



## Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013

### Strand Update

#### Skills Strand

**Engineering Apprenticeships** - There have been 76 applications approved for Level 3 Engineering Apprentices all of which are due to be paid in this claim period. This is a slightly higher than the previously reported 65 figure. Going forward into the next claim period we currently have approx 35+ applications pending, if all pending applications are successful then the profile of 100 for the year will have been exceeded. We are planning to host a breakfast networking event in the New Year (mid January), for companies that we currently engage with, in order to highlight what other opportunities they may be able to access under the GGP.

**Engineering Up-Skilling** - There is a slight change due to a couple of companies no longer wishing to access the subsidy due to staff leaving / moving. We currently have 60 applications, 24 of which have been paid with a further 29 pending evidence to make payments and 7 pending assessment and administrative set up.

**Wage Subsidies – Disadvantaged Groups** - As previously reported at the last Board meeting there has been no changes to date and we are continuing to specifically market this strand when out on company visits and this will also be an area we will promote at the networking breakfast event.

**Specific Skills** - To date we have received 4 applications under this strand all have been approved and paid. There are several applications pending from Bostonair, of which there is a separate paper submitted to the Board as Bostonair have challenged the current eligibility rules of the Programme. Please see Agenda Item 5.

#### **Additional activity approved at 20/11/13 Board meeting:**

- **NEETS Pathway Project** – Action to date: This is currently in development and meetings have already taken place to progress ASAP in the New Year.

#### **Additional activity requested by Board at 20/11/13 meeting to be worked up and ready for future Board decision as and when timing is right:**

- **Broadening the range of apprenticeships on offer** – Action to date: Further discussions will need to be had to establish what alternate apprenticeships could be offered.
- **Offering wage subsidies to first year of Level 2 apprenticeships to encourage continuation to Level 3** – Action to date: This could be ready to start asap as the Board decide the time is right.
- **Offer Level 3 frameworks to those already working at Level 2 in engineering/marine transport**, irrespective of age. Programme would pay proportion of training costs not currently met by SFA along with compensation for time spent on training. Could be done within current apprenticeship line. Action to date - In development stage.
- **Supported internship programme for graduates**. Could be funded under disadvantaged groups as long as they had been without work for at least 6 months. Action to date - In development stage.

### **Business Support Strand**

This month the project has:

- 5 Enquiries
- Enrolled 3 companies
- 1 review offered
- 1 grant approval by board
- 2 approvals for Consultancy support, 1 commissioned
- 2 grant payment processed

### **Outcomes to date against Year 2 Delivery Plan**

- Projected 40 Businesses supported – 44 to date
- 1 job claimed, supported 4 (claimed through skills), 127.5 jobs forecasted (to be claimed between 2014 and 2017).

### **Grants and Consultancy Support**

- Grants paid and consultancy support paid: £2,793.50
- Committed grant and consultancy support costs: £94,962.94
- Percentage of spend with local businesses: 70% Hull and East Riding, 15% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 15% Out of Yorkshire and Humber.

**Grants** - the committed spend and forecasted jobs has increased this month with more grants being processed with imminent defrayal dates for the upcoming year two, quarter 3 claim.

**Procurement** - delays to Framework due to ongoing discussions with procurement, legal and audit. The team are in the process of determining the best route of proceeding. Legal have requested all one-to-one consultancy support be processed as grants.

**Links with other Support Programmes** - the project continues to facilitate good working relationships with other support programmes to maximise business advice and support to local companies. However it is recognised that with additional funding being allocated to national programmes this is likely to be detrimental to the GPGP due to saturation.

To reduce any **RISK** the project manager met with the recently appointed MAS specialist advisor, Fred Mead, for the 'GROW: Offshore Wind' programme to discuss aims and objectives of both programmes and how to proceed in working collectively to the benefit of local businesses. It was agreed MAS will produce a flowchart of support they can offer and carry out a mapping exercise to examine potential cross-over areas of support between the programmes. MAS also informed us that they have been given instructions via Grant Thornton, that MAS can't share company information due to data protection.

