

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

**DSG/SESG(2010)M002**

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic sub group meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in the Pentland Hotel (large lounge), Thurso.

Present:	Derrick Milnes	Wick & Thurso Trade Union Council (chair)
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary member
	Carol Gunn	HIE
	Koreen MacDougall	Caithness Partnership
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Debbi Stacey	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	David Flear	Highland Council
	Rod Johnstone	Scrabster Harbour Trust
	John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group
	Pat Gallagher	Rolls Royce, Vulcan
	Eann Sinclair	CNS Regeneration Partnership
In addition:	June Love	DSG Secretary, DSRL
	Marie Mackay	DSRL (for item 5).

**MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Derrick Milnes welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed Debbi Stacey who was standing in for Trudy Morris (Chamber) and Rod Johnstone. He also noted Alastair MacDonald's attendance. Fiona MacPherson, CNSRP Inward Investment Manager had recently left HIE and therefore would no longer be represented at DSG.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Trudy Morris (Caithness Chamber of Commerce), Gordon Jenkins (North Highland College), Norman Harrison (UKAEA Ltd), Anna MacConnell (NDA) and Ken Nicol (DSRL).

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting (DSG/SESG(2010)M001) were taken as read. This was proposed by Koreen MacDougall and seconded by Eann Sinclair.

**4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS**

Appendix 1 provides details on the status of actions. Derrick Milnes noted:

- A20: Stuart Chalmers to clarify the socio-economic element of the Sellafield contract. This action was ongoing.
- A003: Invite project manager for the national nuclear archives to the meeting. Stewart Henderson was unavailable to attend and therefore this action would be carried on to the next sub group.
- A005: Site visit. The secretary would be emailing out to all members with suggested dates for a site visit. Those interested should confirm their attendance.

## DRAFT

- 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.

Koreen MacDougall had issued a short note on community projects. Derrick Milnes noted that the question for DSG was whether the Viewfirth project should continue or whether it would be better to consider other options. The Viewfirth proposal would cost approximately £10M and the NDA had intimated that if there was a suitable project they would consider gifting the land towards the project. The secretary noted that she had been trying to contact David Brookfield who was leading the Viewfirth proposal to find out his views but unfortunately they had been unable to meet before the sub group meeting. It was agreed that David Brookfield should be contacted before any decisions were made on whether this should continue.

If the project looked like it was not going to progress satisfactorily then DSG would consider approaching the NDA to find out if the sale of land could benefit another community project in the area or be donated to the LLW community fund.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A001: June Love to contact David Brookfield to find out what progress had been made on Viewfirth project.**

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A002: June Love to circulate an email, following discussions with David Brookfield on Viewfirth, requesting views on the way forward.**

### 5. **COMMUNITY FUND**

DSG(2010)C023 was noted. These requests had been taken by correspondence and endorsed.

DSG(2010)C031 was tabled. This was a new list of requests. Interest was declared as follows:

- **10/11:** Ronnie Johnstone
- **04/11:** Carol Gunn

David Flear asked what guarantee was given by organisations if funding was being sourced from other bodies as well as the community fund. Marie Mackay stated that most organisations came back if full funding was not secured to explain how funding was spent.

Following discussion the requests, as recommended, were endorsed.

### 6. **UPDATES ON SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

DSG(2010)P009, CNSRP progress report, was tabled. Eann Sinclair noted the following:

- Since the Crown Estate announcement in March, HIE, Chamber of Commerce and CNSRP have been trying to get information from developers in terms of what procurement plans they may have. One of the developers has provided a draft procurement plan which is helping the local supply chain to get a sense of whether they have the capability. There appears to be a confidence that local companies currently have the capacity to bid.

Trudy Morris and HIE were trying to work with the local companies to produce a capability document which will be included in procurement lists.

In addition, information on the type of posts developers would need to recruit has been identified and work will continue to work with developers on both procurement and recruitment.

Discussions with developers will continue and there will be further announcements following the 'mini-round' of seabed leases that Crown Estates were currently working on.

