
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 10 May 2017
STRAND UPDATE REPORT

Employment & Skills Strand

Strand Progress

Apprenticeship Wage Subsidies - The 2017-18 target for apprenticeship starts is 200. Since 1st April 2017 26 applications have been approved.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies - The 2017-18 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2017 71 applications have been approved.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - Take-up on the wage subsidies for disadvantaged groups continues to be slow with 13 companies engaged and 18 individuals in receipt of the subsidy.

Pathway to Employment – The Sixth cohort (18 candidates) have completed their 5 week training and started their work placements on Tuesday 18th April. This cohort included two care leavers – the first ones to progress through from assessment to work placement. Of the two care leavers, one has left the programme and the other has already taken up a contract with his placement provider. Cohort B (10 candidates) started their programme on 18th April.

Items for GPGP Board Consideration

After initial discussions about the Pathway to Employment project North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Councils are considering the potential for a Pathway to Employment project focused on the South Humber Bank.

Business Support Strand

Strand Progress

The project has (to date):

- 493 Enquiries
- 312 Enrolled
- 179 Businesses Supported
- 48 financial assistance applications have been awarded
- 108.56 f/t equivalent Jobs created

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £536K
- Financial assistance committed = £261K
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 39.2% Hull and East Riding, 6.6% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 54.1% Out of Yorkshire and Humber

Events / Workshop

- **Workshop – Preparing Business for Growth** – The fourth round of the business growth workshops started this month giving companies the opportunity to reflect and discuss their present business set up and management styles. Clear action plans were completed by all attendees identifying actions they need to consider in producing a clear 'Business Blueprint'.

Supply Chain Opportunities

13 requests for suppliers from 4 Prime contractors. From the 13 requests, 5 companies have been awarded contracts. 64 companies from the Humber region were matched directly and put forward for consideration. 7 Prime contractors outlined contract or subcontract opportunities at supply chain events.

Overall total of awards identified either to companies in this region or from companies within the region approx. £162.6m. Total value of contracts in the Yorkshire and Humber region approx. £73.6m with contract values ranging between £1k and £30m.

Wider Renewables Activity

Additional activity as reported in the Business Support Monthly News Round Up.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

Scanel International A/S - after 18 months of engagement with the Inward Investment Strand, Danish company, Scanel International A/S who provide integrated electrical systems and installation and services to the offshore wind sector, have opened a small office in Hull. They will be based in One Business Village, Emily Street, Hull. One member of staff will be based in Hull, but as Scanel are on the Siemens supplier framework they intend to increase their workforce as contract are won/awarded.

The Business Day (BIZ Week) – 9th June 2017 - Green Port Hull jointly with HCC and ERYC is supporting and exhibiting at The Business Day at Bridlington Spa as part of BIZ week. The business networking event will include keynote speeches from Baroness Brady of Knightsbridge CBE and John Simpson CBE. The Green Port Hull exhibition stand will showcase the investment opportunities in Hull and East Riding, and working in partnership with the University of Hull, who are delivering the economic impact study, will highlight the successes and the impacts that the support from the Green Port Growth Programme has had on the region.

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

Strand Progress

A meeting was held with an ICT expert at C4DI establishing an innovative, 3-D printer technology and services business. This has now been passed to the business support strand for follow-up action and a meeting is planned for May.

Notification provided that the BEIS Energy Entrepreneur Fund Round 5 attracted 152 applications. A watching brief should be maintained on this fund (5-year programme) as it will be of direct relevance to Project Aura.

Alan Lowdon met with a Sunderland based offshore wind cable company to promote the activities underway on the Humber given its potential interest in setting up a facility in the region now that it is a supplier to Hornsea, East Anglia and Lincs. offshore wind sites.

The revised proposed Year 6 Delivery Plan is included on the agenda for May, with David Wells in attendance to provide commentary. The revised delivery plan focusses upon a proactive (rather than reactive) approach with research partners and industrial partners, including a focus upon building new research collaborations, proof of market activity as a mandatory 'first step' with all proposals, and subsidised access to digital manufacturing support. The revised delivery plan also proposes alternative uses linked to the establishment of Project Aura for funding currently allocated to the 'Knowledge Fund', given the poor project pipeline and slow take-up to date.

Project SPOWTT held its project initiation meeting in Hull on 25/4/17. After considerable work from the RDI Strand and UoH legal staff, the contract is now close to being signed, as is the overarching Demowind contract and associated collaboration agreement.

PhD placements are targeted upon advanced blade manufacturing, composites, and environment and subsea. Discussions are advanced with major industrial partners to secure placements for the remaining 3 PhDs. Once these

are concluded, an advert will be posted for all 4 PhD placements. In terms of visiting appointments, the CVs of 8 potential candidates proposed via OREC as being of relevance to Aura's 'early traction areas' are currently being reviewed. Further discussions are being held with each of the 9 early traction area leads within UoH, to identify any further candidates.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand progress

ERGO Centre - PDR Construction are to be appointed as the main construction contractor for the project and a meeting is scheduled in early May to go through a value engineering exercise before starting on site. A branding exercise is underway in conjunction with The University of Hull to rename the project something more appropriate than the ERGO Centre as this was a legacy name. Marketing material and a launch will follow once finalised.

Feasibility studies:

- Beverley Grovehill - Capita have produced first draft of report which is currently being reviewed.
- Melton Rail Feasibility Study - Presentation of final report findings from Aecom scheduled for mid May.
- Sugar beet Feasibility Work – the study is underway by Future Food Solutions.

Business Grants Strand

Strand progress

The pipeline of businesses interested in the grant is relatively strong and in particular a number of existing local companies are looking to make significant expansions.

Inward investments - An enquiry from a Danish Company who employs approximately 250 people has been received recently. They are looking to come into the area with a view to servicing the requirements of Siemens in the short term and in the longer term, looking to obtain contracts with wind farm developers. The company are expecting to take 5 people on initially and take on a unit of approximately 3000 sq. ft.

Decision required: In order to increase the range of business premises on offer it is suggested that an 'in principle agreement' is arranged with the Board to allow grants of up to £10k to be given to inward investors based on the Danish House concept.

Current availability of premises - There is currently a significant shortage of modern available industrial units with small offices between 1-5,000 sq. ft. in and the East Hull/Holderness corridor. All the units at Tower House Lane have now been let, indicating a strong demand for this type of product.

In principle decision requested: Given this, it would appear to be worthwhile to look at the opportunities for providing grant funding to facilitate speculative development for units that would be attractive for the renewable energy industry.

Programme wide update

Decision required - In May 2017 the current private sector representatives will have sat on the board for 2 years, with two further years of Programme delivery remaining the board is asked to consider if a second private sector recruitment exercise should be undertaken.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
3 May 2017