Overall working between the project and Growth Accelerator was discussed in a meeting with Jim Keane (Director at Winning Pitch) and Mike Egar (GA Area Director Yorkshire and Humber). It was confirmed that



ERDF money had been secured and that additional days of support will be available to companies at no additional cost.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> December, The Grimsby Institute Group is launching the GREAT Project which will directly compete against GPGP by offering FREE one to one support to businesses to improve their productivity, innovation and development within the green renewable environment.

**Business Directory** – is in its final stages, awaiting second draft from FRED marketing with amendments. Before going live, the team plan to trial the directory with a cross section of 20 enrolled companies, key GPGP staff and a selection of ERYC business services staff.

**Customer First** - The Business Services team has retained Customer First accreditation for the 9<sup>th</sup> year with full compliance and excellent feedback. As a new project within the service, GPG Business Support was part of the assessment and contributed to this success. It was a useful standards check for the project's customer service delivery in terms of supporting local companies across a diverse region and our relationships with key partners, agencies and networks.

### **Site Assembly Strand**

Amey ([www.amey.co.uk](http://www.amey.co.uk)) have been 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).

The work comprises 3 strands which are:

- A geophysical survey
- A contaminated land survey
- Ground condition survey for construction works

They are currently scoping the works to provide a cost estimate but we believe it will be £100k+. The Geophysical and contaminated land surveys will also discharge conditions 30 and 31 of the Paull LDO.

### **Inward Investment Strand**

**Green Port Hull website** - is being updated (off line) to reflect the imminent submission of the reserved matter for Alexandra Dock, Paull and the planning application for the Haul Road. A meeting has been set with ABP to take place in January 14 to ensure that local benefit is included in the contracts.

**Brochures** – development work on the comprehensive inward investor brochures is progressing.

**Renewables Exhibition Feedback** – THMA are in the process of gathering feedback from all SME's who took a place at the Humber Renewables stand, feedback will be shared once received.

**Additional activity approved at 20/11/13 Board meeting:**

- **Skills Capacity Building Centre** Feasibility planning (including options, phasing, timescales, outcomes and potential funding opportunities) - Action to date: Hull City Council have entered into a contract with the Freedom Centre to support the development of the project. The Freedom Centre in turn have contracted with Archomai to undertake the piece of work on their behalf. Archomai have met their first project milestone which was to have fully scoped the idea by the end of November 2013. Subsequent milestones are to have drafted an initial business plan by 31st December 2013 and by 31st January to have completed the project. Both milestones are expected to be met.
- **East Hull Park & Ride Design, Cost and Feasibility/Business Case** – Action to date: the brief has been prepared to procure the feasibility (in three stages - usage, design & cost business case) by Christmas.

**Additional activity, Board requested further information at 20/11/13 meeting:**

**Green Energy Data Centre** – for a representative from HCC to attend the December Board meeting to provide further information and explain the benefits to the programme - Action to date: agreed at HCC that not enough information is currently known about the Green Energy Data Centres and therefore will put this potential additional activity proposal on hold for now.

**Research and Development Strand**

**Appointment of R&D Support and Fund Director** –second round interviews have now been undertaken.

Interview Panel: Dr Guy Hembury (GPG / UoH), Professor Steph Haywood (UoH), Bill Walker (GPG / UoH), Gary Thornton (COO, Spencer Group), Chris Holden (Offshore Operations Manager, RES Offshore).

Arising from this process Dr Alan Lowden was selected, with the interview panel united in agreeing that he is an exceptional candidate. Currently, negotiations are underway with Alan on a performance-related contract.

There is a separate agenda item to discuss cost with VAT implication. Please see Agenda item 6.

**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 RGF 3 will be fully committed by February 2014.



### **General update**

The Green Port Growth Programme website has now gone live and can be viewed at [www.greenportgrowth.co.uk](http://www.greenportgrowth.co.uk)

The governance of the GPGP has recently been audited by ERYC's internal audit team with several recommendations being agreed. The whole process has been a useful exercise to confirm that the actions the new programmes team have put in to place matched the recommendations of the internal audit.

Sarah Clark  
Programmes Manager  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2013