

Productivity Pilot Projects - Summary

A summary of the successful projects is provided below:

- (1) Leeds-based SME investing in a new barcoding system to improve stock management as well as a range of new assembly cells to improve productivity and reduce errors in the production process. The business will also undertake 5s training (a recognised pre-cursor to Six Sigma).
- (2) A small business in Bradford investing in new equipment to reduce bottlenecks in the manufacturing process, which is impacting negatively on productivity. The business will also introduce 'Poka-Yoke' techniques, which aim to eliminate product defects by preventing, correcting, or drawing attention to, human errors as they occur.
- (3) A small Leeds business investing in an advanced laser machine in order to reduce bottlenecks in production and improve productivity. The business has also committed to undertaking a lean production programme, completing a skills audit to support the upskilling of existing staff and paying all non-apprenticeship staff at least the Real Living Wage (currently £9 per hour).
- (4) A large business from Kirklees investing in new robotic drills and cell automation equipment to broaden its manufacturing capability and diversify its customer base. Additionally, the business will offer training to all employees around adaptive manufacturing techniques, and will offer other manufacturers the opportunity to visit and share productivity expertise. It has also made a commitment to paying all employees the Real Living Wage within two years.
- (5) Kirklees-based SME extending its premises to accommodate new machinery, which will increase capacity and productivity. The business has also committed to undertake a skills audit and work with local schools over the next 12 months.
- (6) Bradford-based SME investing in a range of more technologically advanced equipment and software to increase efficiency and productivity. The business has also committed to developing a skills plan (including apprenticeships) and undertaking an energy audit, to identify ways to reduce waste and its use of energy and water.
- (7) A small business in Leeds fitting out new, larger premises and investing in more advanced technology/equipment to increase productivity and enable the business to meet recognised industry quality standards. The business has also committed to achieving the 'Qualicoat' quality standard by October 2020 (an internationally-recognised accreditation in their sector) and to pay small business suppliers in accordance with the Prompt Payment Code.

The outputs for each project are bespoke to the projects themselves, but below are some common ones:

- Reducing machine set-up times;
- Reducing work in progress time;
- Improving stock-picking accuracy;

- Increasing output per worker;
- Increasing production capacity;
- Increasing hourly production rate;
- Reducing waste;
- Reducing machine set up times;
- Increasing internal rate of return;
- Reducing idle time; and
- Increasing net profit.