
Green Port Growth Programme Management Board –12 July 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 75 applications have been approved.

Up-Skilling Training Subsidies -The 2017-18 target for upskilling is 200. Since 1st April 2017 153 applications have been approved.

Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups - Take-up on the wage subsidies for disadvantaged groups continues to be slow with 14 companies engaged and 31 individuals in receipt of the subsidy, since the start of the programme. The addition of the Green Shoots delivery targeting those furthest from the labour market provides a highly complementary offer to employers. Three targeted marketing events aimed at manufacturing employers across the Humber is being developed and will be delivered during July and August. The events will include all Green Shoots delivery organisations, the skills and business support strands and be utilised as an opportunity to engage specifically with manufacturing employers to market the disadvantaged groups wage subsidy as well as a Green Port networking opportunity.

Pathway to Employment - Cohort Six (13 candidates) have completed the 10 week programme. 6 candidates have found employment. 7 candidates from Cohort B (10 starters) finished their programme on 23rd June with 2 moving into immediate employment to date, giving a current overall job outcome rate of 60%, which although is still very good is lower than had been previously recorded.

Sector Skills Activity

The Career sector events provided to date have been very well received. The events provide businesses with the opportunity to have a direct impact in shaping the future workforce by giving a clear view of the current labour market, training and progression routes and what opportunities will develop in the future. From completed evaluations collected from the five events delivered to date 96% of delegates said that the events has increased their knowledge and understanding of the sectors and would like further events covering the wider range of sectors and further network meetings to encourage more partnership working. The following events are planned to take place over the coming months:

- 5th July, 2017 - LMI Bio Economy Event with over 50 delegates booked on keynote speakers include Spencer Group Ltd, Vivergo Fuels & University of Hull.
- 21st September 2017 - Construction Forum to be held at Bishop Burton College to link in with their employer engagement event.
- 25th October 2017 - LMI Engineering Event, confirmed keynote speakers include Nestle, British Steel & Airco.

Business Support Strand

Strand Progress

The project has (to date):

- 514 Enquiries
- 323 Enrolled
- 189 Businesses Supported
- 49 financial assistance applications have been awarded
- 109.56 f/t equivalent Jobs created

	Enquiries	Enrolled	Business Supported
East Riding of Yorkshire	143	97	57
Kingston Upon Hull	254	175	120
Outside	117	51	12
	514	323	189

Financial Assistance (to date)

- Financial assistance paid = £587k
- Financial assistance committed = £302k
- Percentage of spend with local businesses, 40.1% Hull and East Riding, 7.3% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 52.7% Out of Yorkshire and Humber.

Events / Workshops

Workshop - Resourcing for Profitable and Sustainable Growth

The 5th round of the business growth workshops continued this month. These small hands on workshops give companies the opportunity to reflect and discuss their present business set up and management styles. Clear action plans are 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, 64 companies from the Humber region were matched directly and put forward for consideration. From the 13 requests, 5 companies have been awarded contracts, 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 = £175.9m approximately.
- Total value of contracts in the Yorkshire and Humber region = £86.3m approximately with contracts. ranging between £1k and £30m.
- Total value of offshore wind contracts won by companies based in the Humber and East Riding region = £45.4m approximately.

Example of most recent success – a local company who have won an £80,000 contract for facilities management.

Events

Offshore Wind Energy

This was attended by Business Support team to directly promote the Green Port Directory and Supply Chain assistance. Green Port had a strong presence on the Humber Renewables stand this year. Other UK regions had a presence at the exhibition overall (including Liverpool, Teesside, Blyth and East Anglia) but not at the same level as the Humber. During the 3 day exhibition connections were made with companies such as Babcock International Group, Triton Knoll, Deep Ocean, MHI Vestas, Bibby Marine, DONG, All NRG, Siem Offshore, and LDD which the supply chain coordinator will follow-up. It was a good opportunity to meet up with existing companies on the Humber Renewables stand and get updates on successful tenders / contracts they have won.

Wider Renewables Activity

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

Key Observations

We are receiving regular updates as to the successes of our local businesses winning contracts throughout the renewables sector as well as information on their local supply chain and use of local sub-contractors. Presently in discussion with the Green Port Impact Assessment team at the University to support us in the best way of presenting these successes.

