



Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 12th March 2014

Strand Update

Skills Strand

Engineering Apprenticeships - The 2013-14 target for engineering apprenticeship starts is 100. This target has been exceeded with 128 starts and some applications still pending.

Engineering Up-Skilling - There is no real change on this strand. Against a target of 70 up-skilling packages for 2013-14, 62 applications have been received, most of which have been or are being processed. It is very likely that the target of 70 up-skilling packages will be exceeded.

Specific Skills - 17 applications for specific skilling packages have been or are being processed during 2013-14 for which period no specific skills packages target actually exists. To date, all applications have been from [REDACTED]. Recent discussions with [REDACTED] suggest that they will be increasing the number of specific skills training packages throughout the coming months with the creation of further additional jobs as a direct result of GPGP support.

NEETS Project - On 20th November 2013 the Board approved the development of a NEETS Pathway project. Unfortunately, this additional activity cannot go ahead in its current form because of the BIS ruling preventing the use of RGF monies being spent on beneficiaries under 18 years of age. Consideration is now being given to a project to support specifically members of disadvantaged groups aged 25 years or older.

Business Support Strand

This month the project has:

- 3 Enquiries
- Enrolled 4 companies
- 4 reviews offered and 1 completed
- 3 grants and 3 consultancy payments processed
- 6.5 Jobs Created

Grants and Consultancy Support (to date)

- Grants and consultancy support processed for payment - £25,210
- Committed grants and consultancy support costs - £72,546
- Percentage of grant spent by purchasing through local businesses - 79% Hull and East Riding, 16% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 5% out of Yorkshire and Humber.

Evolutive - The team are working with the programme management team to optimise the database's reporting capabilities. The team will prepare training for other strands over the coming months.



Links with other Programmes / Business Opportunities – The Strand Manager had a meeting with Winning Pitch to discuss their proposal to the Humber LEP with regard to offering a carbon energy project to local businesses and how this fits in with the present support offered to businesses through the GPGP. A separate meeting took place with Sirius Minerals who are responsible for the York Potash planning applications in North Yorkshire. The Strand Manager is now working with the related local councils to work on an effective Supply Chain Engagement Strategy with the Sirius to increase opportunities for our local businesses.

Procurement - The framework for consultants for the programme is now live on YORtender, closes 26th March 2014.

Marketing - Brief editorial on GPGP submitted to Business Link Magazine to support their March issue where they will be focusing on the numerous renewables / ports investment opportunities that exist across the county.

Success Story - Martin Dixon Ltd. The business support team started work with Martin Dixon Ltd in June 13, who as a well-established company in plumbing, heating, electrical and mechanical services had identified the renewables sector as a huge potential for the business to further development and grow. The company was awarded a GPGP grant in September to support its development into the Solar Panel market enabling them to offer a local service, provided by a local installer and to provide local employment. Since their move into the Solar market this work has resulted in a turnover which is now approaching £1m and the company has directly employed 17 new full time employees and 1 part time employee. This is a huge success exceeding even their own expectations. The business support strand has entered the company into this year's East Ridings Chairman's Awards.

Site Assembly Strand

Further to previous Board reports, Amey were appointed from the ERYC contractors framework to carry out some further site investigation works for the Paull site on the back of information requests from potential occupiers (Tier 1 suppliers).

Unfortunately the work that we hoped would accelerate the development potential of the site by discharging 2 of the planning conditions has been halted. Amey had been engaged through the East Riding's framework and agreed that East Riding's Engineering Team would act as project lead. Amey provided us with a scope of works which by nature would involve fairly intrusive site investigation work. ABP subsequently expressed that at this point in time ABP are not willing to request access to the site for this level of work. They are in the position of negotiation with the tenant and have agreed that he can farm until the latest point possible. The land has been cropped and some work already undertaken has resulted in a compensation claim from the tenant. ABP's position is once they get a final investment decision they will be ready to progress the works but in the absence of that they are not prepared to let any further site work be carried out.



ABP can still get on and discharge the condition for the haul road element of the site and this is something they still intend to do.

Early stage work has begun on investigating additional potential opportunities to assist with site investigation, feasibility and other site preparation work for the new footpath around the proposed Green Port Dock site as well as investigative works required to develop the Northern Gateway Roundabout to allow 24 hour movement along the haul road.

Inward Investment Strand

Eastern Park and Ride Feasibility - Under the ERYC Framework, agreements have been signed and Grontmij has been contracted to carry out the Eastern Park and Ride feasibility study. Grontmij is currently scoping the first phase of the study (potential usage of the service), which is expected to be completed by the end of March. Phase 2 (site layout) & Phase 3 (cost benefit) will follow thereafter. GPGP expenditure for the feasibility study is profiled to be drawn down in the next financial year.

Humber Skills Capacity Building Centre (HSCBC) - Archomai was appointed to develop the business case for the Energy focused Humber Skills Capacity Building Centre which through the utilisation of commercial simulators will improve the employability and productivity of the local and regional community. The final draft of the Business Plan has been submitted and recommends a four phased programme for delivery of the HSCBC and provides a three year financial case.

- **Phase 1.** Basic simulators (Validation of model; EAC) moving to use of mobile units and Freedom Centre Atrium for employability assessment.
- **Phase 2.** Mobile units to schools, colleges, community centres etc for sector specific engagement sessions.
- **Phase 3.** Full mission simulators, both mobile and SCBC hub based.
- **Phase 4.** Centre of Excellence for offshore training.

Partners have provided feedback and the final version of the Business Plan is anticipated by mid March.

GPGP funding for this feasibility study is expected to fall within this financial year. To progress the development works for this project the Local Growth Fund is being looked at for eligibility and suitability.

Research and Development Strand

Appointment of R&D Support and Fund Director - Dr Alan Lowdon commenced at the University of Hull on 1st March. Dr Lowdon will attend the Board meeting to introduce himself and set out his priorities in the post of R&D Director over the next 6 months.



Business Grants Strand

It is estimated that £16m of funding has been committed by the Humber LEP out of the £20m RGF 3 pot. The deadline for expenditure to have been made under this programme is by the end of the calendar year 2014. Agreement was made by the Board earlier in the Programme to delay the launch of the GPGP business grants funding until RGF 3 has been fully committed, reflecting the shorter deadlines associated with this programme. It is anticipated that this RGF 3 project will be fully committed by May 2014.

Green Port Growth Programme Year 3 Delivery Plan

The first draft of the Year 3 Delivery Plan for the Programme has been developed and circulated to a limited audience at present. Following the receipt of any amends or additions the Plan will be circulated for Board approval, prior to final sign off by BIS and DCLG.

Sarah Clark
Programmes Manager
5th March 2014