David Flear noted that there had been a meeting held in t3UK a couple of months ago. He asked what progress had been made since then. Eann Sinclair said that he was waiting until the end of this month before issuing the notes of the meeting. This was due to a follow up group meeting to discuss skills with regard to apprenticeships. As soon as the follow up group had met for the second time Eann would circulate the notes of all meetings to ensure a co-ordinated approach. He noted that a separate strand of this workstream was on workforce transition and this was also being pursued.

David Flear noted that Highland Council would be represented at a HITRANS meeting due to be held in Orkney. Eann Sinclair said that the CNSRP Advisory Board had also requested a visit to Orkney and this was in the process of being organised for mid May.

Rod Johnstone said that there was a HITRANS freight board meeting being held in Thurso on 11<sup>th</sup> May and that Orkney Island Council would be holding a suppliers day event on Monday. It was also noted that NSIG (North Scotland Industries Group) also intend to hold a marine event for Caithness.

Eann Sinclair felt that it would be better to organise a developer's event where the aim would be to meet with developers separately rather than an open forum.

Derrick Milnes noted that there needed to be a closer working relationship with Orkney. He asked what NSIG's remit was. The secretary noted that the Caithness Chamber of Commerce and NSIG had reciprocal membership arrangements and the Chamber could keep DSG informed of NSIG activities.

- Following the departure of Fiona MacPherson, CNSRP Inward Investment Manager, HIE were currently working on arrangements for inward investment resources.

Derrick Milnes noted that three posts had effectively been lost from CNSRP and HIE (Inward Investment and Marine energy (CNSRP) and operations post (HIE). Ronnie Johnstone stated that the lost of three key posts was worrying at this time.

- Ronnie Johnstone noted that he had attended the CNSRP Advisory Board. He recognised that there was an opportunity to question senior people from the various organisations. He noted that he had, again, raised concerns regarding the amount of press Caithness was receiving when it came to marine energy. He noted that Highland Council had provided a response to the DSG letter on this topic (DSG(2010)C015 refers). He stressed that this was an issue that the county could not afford to lose sight of – press and radio coverage of marine energy appeared to constantly miss out Caithness and he felt that marketing of

the area was an essential part of selling the area.

Eann Sinclair assured members that Highland Council was taking Caithness very seriously. David Flear noted this was all about public perception and believed that the CNSRP Executive Board had the potential to do some PR. He did, however, note that the Executive Board was a closed shop and no-one was very clear on what was being discussed and agreed.

Eann Sinclair stated that working groups were now starting to be formed from the Advisory Board which meant some of the smaller projects were being taken forward and reported back up. David Flear said that the advisory board minutes should be appended to the back of Highland Council minutes.

David Flear noted that he and the DSG chair would be meeting with Roy Kirk shortly and would ask whether the posts vacated by key personnel had been considered in the context of what is required for Caithness. In addition they would be asking about the additional £12M and how this has been spent over the last three years. Eann Sinclair noted that HIE has stated that commitment to the CNSRP has not changed. Ronnie Johnstone said that it was back to perception.

Carol Gunn noted that two of the posts had come to the end of their contracts. The Chamber of Commerce was now much more involved in marine energy and was working with the supply chain. She assured members that the reduction of three posts was not a 'slash and burn' exercise.

David Flear noted that Fiona MacPherson's post had been created because of the CNSRP and he would have thought that this was something that the Advisory Board should have discussed before decisions had been made. Eann Sinclair said that commitment from the partnership organisations was still strong and the Executive Board had asked him to produce a revised resource plan.

David Flear asked members if they wished any topics to be raised at the meeting with Roy Kirk they should contact the secretary.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A003: All SESG members to provide any questions or views they would like to raise with HIE to Secretary.**

## **7. DOUNREAY JOBS**

Derrick Milnes noted a letter sent by Simon Middlemas, DSRL on the potential reduction of 180 posts over the next three years (DSG(2010)C026 refers).

Derrick stated that this was a wake up call to everyone, jobs were now starting to go and this would inevitably impact on the supply chain as well as the DSRL workforce. He emphasised that there now needed to be consistent and co-ordinated approach to ensuring that everyone was working together, whether that was attracting inward investment, lobbying political bodies, marketing the area, etc.