Inward Investment Strand

Strand Progress

Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce (HHCC) Offshore Wind Energy 2017, London - During the exhibition 18 companies were engaged with on a one on one basis. The companies were from Denmark, Holland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and several from Spain. There would appear to be an increase in the level of interest in Green Port Hull from Spanish companies since the merger between Siemens and Gamesa. Of those we met at the Offshore Wind Exhibition, the Portuguese company visited Hull end of June with a visit pending from a Dutch company mid-July, early August, dates to be confirmed. Others indicated that they would like to visit later in the year.

Follow up meetings were held with two companies that had previously visited Hull and one is in contractual discussions with Siemens and the other reported that it had all the information it needed and is considering its options.

Visit to Denmark - Following on from our visit to Denmark end of April, one of the companies visited, participated in the inward Trade Mission organised by THMA to the Wind Energy Conference, Bridlington beginning of May and confirmed that post their visit they had decided that Grimsby is their preferred choice of location, mainly because one of their key customer is DONG Energy. They are now looking at investment opportunities through the Humber LEP.

Women into Manufacturing and Engineering – WIME - WIME attended the Humber Summer Schools Conference – over 35 schools, colleges and businesses were amongst the 200+ attendees. WIME presented at the event and took along three female apprentices to tell their story and route way into employment. The purpose of the event was to enable students to have a better understanding of the support for career strategies which will help bridge the skills gap in the Humber economy.

WIME Careers Event – the next event is planned to take place at the Humber UTC in Scunthorpe on 21 October 2017. WIME already has support from British Steel, Centrica and Grimsby Renewables Partnership and WIME plans to attract further south bank companies to the initiative.

Project Blyth – Race Event at KCOM Stadium 16 July 2017 - To date 28 x F24, 11 x F24+ and 7 Goblin cars have registered for the race. The STEM Marquee has proved popular. Green Port Hull has taken space within the STEM marquee and will promote the programme activity. Also on the GPH stand will be Probe, one of 4 delivery organisations recently contracted to deliver Green Shoots who will be demonstrating their simulator training; and 3D print company NFIRE Labs will showcase their digital technology by 3D printing an F1 car nose cone.

Other companies within the STEM marquee include BP, Inst. Mechanical Eng, IChemE, Group Atlantic, OSL, Siemens, Airco, HETA, British Steel, Ron Dearing UTC, Humber UTC, CITB, Child Dynamics, ER Coaches, and Bondholders. Over 30 City of Culture volunteers are being engaged to provide support at the event.

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

Strand Progress

A Joint Project Aura/GPG RDI presence at Offshore Wind Europe, London (6 to 8 June), along with a structured process for targeting and following up industry contacts, led to a successful event for the strand. Connections were made with a number of local, national and international companies.

SPOWTT – Work on this project is now underway, with the RDI Strand represented at the 2nd project team meeting held in Amsterdam on 19th June. A final GPG grant offer letter has now been signed by HCC and the University of Hull.

GPG (Aura) PhD placements update; five possible projects have been identified by UoH / Aura for OSW PhD projects, four will be progressed, with recruitment being the most difficult issue. It is planned to have these starting in September / October 2017.

GPG (Aura) Visiting appointments update; two applications are underway and look promising, two more organisations have been identified to provide VA's, further discussions are taking place. Appointments will be initiated on an ongoing basis from September 2017.

O&M Hub; extensive discussions have taken place between RDI Strand, UoH and OREC for the development of structured O&M innovation programmes. It is intended that Heads of Terms allowing this activity to take place will be agreed by the end of July. This activity will be initiated within the operations phase of GPGP and continue beyond, creating a lasting legacy for the Programme.

Regional Innovation Audit; a decision has been made on a suitable delivery partner and a kick off meeting is currently being organised. This work will deliver an in-depth picture of both the current 'state of play' and 'innovation potential' for the Humber, by September 2017.

Engagement with other funders: communication and joint working with the ERDF SparkFund delivered by the University of Hull continues to be strong, with several cross-referrals and instances of joint working to deliver maximum support to local businesses.

Key Observations

The new GPGP RDI Strand management structure is in place and the wider team is being identified and recruited. As laid out under 'Strand Progress', above, progress towards the key delivery objectives for this financial year is good. During this transition period, emphasis is being placed upon developing a fast, efficient and responsive service for all companies referred to, or making enquiries to, the strand.

Site Assembly Strand

Strand progress

ERGO Centre - Construction is well underway on site and is on schedule to complete by the end of the year.

