

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

DSG/SESG(2010)M001

Minutes of DSG Socio Economic sub group meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2010 in the Pentland Hotel (large lounge), Thurso.

Present:	Derrick Milnes	Wick & Thurso Trade Union Council (chair)
	Annemarie Monteforte	HIE
	Koreen MacDougall	Caithness Partnership
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	David Flear	Highland Council
	John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group
	Pat Gallagher	Rolls Royce
	Eann Sinclair	CNSRP
	Bob Earnshaw	Thurso Community Council (DSG Vice-chair)
	June Love	DSG Secretariat/DSRL
	Ken Nicol	DSRL Socio economic manager
	Marie Mackay	DSRL (for item 7)
	Anna MacConnell	NDA Socio economic manager

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Derrick Milnes welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Carol Gunn (HIE), Rosemary Thompson (North Highland College), Murray Lamont (North Highland Tourism), Fiona MacPherson (CNSRP Inward Investment), Rod Johnstone (Scrabster Harbour Trust) and Norman Harrison (UKAEA Ltd).

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

DSG/SESG(2009)M004 refers. The minutes were taken as a true record. This was proposed by John Green and seconded by Eann Sinclair.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

The status of actions is detailed in Appendix 1.

5. COMMUNITIES FUND

Marie Mackay, DSRL tabled a summary of the recent requests received. Following discussion the recommendations were endorsed as detailed. Information on the successful requests will be circulated to all members.

6. UPDATE ON NDA COMPETITION INDUSTRY EVENT

Anna MacConnell provided a verbal update. The event will be held in the Wick Assembly Rooms, on Friday 5th February 2010. Organisation of the event was progressing well. Highland Council would host a civic reception the evening before to allow officials and members to meet with potential bidders.

There are 13 companies registered from the bidding community which brings the total to date of approximately 150 people attending.

John Clarke, NDA Commercial Director, will attend the event.

Presentations from local stakeholders are progressing well with Eann Sinclair co-ordinating information. The presentations will relate as much as possible to the emerging design of the vision document. A capability document of local supply chain has been completed and is currently at the printers.

NDA is providing funding to purchase USB sticks for the Caithness Chamber of Commerce as part of the welcoming pack for bidders. The CNSRP vision document and a local supply chain capability document will both be made available via the USB. Trudy Morris asked if there was any other documents/information for inclusion on sticks.

Registration closes on Friday (22nd January).

The 2nd part of the event will take place in Glasgow on 9th March.

Members asked if they could see the list of those who have registered for both events.

ACTION: DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A001: Anna MacConnell to provide list of registrants for NDA competition industry event (for both Caithness and Glasgow days).

7. UPDATES ON SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

CNSRP update

Eann Sinclair tabled the progress report on CNSRP activities – see DSG(2010)P002. Of note:

- Upgrades to the electricity grid line between Dounreay-Beaully, Beaully-Kintore and Beaully-Denny have been announced, bringing increased transmission capacity for marine energy projects.
- A recent announcement on off-shore wind in Moray will lead to 1.3GW field around the Beatrice oil platforms. Lot of positive implications in terms of Nigg and potential opportunities for Wick harbour.
- Funding has now been secured for an engineering feasibility study for the Berriedale Braes.
- IT connectivity is moving forward with HIE pursuing opportunities. Some of the interfaces that currently exist could be used for local interest which also supports inward investment initiatives.
- CNSRP is busy with preparations for the NDA competition industry event.
- Crown Estates are expected to announce preferred bidders in March.

John Green noted that Caithness Transport Forum had written to Stewart Stevenson who had requested a copy of the Caithness Transport Vision.

David Flear noted that Councillor Foxley is supportive of the Berriedale Braes study and was keen to see this moved forward.

David Flear also noted that the progress report outlined two additional posts. He asked whether these were funded by HIE or from the additional funding for the area. Eann Sinclair confirmed the two posts were being funded by HIE.

