

**Minutes of RGF Green Port Growth Programme Board Meeting
 5.00pm, Wednesday 13th December, 2017**

Present:

Board Members: Tim Rix (TR) Chair, Alan Menzies (AM), David Morriss (DM), Scott Yates (SY), David West (DW), Paul Bell (PB), Dave Richards (DR), Deborah Gray (DG)

In attendance: Nicola Comer (NC) DCLG, Sarah Clark (SC), Kathryn Batty (KB) minutes

1	Welcome, introductions and Apologies	Action
1.1	Apologies were received from Alan Menzies (AM), Mark Jones (MJ), Scott Yates (SY) and David Morris (DM).	
1.2	Deborah Gray (DG) representing MJ.	
2	Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
2.2	SC confirmed all actions from the previous meeting had been completed.	
3	Declarations of interest	
3.1	To be declared under each item of the agenda.	
4	Opportunity for support/investment	
4.1	DG advised that the development of the blade storage facility is on target. Siemens Gamesa are recruiting 200 factory workers, bringing the total to 1064.	
	Aura Innovation Centre full business plan	
5.1	DW presented highlights from the Aura Innovation Centre Full business plan which had been further developed to include more detailed information on costs, outcomes and outputs, along with a full state aid assessment, following feedback from the September 17 Board meeting.	
5.2	The Board discussed the plan, agreeing that it was a good business case. DG queried how inward investment discussed within the business plan would be secured. DW explained that the physical building would act as an enabler to attract investors.	
5.3	DW explained that in terms of job outputs the weighting is different to other programmes due to it being innovation focused, and also acknowledged that Aura will have a part to play in supporting opportunities arising from issues with productivity and that this also presents a sensitive balance regarding the impact on jobs against gains in productivity. Much of the technology will reduce the need for large numbers of technicians.	
	A discussion was held as to how impact measures on productivity are captured.	

	<p>DW advised that there is no definitive answer on that at the moment and they would be working with the Programmes team to define the measures and indicators. DR stated that it will be about how we work together to understand the dynamics between productivity and jobs. SC advised that the project can be contracted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. DR advised that there would be a formal evaluation of the site post GPGP completion and if a surplus was identified then any underspend would be worked back through the funding model.</p>	
5.4	<p>Project Aura has received letters of support from Siemens Gamesa, ORE Catapult and the Humber LEP which were circulated to board members prior to the meeting. SC confirmed that DM had provided his approval via email in advance of the meeting. DW noted the observations made by DM.</p>	
5.5	<p><u>Decision:</u> Approved; subject to the University securing all other funding associated with the project.</p>	
6	Green Port Growth Programme legacy	
6.1	<p>PB advised that both East Riding and Hull City Council's are analysing the strands in terms of where the future need is and identifying areas of best practice, whilst also considering where funding is going to come from post GPGP. PB stated that it is recognised that the LEP need to be involved. The focus is to look at the local supply chain and consider how that can be taken forward. It is recognised that the new agenda is focusing on productivity, so the forward plan will look at how we can make the most of this opportunity, utilising the skills that the Programme has helped to develop. TR stated that it is common in British organisations for people to be promoted to middle management positions however this is often done without adequate training.</p>	
6.2	<p>PB advised that a request to extend the GPGP by one year is also being considered.</p>	
6.3	<p>NC advised that the current European Programme will run to completion (delivery to 2023), and advised that an extension request for the GPGP would be considered. A discussion was held regarding utilising different pots of funding to support the supply chains. SC advised that the GPGP Business Support strand currently operate in that way, offering advice and support to the supply chain about what is involved and what support is available.</p>	
6.4	<p>TR advised that unlike other sectors, there are numerous recognised accreditations for offshore wind. DR advised that work is underway to look at this issue.</p>	
6.5	<p><u>Action:</u> DR to follow up with interested private sector investors including TR and feedback to a future board meeting.</p>	
6.6	<p>DG advised that the GPGP Skills strand are reviewing next steps to take the Skills Bank proposal forward.</p>	
7	Strand update report; highlights and recommendations	
7.1	<p>The Board noted the report.</p>	

8	DCLG/BEIS Update	
8.1	No further update to the above.	
9	AOB	
9.1	SC advised that given the time of the year, the January 18 meeting may be cancelled if no papers come forward.	
	Meeting closed at 5.10pm	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting: 5pm, Wednesday 10th January 2018, Room 1, County Hall Beverley</p> <p><i>*to be confirmed pending agenda items coming forward *</i></p>	