

Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 8 February 2017
STRAND UPDATE REPORT

Employment & Skills Strand

Strand Progress

Apprenticeship Wage Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for apprenticeship starts is 200. Since 1st April 2016 145 applications have been approved with a further 47 pending.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies - The 2016-17 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2016 197 applications have been approved with 138 applications pending. 101 jobs have also been safeguarded.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - Take-up on the wage subsidies for disadvantaged groups continues to be slow with 10 companies engaged and 20 individuals in receipt of the subsidy and 6 pending.

Pathway to Employment - In the first year of Pathway to Employment, 80 candidates started the 10 week programme in four cohorts of 20. Of those 80, 71 candidates completed the 10 week programme, a completion rate of 89%. Of the 71 completers, 48 entered employment, giving an overall job outcome rate of 69%.

The Fifth cohort started their programme on 3rd January and will commence their work placements shortly. An additional 4 cohorts of 10 candidates have been added to the programme for the forthcoming year and the first of these commenced on 30th January.

A core group of businesses have taken advantage of the programme and offered employment to candidates: Atlas Leisure Homes, Kwik Tuf, Swift Group, Willerby Holiday Homes, NR Burnett, Fox Corrugated Machinery, CB North and A & E Woodward.

Recent publicity has raised awareness and resulted in several enquiries from a range of manufacturing employers requesting further information on the programme and our delivery partner Unity Training are in the process of arranging appointments. Increasing the number of companies involved is vital and will ensure that a wide and varied range of roles are available for the 5 week placements.

Items for GPGP Board Consideration

A report proposing an extension of the Linking Lower Level Training Packages to Advanced Apprenticeship Frameworks has been submitted. Job outcomes in the 2016 pilot were very good (60%) and it is hoped that although only HETA have committed to the project thus far, other training providers may be interested in delivering the project. To promote the Programme generally and with this in mind, a training provider event was held on 31st January at the Green Port Hub.

Discussions are continuing with both ERYC and HCC Youth and Family Support Teams with a view to making the Pathway to Employment project available to young care leavers. Although both organisations are very interested there remain a few issues to resolve. Further details will be provided in the next strand report.

Business Support Strand

Strand Progress

The project has (to date):

- 473 Enquiries
- 290 Enrolled
- 162 Businesses Supported
- 46 financial assistance applications have been awarded

- 99.03 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £438K
- Financial assistance committed = £302K
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 37% Hull and East Riding, 8% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 55% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

Events / Workshop

- **Humber Funding Expo** – 25th January 2017 – Presented and exhibited at the Humber LEPs Funding EXPO along with the Skills team to promote the Green Port Growth Programme.
- **Understanding Offshore Wind – Marine Support & Operations** – The first workshop of 2017 saw more than 50 people attend to hear about upcoming supplier opportunities, where to register and the minimum requirements needed to work on sites or vessels. Delegates heard from Siemens Wind Power, Fred.Olsen Wind carrier and CWind who all providing insight into daily operations and service requirements. Additional conversations have taken place with Fred.Olsen Wind carrier and our Supply Chain Coordinator on potential local supply chain events.

Supply Chain Opportunities - 1 additional request this month from a wind farm operator for specific support, figures to date are:

- 10 requests for suppliers from 4 Prime contracts.
- 64 companies from the Humber region were matched directly and put forward for consideration. From the 10 requests, 5 companies have been awarded contracts.
- Overall total of awards identified either to companies in this region or from companies within the region = £162.6m approximately.
- Total value of contracts in the Yorkshire and Humber region = £73.6m approximately with contracts ranging between £1k and £30m.

Local Impact and Opportunities from Energy Works Renewable Energy Facility Hull - Networking Event – Thursday 23rd February 2017 - as announced at the GPGP business support networking event, a morning event at the Energy Works facility with M+W will take place on 9am to 1pm Thursday 23rd February.

This is an invite only event for approximately 100 businesses from the area who are either already working on the Energy Works Project or have expressed an interest in accessing opportunities, have registered on the Green Port Supplier Directory and have the capabilities and experience to match the remaining opportunities to supply components and services for the concluding build stages of this project.