DSRL update

Ken Nicol provided a verbal update. Of note:

- Spin out opportunities were continuing to be considered. The Laboratory spin out project was progressing well and development of a business plan for Training was in its early stages.
- A number of discussions had taken place with the Parent Body Organisation (Babcock International) and other companies across Scotland to understand aspirations in the energy sectors to see if skills from the site could be utilised.
- Discussions have also taken place with EU skills, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Cogent. SDS is embarking on a project to map skills which people will need for the renewables sector. This will allow the site to identify gaps in skills to support transition.
- The National Skills Academy, Nuclear is holding their annual award ceremony on 11th February. The winner for the HND award is from Scotland and the three finalists for the Scottish engineering apprentice all come from Caithness. The regional winner will go forward to the national awards.

Last year Dounreay Stakeholder Group supported the event with two representatives attending the awards. Following discussion it was agreed that two places would again be offered to DSG members.

Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A002: June Love to circulate invitation to DSG members to attend National Skills award in Manchester on 11th February.

- A capture plan had been drafted for the International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility (IFMIF) facility. HIE has been leading on this project and is currently awaiting a decision from Scottish Government on whether they would view this as 'nuclear'. A recent newsletter implied that the facility was destined for Japan but following enquires it was ascertained that a prototype facility would go to Japan but the location for the facility was still to be decided.

A discussion took place as to whether the DSG could support this potential inward investment. While it was understood that this would not move forward until a decision had been made by Scottish Government it was agreed to write offering Caithness as a perfect location for this facility.

Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A003: June Love to draft a letter promoting Caithness as an area which could host the IFMIF facility. Action complete – DSG(2010)C003.

David Flear asked what progress was being made on the fact-finding visit to Culham. June Love stated that this was currently with HIE awaiting a response from Scottish Government. David Flear thought it would be appropriate to arrange the visit now to allow those involved to gather information to make an informed decision later.

Rolls Royce update

Pat Gallagher provided a verbal update. Of note:

- Rolls Royce had recently opened up a fifth sector looking at civil nuclear and was set up to take advantage of the possible new build programme. They were currently positioning themselves to become Tier 1 contractors.
- The Rolls Royce Executive Board would be visiting Vulcan in April/May and will be taken through business plan to highlight what the workforce at Vulcan could be involved with.
- In addition, opportunities in other sectors are continuing to be pursued.

NDA update

Anna MacConnell provided a verbal update. Of note:

- Work was progressing on funding applications for direct NDA socio economic funding. The number of applications received total £3M requested funding. The NDA socio economic panel meet on 26th January to consider all applications.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- DSG(2009)C087: Sale of UKAEA Ltd – letter had been previously circulated and was taken at this meeting for information.
- DSG(2009)C097: Invitation to Babcock International to meet with DSG members.

This meeting would take place on 28th January. A number of DSG representatives had confirmed their attendance. Craig Lockhart was originally going to attend but due to unforeseen circumstances he is not unavailable. Paul Barrett (Head of Corporate Development) will attend in his place and will be accompanied by Norman Harrison.

Derrick Milnes noted that there was about two hours to meet with Babcock International and therefore it was agreed that those DSG representatives attending would meet half an hour before the meeting was scheduled to discuss questions to be raised. At present the following subjects would be raised:

- Future development of Pensions office
- General issues on socio economics
- DSRL workforce and transition
- Socio economics in contracts for the supply chain

Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A004: June Love to email DSG members to ask for any further questions to be tabled as well as indicating a 1200 hours start to allow DSG members to meet in advance. Action complete – email sent to all DSG members on 21st January 2010.

- DSG(2009)C017: Cogent award. DSG members had been asked to write a letter of support for the nomination of an individual for outstanding leadership in skills. Members had agreed and the letter had been included in the application. Unfortunately, while a very strong contender, the application was not successful

on this occasion.

- DSG(2009)C108: NDA draft business case. DSG members had responded to the secretary on views and comments on the NDA's draft business case. These views had been collated and the secretary had circulated to members for comment. The closing date for submission is 25th January.

The draft letter was discussed and a number of comments were identified, as follows:

- Need clarity on the funding for Pensions
- Recognise a number of support costs have been significantly reduced with the exception of the NDA operating costs.

Ronnie Johnstone noted that the first paragraph of the DSG submission (predictability of funding) was central. Whilst recognising the present financial climate it was imperative to keep a level of funding that will allow continued decommissioning operations on the site.

Bob Earnshaw noted that he had had a meeting with Stuart Chalmers, NDA to discuss forthcoming budgets for the site. It was expected that an announcement would be made next week.

Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A005: June Love to revise draft submission to the NDA's business plan and circulate to DSG members for final approval before submitting to NDA. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C004.*

- DSG(2010)C001: Scottish Government consultation on higher activity wastes was tabled. The secretary noted that she had requested copies of the consultation document from Scottish Government and would distribute these to members as soon as they were received.

Members agreed that this was an important issue for the DSG to consider and believed that this would not be achieved during normal business meetings. It was expected that additional meetings would need to be convened. It was also suggested that DSRL is invited to provide a presentation on this topic at the March meeting so that members can discuss the impact on site specific issues in relation to this consultation.

Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A006: June Love to request presentation from DSRL on the potential impacts for the site of the Scottish Government's consultation on higher activity waste. *Action complete – email sent to Simon Middlemas on 21st January requesting presentation.*

There being no further business, Derrick Milnes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Derrick Milnes

DSG Socio economic sub group chairman
22nd January 2010

APPENDIX 1

NEW ACTIONS

DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A001: Anna MacConnell to provide list of registrants for NDA competition industry event (for both Caithness and Glasgow days).

DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A002: June Love to circulate invitation to DSG members to attend National Skills award in Manchester on 11th February. *Action ongoing – invitation to all members sent on 22nd January – currently awaiting responses.*

DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A003: June Love to draft a letter promoting Caithness as an area which could host the IFMIF facility. *Action complete – DSG(2010)C003.*

DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A004: June Love to email DSG members to ask for any further questions to be tabled as well as indicating a 1200 hours start to allow DSG members to meet in advance. *Action complete – email sent to all DSG members on 21st January 2010.*

DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A005: June Love to revise draft submission to the NDA's business plan and circulate to DSG members for final approval before submitting to NDA. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C004.*

DSG/SESG(2010)M001/A006: June Love to request presentation from DSRL on the potential impacts for the site of the Scottish Government's consultation on higher activity waste. *Action complete – email sent to Simon Middlemas on 21st January requesting presentation.*

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

M003/A003: Secretary to invite National Nuclear Archives Project Manager to the next DSG Socio economic sub group meeting for an update. *Action ongoing – not available will be invited to next sub group meeting.*

DSG(2009)M004/A016: Koreen MacDougall to co-ordinate a small DSG group to work up a proposal to take forward community projects in a more cohesive approach. *Action ongoing – Koreen MacDougall (Caithness Partnership) will take this action forward with a small working group of DSG members*

DSG(2009)M004/A024: Randall Bargelt to distribute competition schedule to DSG members when available.

ACTIONS COMPLETED

M003/A004: Secretary to put update from Rolls Royce on the agenda for the next full DSG in September. *Action complete – Pat Gallagher was unable to attend the September meeting therefore this item will be put on December agenda.*

DSG(2009)M004/A007: All members to discuss with their respective organisations and submit views to the heritage strategy. *Action complete – reminder sent out and closing date of 8th March is now passed.*

DSG(2009)M004/A014: DSG to write to Highland Council to re-inforce need for the Pentland Firth profile to be raised and the capabilities within Caithness. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C002.*

DSG(2009)M004/A015: Randall Bargelt to raise the issue of raising the profile of the Pentland Firth and the capabilities within Caithness with the CNSRP Executive Board. *Action complete.*

DSG(2009)M004/A017: Secretary to draft letter, for sub group approval, to Roy Kirk emphasising the importance of one group looking at issues relating to the CNSRP including the Pentland Firth. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C095. Response received from Roy Kirk confirming that the proposal had been tabled and accepted at the Advisory Board.*

DSG(2009)M004/A018: DSG to write to Crown Estates mirroring concerns about delays in seabed leasing. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C096.*

DSG(2009)M004/A019: All sub group members to pass any comments or questions to June Love on DSRL's socio economic strategy and plan who would ensure a response from Ken Nicol (DSG(2009)C080 and C079 refers). *Action complete – discussions will continue at sub group meetings*

DSG(2009)M004/A020: DSG to write to Babcock International (through Simon Middlemas) inviting them to meet with stakeholder group members at the earliest opportunity, *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C097. Proposed dates are 21/22nd January or 28/29th January 2009.*