

## **DSRL SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

- **On site spin-out businesses**
  - The NDA and DSRL socio economic team intend to meet with the Government office State aid unit early in the New Year.
  - Priority, during 2009, will be given to working up a fully scoped programme for inclusion in lifetime plan.
  - A DSRL project board to consider potential spin out businesses has now been set up and will meet early in the New Year.
  - Meetings continue with spin-out project teams to identify common areas.
  - HIE continue to assist project teams with advice and support.
  
- **Caithness Chamber of Commerce**

A Chief Executive for the Caithness Chamber of Commerce has now been appointed and takes up the position on 5<sup>th</sup> January. DSRL has supported the Chamber by providing ad hoc admin assistance. The AGM to form the new Chamber is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009.
  
- **North Highland Regeneration Fund**

The AGM of the NHRF took place in October. No further meetings have taken place since then.
  
- **Regeneration Partnership**

The Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership website has now been launched and a 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter has been published electronically. DSRL socio economic team continue to work closely with the Programme Manager.

The Advisory Board met on 15<sup>th</sup> December. DSRL was represented by Simon Middlemas.
  
- **Wick Airport transformational project**

The feasibility study for Wick airport has now been finalised and received by DSRL and HIE who funded the study jointly. The findings of the report were discussed at the Wick airports meeting in November 08.
  
- **Wick Harbour Marina**

John Mackay continues to support Wick Harbour Authority. NDA funded part of the package which will help to develop a marina development. It is expected that the pontoons will be in place in the summer 2009.
  
- **Engineering Training Facilities.**

The outline drawings for the proposed engineering training facility are now available. Peter Poulton, DSRL is assisting North Highland College. A user's forum will be set up to engage with local engineering businesses to ensure that the facility is fit for purpose. Discussions with local engineering firms have already started.
  
- **National Skills Academy Nuclear**

Support continues to be given to the National Skills Academy for Nuclear in Scotland.

Ken Nicol  
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DSRL

8<sup>th</sup> January 2009