

# **Preparing Young People for a Career in Offshore Wind and Potash Mining**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011**

## **Feedback to Delegates**

### **Overview**

The development of offshore wind farms and the proposed potash mine have the potential to create thousands of new jobs throughout the region, especially along the Yorkshire coast.

The more new jobs that are filled by people from the region, the greater the economic impact. This requires education and training providers to raise awareness of the career opportunities in these new sectors and to equip people with the required skills.

There is a huge opportunity for the UK, particularly our part of the country, to become a centre of expertise. However, as a supplier of skilled labour we are in competition with elsewhere in the UK and Europe.

From an industry perspective, the success of these projects depends in large part on the availability of skilled labour. There is desire to recruit locally, although this can only happen if the required skills are available in the local labour market.

The purpose of the event was to look at how the industry, the education sector and other stakeholders, can work together to grow the workforce of the future. It is in our interests to work together. These new industries need people with skills, and the education sector can provide them.

Over 75 delegates attended from across North Yorkshire, East Riding, Hull, Redcar and Cleveland, Teesside and further afield. A broad cross section of education and training providers [schools, FE colleges, Universities, private providers], careers advice services, and colleagues from other local authorities with a strategic responsibility for education and economic development were represented.

The morning session consisted of presentations from Forewind, Mainstream Renewable Power, The Crown Estate, National Skills Academy for Power, and York Potash. The aim of these was to advise delegates of the new projects, the scale and breadth of potential career opportunities, and the skills required for these roles.

The purpose of the afternoon workshops was to explore how industry and education / training providers can work together to prepare people to gain these skills.

The presenters would like to thank delegates for attending. You are exactly the audience that they want to meet and they found the interactions very positive with many good ideas and relationships that can be developed further.

To capture the main themes of the day we have worked with presenters to compile responses to the most frequently asked questions in regard to Offshore Wind [see separate document]. We will feedback about the York Potash project in a similar manner shortly.

As will be detailed in the following section an East Coast Wind Skills Planning Group is being established by the National Skills Academy Power. This is an industry led skills working group tasked developing the skills strategy for the offshore wind industry. This will then be implemented by a newly established East Coast Wind Skills Provider Network.

Many of the key issues and themes arising from the Whitby event will be fed into the planning group, and there will be an opportunity for you to get involved further through the provider network. This was not a one-off event, but part of an ongoing collaborative approach to ensure that young people living in the region can benefit these new industries.

## **Key Contacts**

- General questions or further information contact Matt Parsons at Scarborough Borough Council – [matthew.parsons@scarborough.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.parsons@scarborough.gov.uk), or phone 01723 383564.
- National Skills Academy for Power initiatives contact Rob Moore – [Rob.Moore@power.nsacademy.co.uk](mailto:Rob.Moore@power.nsacademy.co.uk)
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