

**Minutes of RGF Green Port Growth Programme Board Meeting  
 5.00pm, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Tim Rix (TR) Chair, Mark Jones (MJ), Dave Richards (DR), David Morriss (DM), Katy Swaby (KS), David West (DW)

**Guests:** David Wells (DWel)

**Officers:** Sarah Clark (SC), Kathryn Batty (KB) minutes

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions and Apologies</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.1	Apologies were received from Alan Menzies (AM), Paul Bell (PB) and Eleanor Carter (EC)	
1.2	TR welcomed DM; the new Board representation for ABP  SC highlighted that the Board was not quorate and therefore decisions taken would need to be ratified by other Board members following the meeting. SC to arrange.	<b>SC</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b>	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. SC advised that matters arising are covered in the agenda.	
2.2	SC advised that decisions from the previous meeting had been ratified by other Board members following the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
3.1	To be declared under each item of the agenda.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Opportunities for support/investment</b>	
4.1	MJ provided an update on the Siemens site, Energy Works and the plans for the Yorkshire Energy Park, all of which are progressing well. Siemens are finalising their latest phase of recruitment.	
4.2	MJ advised that he has recently had a visit from Melanie Dawes, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities and Local Government, had visited Hull City Council which included a tour of the Green Port Hub and an overview of the work delivered by the Employment and Skills strand. Melanie expressed that the partnership delivery model between Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Jobcentre Plus to support unemployed local people into work was exemplar.	
4.3	MJ requested that further funds be made available from the programme to take local unemployed people forward into employment. A discussion was held regarding the funded projects already deployed in the region to support the	<b>MJ</b>

	unemployed into work, including The Work Programme, Green Shoots of Opportunity and Pathways to Employment. MJ advised that any proposal for additional funds would be complementary to the projects already being delivered. The Board requested that a paper be brought to a future meeting.	
<b>5</b>	<b>RDI Strand Year 6 Delivery Plan</b>	
5.1	DWel in attendance for this agenda item.	
5.2	DR declared an interest in this item.	
5.3	<p>DWel summarised the now finalised RDI Strand Year 6 delivery plan received by the Board, advising that the plans for year 6 focus on a more proactive, rather than reactive approach and focus much more on identifying and engaging regional businesses and facilitating collaboration with organisations within OSW and the Renewable sector to drive activity. DWel highlighted a number of new programmes of activity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market assessment tool; applicants are not always clear on where their product fits in the market. The assessment tool can be used to provide information to show where there are gaps in the market and where potential fits are for new products.</li> <li>• Funding scanner; to provide an early indication of funding opportunities to allow for consortiums to be pulled together quickly to respond to maximise funding opportunities. Referencing the success of Project SPOWTT.</li> <li>• Digital Manufacturing Accelerator; with a view to decreasing time to market by providing regional businesses access to new techniques, processes and facilities.</li> <li>• Legacy Development; looking at securing a culture of innovation in the OSW sector post GPGP. For example continuing to develop Project Aura and ensure support for businesses continues beyond the lifetime of the individual funds.</li> <li>• O&amp;M Centre of Excellence; linked to legacy development, above the strand will look to establish an O&amp;M Centre of Excellence in partnership with the national ORE Catapult. This investment will secure the establishment of this national centre of excellence in Hull, rather than another UK location.</li> </ul>	
5.4	<p>As per the Ron Dearing UTC VR Cave proposal presented at the April Board meeting, DR advised that market feedback is indicating that the costs of digital technology are creating a barrier to market for small businesses and proposed that support to be provided to businesses to access digital technology, software, 3D printing etc.</p> <p>DWel reported that he will be leading on the strand activity with Alan Lowdon leaving the UoH at the beginning of June. All other strand member roles will remain in place with the addition of an Innovation Specialist who will be recruited to lead on a number of key deliverables for the strand.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board agreed the RDI year 6 delivery plan</p>	