Branding for the project has finally been agreed which will facilitate the next stage of activity, such as:

- Erection of construction sign board with relevant Greenport supporting logos.
- ERYC press office organising a ground breaking ceremony for late July with Cllr Parnaby, Tim Rix, Dave Richards, and Lord Haskins as suggested names for photo opportunity.
- Marketing collateral to be finalised now branding is in place - brochure, website, signage etc. Main ERGO sign on the building fronting the main road will be the 'ERGO' logo in raised lettering with halo lighting illuminating it adjacent to ERYC and University of Hull logo's in black.
- Discussions ongoing with Wykeland and ERYC V&E on proposed rental levels.
- Prospectus for Cafe operator has been drafted and will now go to market - target specific operators directly in addition to general advert/call on ERYC website and media channels.

Goole Intermodal Terminal - Site investigation tenders have now been issued by ERYC I&F via the YORconsult Framework and are working towards the following timescale:

- Tender issue - w/c 26th June
- Tenders back - 14 July 2017

- Contract award - 28 July 2017
- Initial meeting with consultant - August 2017
- Starting investigations in September 2017

Barring any problems with the results from the investigations, this will ensure expenditure is broadly in line with the Year 6 delivery profile.

Beverley Grovehill - The Grovehill Site Options report funded by the Green Port Site Assembly strand is in the final stages of completion by Capita, and includes work by G L Hearn Ltd around user demand, and property reviews.

The report suggests that Beverley Grovehill will not naturally emerge as a preferred location for Green Port linked renewables supply chain activity/ investment. Even if all adjoining land owners agree to market/develop the overall 23 acre site as one 'offer' it will still be more suited to serving the local market with indigenous growth options. This may still include users from the emerging renewable energy sector but not exclusively.

This conclusion is drawn mainly because of the location of the site. Green Port consultees have indicated that they prefer direct access and co-location within the Humber port area. Even taking into account the new Beverley southern relief road, Grovehill lacks that direct connectivity to the ports complex and therefore cannot compete with the offer of the Enterprise Zone sites at Paull, Brough, Melton and Goole.

All partners will be considering the options presented within the report over the coming months with a view to taking an informed decision as to how and when the site should be brought to market.

Melton Rail Feasibility Study - Aecom have completed the report and presented final report findings to partners and Omya (site owners). Omya are taking forward recommendations and using information contained within the report to target occupiers.

Sugarbeet Feasibility Work - Future Food Solutions (FFS) have completed the bulk of the report but the conclusion is pending due to on-going discussions with a major Dutch bio economy investor who are interested in the Goole area. Reps from FFS are attending the next Goole EZ Meeting in July to present findings so far and discuss the implications for the relevant land owners.

Brough Phase 3 Link Road - ERYC I&F have started design work to get the project to an advanced stage in order to attract potential underspend from Local Growth Fund projects. Previous concept designs are being amended to provide an access for the EZ site as current arrangements are constraining growth. A major Eco Modular housing enquiry for the EZ site is now looking elsewhere in the UK after being put off by the current access arrangements which reinforces the need to accelerate this project.

Freightliner Road, Hull - Site remediation proposal being developed for the former Cavaghan and Gray site off Freightliner Road. Site will appeal to much needed energy storage requirements as it is immediately opposite the primary substation serving west Hull. Further information has been requested from the site owner but the principle of a 10% contribution to circa £250,000 for site remediation costs has been agreed.

Business Grants Strand

Strand progress

Interest continues in the Greenport grants with HCC and ERYC currently working with several companies with a view to assisting companies to submit new applications.

Programme wide update

The delivery contracts for the Green Shoots element of the Programme are now signed and delivery has started. Further discussions between the skills strand and GS deliverers are ongoing to ensure complementarity of service offer.

Following approval at the June board meeting of the VR Cave funding for the Ron Dearing UTC contractual and delivery meetings have taken place with the discussions focussed primarily on planning to ensure Green Port outputs and outcomes of the investment will be achieved.

Decision required: During the latest meeting of the Green Port Impact Assessment Study Advisory Board a discussion took place regarding a suggestion that an in-depth study to understand the reasons behind the wind of change blowing over Hull and East-Riding in terms of investments. It seems that Hull has currently more than £1bn in inward investment ranging from RB investment in a research centre to the development of the fruit market and a new arena. Furthermore there seems to be optimism in the business community that may be the result of a number of factors including the Siemens/ABP investment and Hull 2017 UK City of Culture. Members of the advisory board have asked that Green Port funding could contribute to work being undertaken to investigate and capture the reasons behind this change. The work is much wider than Green Port alone and as such additional funding would be required to be sought from other sources should the Green Port board decide to support the work.

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