

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	17 November 2010
3.	Title:	Advanced Manufacturing & Materials Sector, The Advanced Manufacturing Park and the opportunity for the region in the emerging civil nuclear industry
4.	Programme Area:	Environment & Development Services - RiDO

5. Summary

The attached report was debated by members at the Regeneration Scrutiny panel on 6th October. Members resolved to include an additional recommendation that the report be referred to cabinet and that in future budget discussions consideration be given to the importance of supporting the work done to assist the growth of the advanced manufacturing sector in Rotherham.

6. Recommendations

- i) **Cabinet notes the attached report and the recommendations of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 6th October 2010**

7. Proposals and Details

There are two updates to add to the report since it was presented on 6th October

- i. UK Coal has announced a three year extension to the AMP vision.
- ii. Sheffield City Council in partnership with Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster Councils has submitted an outline business plan to Yorkshire Forward that if approved will fund some continued activity in this sector.

The minutes from the Regeneration Scrutiny panel are reproduced below:

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING & MATERIALS SECTOR, THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PARK AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE REGION IN THE EMERGING CIVIL NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Tim O'Connell, Business, Retail and Investment Team Manager, RiDO, spoke to the submitted report, supported by a PowerPoint presentation.

The report detailed the success of the Advanced Manufacturing & Materials (AMM) Team in attracting inward investment, developments at the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP) and the opportunities for the region in the emerging civil nuclear sector.

It was pointed out that the AMM Team was wholly supported through Yorkshire Forward single pot funding. The presentation covered the following:-

- world leading technologies in Rotherham
- strength of the local supply chain
- re-balancing the economy – opportunities in the Advanced Manufacturing and Materials sector
- AMM Team achievements since April 2009
- key achievements
- location of existing companies within the AMP and its unique offer of developing transformational technologies
- UK manufacturing trends 1995 to 2007
- quality Jobs:- earnings and GVA – high tech: medium-high tech; medium-low tech; low tech
- manufacturing jobs in Rotherham
- nuclear new build opportunities and as component suppliers
- civil nuclear renaissance
- civil nuclear industry – key players
- challenges:- cessation of external funding
- why it matters
- Rotherham's favourable geographic location and links to the Humber ports.

Members of the Panel raised and discussed the following:-

- nuclear free commitment of the Council
- How many locally unemployed would qualify for the high quality jobs being created?
- the need to address the skills shortage on a variety of levels and in particular to engage with the comprehensive schools
- the risks posed to the Council though the ending of the Regional Development Agencies
- the need to stress that the AMP is located in Rotherham
- graduates who do not return to live and work in Rotherham due to the lack of top end jobs and career paths
- the recommendations in the submitted report, together with an additional recommendation to support the work of RiDO and to request consideration of continued investment in this area of work

Resolved:- (1) That the officer be thanked for the excellent presentation and the importance of the advanced manufacturing & materials sector to the Rotherham economy and the opportunities for the region as a result of the emerging civil nuclear sector be noted.

(2) That the Panel, in recognising the high value of the work undertaken by RiDO in respect of the AMP, request that Cabinet in future budget discussions, consider the continued investment in the team in order to support the future regeneration of Rotherham's developing economy.

(3) That the advanced manufacturing and materials sector should continue to be a priority target sector for Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO).

(4) That the important role of the Advanced Manufacturing Park in developing a UK manufacturing growth hub in Rotherham and supporting the continuation of the AMP vision after the UK Coal and Yorkshire Forward joint venture ends be noted.

(5) That, following the wind down and closure of the Regional Development Agencies, support be given to the retention and continued use of Yorkshire Forward's AMP assets in Rotherham to deliver the AMP vision and attract new investment into the AMM sector.

8. Finance

Covered in the attached report

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Detailed in the attached report

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Detailed in the attached report

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Interim Evaluation of Yorkshire Forward's Investment in the Programme 'Invest South Yorkshire' – Ekosgen, June 2010

Nuclear Industry Research Report – A report on the opportunities for inward investment in South Yorkshire – Anthony Cundall, April 2010

Advanced Manufacturing & Materials Sector, The Advanced Manufacturing Park and the opportunity for the region in the emerging civil nuclear industry – Report to Regeneration Scrutiny, Tim O'Connell and Anthony Cundall, RiDO, Oct 2010

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