The final agenda will be published shortly and will include guest speakers, details of the story so far, its impact on local schools, charities and businesses. It will also highlight opportunities to supply components and services for the concluding build stages of this project. There will be the opportunity to hear from M+W and their existing Tier 1 suppliers and network with companies taking part in building this landmark energy generation plant in Hull. The event is scheduled to take place at the Energy Works site on Dalton Street, Hull with opportunities for networking timed in to the agenda.

Wider Renewables Activity

As reported in the Business Support Monthly News Round Up.

Inward Investment Strand Strand Progress

As part of the ongoing Germany Business Desk activity two investors visited Hull and East Riding this month:

- **Marshalling terminal operator** – they are looking for a deep water quay with loading capacity. Discussions are ongoing with ABP and Hull City Council.
- **Marine systems company** – they produce Hybrid Port Energy devices for shore power technology. They have met with ABP to discuss potential use of the product. These are very early stages of the enquiry but they could look to produce the product in the UK.

Proposed Exhibition Programme 17/18 Participation in Renewable Energy Exhibitions/Conferences

A number of exhibitions have been identified as strategically important renewable energy exhibitions, which are to be delivered under a partnership model with Green Port Hull as the primary brand.

Green Port Hull has already successfully attended many key national and international conferences in the offshore wind sector over the past three years and now makes a proposal of future events which will likely offer best value based on the experience and lessons learned thus far. Much more inward investment opportunity is generated from the European conferences and local companies see greater value in attending overseas events in terms of business generation.

It is appreciated that it can take a number of months, even years to turn an initial contact in to a contract and to evaluate the positive outcomes from the exhibitions. A recent survey of the businesses that participated in the joint Green Port Hull/Humber Renewables exhibitions programme during 2015/16 has shown the events have been highly successful with a number of contracts being secured. Contracts in excess of £1.3m can be attributed to contacts made at the Green Port Hull exhibitions.

Forward planning for the renewable energy events is critical to obtain the best value and best possible location within the exhibition hall. With this in mind, the following exhibitions which take place over the next 18 months have been identified as a priority to be attended by Green Port Hull (subject to private sector demand).

2017			
Offshore Energy 17	Amsterdam, Holland	9 – 11 Oct 17	24 m2 Stand
Wind Europe 17	Amsterdam, Holland	28 – 30 Nov 17	36 m2 Stand
2018			
Wind Energy Hamburg 18	Hamburg, Germany	25 – 28 Sept 17	80 m2 Stand
Wind Europe 18	TBC	TBC	36 m2 Stand

Therefore, the Board is asked to agree to the programme of these key renewable energy exhibitions it wishes to attend to raise the profile of Green Port Hull and the supply chain companies which operate within Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire.

The stands will be booked and feature under the Green Port Hull brand and subject to funding support from the Humber LEP, may feature the Humber Renewables brand. Green Port Hull branded exhibition panels, marketing material and free merchandise will be provided. In addition the Green Port Supplier Directory will highlight the capabilities of the local supply chain companies.

It is anticipated that 70% of the stand space will be taken by business from Hull and East Riding (H&ER), the remaining places will be offered to companies from the south bank.

Co-ordination of Exhibitions - An exhibition working group comprising the four Local Authorities, Team Humber Marine Alliance, the Grimsby Renewable Partnership and the Humber LEP is already established to take the exhibitions and it is suggested that this group continue to oversee future exhibitions.

Organisation and design/build of exhibitions has already been procured under competitive tender through Hull City Council Marketing Framework Agreement.

The exhibition working group would still retain a guidance role over the Exhibition Co-ordinator.

Company Contributions - the costs associated with exhibiting will depend on private sector commitment. The aim is to attract up to fourteen companies, each receiving stand space and an advertising panel. Charges to each company could be in the region of:

- Non SME's - £2k - £3k
- SME's - £1k - £2k
- Eligible SME's could receive a subsidy of up to £1k from the GPGP

Exhibition Costs - Costs for each exhibition have been identified (see table above).