<b>6</b>	<b>Energy Storage – David West</b>	
6.1	<p>The Board discussed with interest the information circulated by David West (see links below) prior to the meeting and agreed that there was a clear opportunity for the area to develop further links with industry who are leading on this technology.</p> <p><a href="http://renews.biz/106774/uk-commits-250m-to-storage/">http://renews.biz/106774/uk-commits-250m-to-storage/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.edie.net/news/6/Largest-UK-grid-scale-battery-could--transform--the-energy-grid/">https://www.edie.net/news/6/Largest-UK-grid-scale-battery-could--transform--the-energy-grid/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.edie.net/news/6/UK-energy-storage-predicted-to-grow-100-fold-by-2020/#.WQysGUpGwSw.mailto">https://www.edie.net/news/6/UK-energy-storage-predicted-to-grow-100-fold-by-2020/#.WQysGUpGwSw.mailto</a></p>	
6.2	DR advised that the RDI strand will start to formulate a plan as to what the opportunities could be for the area and will include this in their discussions with the National Grid to assess feasibility.	<b>DR</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Green Port Growth Programme legacy</b>	
7.1	A discussion was held regarding the importance of retaining local knowledge and expertise post GPGP and capturing data which supports Programme delivery to support future activity once the Programme comes to an end. The Board agreed that it was vital that support continued to ensure that there was not an adverse effect on the Renewables Sector supply chain for OSW which is still seen as a growing sector.	
7.2	DR advised that Project Aura will be a good legacy for OSW and that the GIA Study needs to look at finding data to support future support and activity.	
7.3	DM stated that facilities need to be made available for the next wave of investment and that a master plan is required for all the ports in the Humber to identify land which needs pump priming for investment, citing Paull.	
7.4	The Board discussed the current situation with CfD and the need to look at the competitive position of CfD and what the Programme can do to secure more contracts in the Humber. SC advised that this is already being covered by the GIA Study. Further discussion focused on the need to position the Humber as a key area of growth and for investment. This would require data being pooled from each of the four local authorities so that a central picture can be presented.	
7.5	<u>Action:</u> DR To liaise with the RDI strand lead to look at pooling together relevant data from the data observatories for all four Local Authorities to assist the Programme with exit strategy and legacy plans for GPGP.	<b>DR</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Strand update report highlights, recommendations</b>	
8.1	SC provided highlights from the strand report circulated to the Board. The Employment and Skills strand's Pathway to Employment project is delivering	

	<p>excellent results. North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council are now considering the potential of replicating the delivery model on the South bank (not to be funded by GPGP) following discussions with the strand lead.</p>	
8.2	<p><u>Business Grant considerations for the GPGP Board</u></p> <p>TR declared an interest in these items.</p>	
8.3	<p>SC advised that the Business Grants strand lead is requesting that the current grant offered to inward investors to take up business premises be increased from £2k to £10k. This recommendation was put forward following an enquiry from a large Danish company looking to come into the area with a view to servicing the requirements of Siemens, and looking to obtain contracts with wind farm developers in the longer term.</p>	
8.4	<p>A discussion was held regarding the specific nature of the request with agreement that the request should be referred to the Business Support strand.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board rejected this request agreeing that individual papers should continue to be brought to the Board by the appropriate strand where support is being requested by eligible businesses which is over and above the current offer.</p>	
8.5	<p>A decision in principle is requested to look at opportunities for providing grant funding to facilitate speculative development for units that would be attractive for the renewables industry.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board rejected this request agreeing that enquiries of this nature should continue to be supported by the Site Assembly strand.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> SC to feedback to the Business Grants strand lead on the decisions outlined above.</p>	SC
<b>9</b>	<b>DCLG/BEIS Update</b>	
9.1	No update provided. DCLG not in attendance.	
<b>10</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	Meeting closed at 6.05pm	
	<b>Date and time of next meeting:</b> 5pm, Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017, Room 1 County Hall, Beverley.	