any potential liability by the council in relation to business advice by a 3rd party. This has meant a significant decrease in the value of the framework but will be used to secure consultants / specialists to undertake company reviews, deliver workshops, facilitate focus groups and present at events.

Business Directory - A test version is now available; the project team and selected group to trial and provide feedback before going live.

Events – The Project administrator represented Green Port Growth at a ‘Service Refresher’ session for ERYC elected Members, informing them of the project’s aims, objectives and outcomes so far. Members were keen to enquire about our marketing methods and how we reach all areas of the East Riding.

In line with the project’s business plan to “make opportunities visible” the team organised a successful event with SSE to promote a Humber launch of SSE’s Open4business – trans-pennine web portal. The team collated the following statistics post-event;

- 92 Total attendees
- 73 Companies attended
- 75% Hull and East Riding based companies
- 21% Green Port Growth enrolled companies

A wide range of sectors were represented, with most predominant areas being Manufacturing, Equipment supplies, Engineering and Construction.

Project Manager invited to meet and accompany Dong Energy, Head of Supplier Market in recent visit to the area (arranged by THMA), also attended ‘Doing Business in Denmark’ specifically looking at work by UKTI and supply chains.

Links with other Support Programmes - The project continues to facilitate good working relationships with other support programmes to maximise business advice and support to local companies. However it is recognised that with additional funding being allocated to national programmes this could be detrimental to the GPGP such as:

- RGF funding being allocated to MAS – for their ‘GROW: Offshore Wind’ programme – to specifically support companies who are looking to establish potential supply opportunities within the offshore Wind Sector. A specialist adviser has been recruited for this area. To reduce any **RISK** a meeting has been arranged to discuss aims and objectives of both programmes and how they can work collectively to the benefit of local businesses.
- ERDF funding being allocated to Growth Accelerator – this is to enable work with companies to be expanded on taking business support from a potential 4/5 days consultancy up to 10 for micro businesses. This will potentially mean any added value through ourselves will directly be through Grants or further business support/consultancy and will be later than initially envisaged.
- Growth Accelerator – Informed that through Pera, a member of their internal GA team is specifically tasked to work with Siemens in their activities across England. The Business Support



Strand Manager has directly requested contact to understand their objectives and encourage collaborative workings locally. Identified **RISK** – With so many organisations now giving support within the Offshore & Renewables sector and directly building relationships with organisations such as Siemens are we at risk in losing any local advantage in readying our supply chain.

Meeting undertaken with Hull College to discuss the new Skills Support Programme and employee training funding opportunities for businesses.

Customer First - the Business Service team of ERYC has held Customer First accreditation for the last 8 years. As a new project within the service, GPG Business Advice is to be assessed against the standards with the rest of the service when it is due for renewal in December. Currently going through internal assessment.

Site Assembly Strand

Discussions with ABP are ongoing with Northern Power Grid on the most efficient way to upgrade the electrical infrastructure on Hedon Road which will serve the Greenport development and EZ sites north of Hedon Road. State aid clarification on eligibility of potential support is being sought.

Inward Investment Strand

The Renewables UK Annual Conference & Exhibition took place at Birmingham NEC between 5th and 7th November, the first exhibition under the new arrangements with North East Lincolnshire Council and managed by Team Humber Marine Alliance (THMA). Ten Humber companies joined the stand and one additional Hull company, took space next to the Humber stand as the Humber stand was full.

The ten companies who were on the stand:

ABP, Hull & Grimsby
P & O, Hull
Humber Engineering Training Association, Hull & Grimsby
Rix Shipping, Hull
Dalby Offshore, Beverley
Marine Rescue Technologies, Beverley
GBA, Grimsby
TATA Steel, Scunthorpe
Port of Grimsby, East Grimsby
Windpower Support, Grimsby

The additional Hull company that took space next to the Humber stand was Winch Systems.

The event was smaller than the previous year, and the initial feedback received is as follows:

Day One - Somewhat quieter than expected, but with some good contacts made.

Day Two - by far the best and busiest day of the show and the drinks reception event hosted on the Humber Renewables Stand was seen as a great success.



Day Three - The show was open to the public so most of visitors were people either looking for a job or trying to sell their products / services. Most of the decision makers seemed to have left the event.

THMA are in the process of gathering feedback from all attendees, a further update will be provided to a future Board meeting.

We are working closely with the Business Support Strand to develop the Green Port website, particularly on the business directory.

Dialogue with investors is ongoing in relation to Green Port developments.

Brochures – we are looking to commission a comprehensive inward investor ‘off-peg’ set of information to combine in to a brochure. This will boost the current information we hold and include more facts and figures, such as wage rates, population, skills levels etc of the area. This information will then be maintained and updated regularly.

Research and Development Strand

Appointment of R&D Support and Fund Director - First Round interviews have been undertaken.

Interview Panel: Guy Hembury (GPG / UoH), Steph Haywood (UoH), Bill Walker (GPG / UoH), Gary Thompson (COO, Spencers), Chris Holden (Offshore Operations Manager, RES Offshore).

Arising from this process, second round interviews (acceptances to be confirmed) are being arranged. A more detailed update on this process can be provided to the Board by Bill Walker.

Business Grants Strand

The RGF 3 grant 'Growing the Humber' is close to being fully committed, assuming that this opinion is ratified shortly, it would be our intention to bring forward the capital grant scheme in the new year. As well as continuing interest from the Renewables industry we have recently experienced some interest from companies associated with the oil and gas industry. The North Bank of the Humber is well placed to grow its supply chain in the offshore oil and gas industry, reflecting the proximity of the Southern North Sea oil and Gas industry and the presence of key players in the industry locally, including Perenco, Centrica and the Wood Group.

Given the common skills and the possibility of cross fertilisation of ideas between the oil and gas and the renewables industry it would seem to make sense to incorporate the supply chain associated with this industry into the grant funding eligibility.

General update

Green Port Growth website



The enquiry form from the website now links directly into Evolutive. It is anticipated that the forms will make it easier for businesses to make enquiries when the website is launched and will offer an additional opportunity to make enquiries to the Programme as Green Port and other investments develop.

Future meeting dates scheduled in for 2014, all electronic invites now sent out.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
13th November 2013