Subject to approval the total indicative cost for exhibiting at the four recommended events in 2017 & 2018 will be in the order of £158,500. The cost includes stand space, design and co-ordination as well as Hull and East Riding local authority representation and company subsidies. The Humber LEP, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have been asked to consider their financial contribution towards the costs of the proposed exhibitions. A response is still awaited.

Recommendations

It is therefore recommended that the Board agrees to the Inward Investment strand financially contributing towards the Green Port Hull exhibition activity.

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

Following the approval of the Visiting Appointments and PhD-support proposal at the January Board, discussions have resumed with Prof. Dan Parsons on the shape and form of the first wave of potential projects.

Representing the offshore wind sector, the RDI strand lead was invited by the Energy Systems Catapult, Birmingham to participate in an Innovate UK-supported, 10-person, round-table discussion on future energy innovation challenges. This will help to feed future Innovate UK calls; the opportunity to promote Project Aura at a strategic level was taken.

Following last month's discussions at the DIT Entrepreneur Forum, discussions have been held with a wave energy technology business, with a view to promoting Hull & the East Riding as the landing point for the business when it locates to the UK during 2017. A face-to-face meeting has been scheduled for 6 February during their visit to the UK.

In support of THMA, and following on from the October workshop in New England, the strand lead hosted a delegation from Massachusetts during a recent visit to the Humber region. Discussions covered the Green Port Hull model, its history, key players and how a link up with training providers in the region to tap in to the vast array of courses could support the growth of the offshore wind sector in the US. This activity will help to further cement the profile of the region in the eyes of the nascent US market and provide export potential for local training providers.

Given the rise in interest and activity related to wave and tidal power (cemented with the go-ahead for the Swansea Bay tidal lagoon scheme), a strand representative attended the Wave & Tidal Summit in London to network with those active in the sector. This proved very beneficial as an awareness-raising, networking and CPD exercise.

Wider Renewables Activity

Off-grid/micro-grid energy supply systems supporting rural communities are gaining a lot of traction in the UK. These are especially attractive in the South West but momentum is building in Yorkshire, Northumberland, Cumbria,

Lincs and Scotland. The use of biomass and animal litter to fuel such schemes, coupled with the use locally of wind turbines and solar technologies, is making these holistic, renewable schemes increasingly viable. The RDI Strand is increasingly seeing these types of technologies and integrated systems as investible propositions.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand progress

ERGO Centre - All Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) work has been completed and worked into a full set of drawings/plans needed for the main construction tender. Tenders for the main construction contract will be issued Friday 3rd February. Tender returns are due by the 17th March with appointment by late March 2017.

Goole Intermodal - ERYC I&F team are preparing a tender brief for the site investigation works package.

Beverley Grovehill - Captia have been appointed for masterplanning exercise and the project is underway. A business survey is going out via Business Support strand to feed into the exercise.

Melton Rail Feasibility Study - Aecom have been appointed for this study and work is underway. A related workshop will take place at Brough Business Centre on Wednesday 1st February 2017 with 22 attendees registered.

Sugarbeet Feasibility Work - Tenders have gone out via YORconsult framework with Tuesday 31st January 2017 as the tender return deadline. Tenders will be assessed with a view to contract award during early February.

Project Aura – The University of Hull have appointed Cushman & Wakefield to assist with site selection/investigation works.

Business Grants Strand

Strand progress

Interest in the Green Port Business Investment grants is on-going; this interest is largely from existing local business although there are currently two live enquiries from potential inward investors.

Programme wide update

Following approval of the recent updates to the Green Port Growth Programme board's Terms of reference, board members are reminded that discussions that take place during board meetings are often of a confidential nature and should not be shared outside of the meeting.

Interest in the Green Shoots of Opportunity fund is growing. To date we have received interest from 14 organisations, received 5 EOIs totalling a value of £1.5m and of those we are aware of at least 2 full applications being completed. Once applications have been received they will be subject to a GPGP eligibility check and assessed by a panel made up of representatives of HCC and ERYC prior to submission to the board for final approval.

Year 6 delivery planning is currently underway by all Strands.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
1st February 2017