He noted that the Trades Council and DSG were attending political conferences and lobbying on regeneration of the area. They had drafted up a flier for the conferences but this needed to be updated to ensure that everyone in the county was giving consistent messages.

It was agreed that members would consider the key messages required and feed views to the secretary who would collate all information.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A003: All SESG members to consider key messages for the area and send to the Secretary (see *DSG/Wick & Thurso Trades Council*)**

**8. CAITHNESS REGENERATION CONTACTS**

Derrick Milnes noted that at the recent Lib Dem political party conference contact had been made with George Lyon, MEP. This had been followed up by a letter inviting Mr Lyon to visit Caithness (DSG(2010)C024 refers). Once a date for this visit has been identified the secretary would pull together a number of key organisations, including CNSRP, HIE, Chamber, Council, DSG and unions to ensure the visit is focussed on the opportunities for the area. David Flear suggested that a discussion at the business meeting of the Council might also be worthwhile.

**9. NDA COMPETITION AND NATIONAL NUCLEAR ARCHIVES**

Derrick Milnes noted that responses had been received to the DSG letters regarding competition and the archives.

DSG(2010)C029: competition. Following discussion it was agreed to write back to the NDA to ask for clarification of who in HIE and the Highland Council the NDA would be discussing the socio economic criteria for the Dounreay competition with. Again it was emphasised that it would be important that there was an opportunity for local input .

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A004: Secretary to draft letter to NDA asking for clarification of who in HIE and HC they would be contacting with regard to the socio economic criteria for the Dounreay competition.**

DSG(2010)C030: National nuclear archive. David Flear expressed his disappointment that this project had floundered under corporate NDA. The local NDA team had made some progress but because of the time lapse of handing the project over it was now uncertain whether the required funding would be identified. Following discussion it was agreed to keep the pressure on emphasising the socio economic benefit of the archives and the time lapse in progressing this project.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A005: Secretary to draft letter to NDA regarding response to national nuclear archives.**

**10. PROPOSAL TO REFORMAT DSG SUB GROUPS**

DSG(2010)P010 was tabled for discussion. David Flear noted that following the AGM the new chairman and vice-chair had met to discuss the make-up of the sub groups and had suggested a more focussed way forward. He stressed that the proposed business meeting was not a decision making body – it would consist of the chair, vice chair and sub group chairs and would be a vehicle for focussing the main DSG agenda on key issues. The suggestion of combining the site operations and environment sub groups was because so many of the issues overlapped and it would strengthen the site operations sub group.

Members were content with the proposal. The secretary noted that this paper would also be discussed at the forthcoming site operations and environment sub groups and following discussions there would be tabled for endorsement at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A006: Secretary to circulate DSG(2010)P010 to site operations and environment sub group members for discussion and put**

on DSG agenda for 16<sup>th</sup> June.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

DSG(2010)C025: NDA response to business plan consultation was tabled. The following was discussed:

- Training skills appeared to focus more on future new build which does not apply to Scotland.
- Priority areas for socio economics should be reviewed.
- Definition of planned assured funding for Dounreay needed to be clarified – was it planned or assured.

It was agreed to write to the NDA seeking clarification on these issues.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A007: Secretary to draft letter to NDA raising issues in business plan including skills, socio economics and planned assured funding for Dounreay.**

- **LLW Community fund:** John Green asked what progress was being made with the community fund. The secretary stated that legal documents (heads of agreement, memo of understanding, etc) were currently being drafted and would be sent to NDA legal team for comments before these were finalised. Following finalisation of the legal documents the DSG working group would be reconvened to take the project forward to the next stages of advertising and identifying a funding body. David Flear noted that Highland Council had endorsed three councillors to take part – for Caithness it would be David Flear and John Rosie and George Farlow for North Sutherland.

John Green asked whether Niall Smith (Caithness Voluntary Group) could get involved. The secretary noted that Caithness Voluntary Group was part of the working group and that she would include Niall Smith in all correspondence relating to the fund.

- **Scottish sites meeting:** Derrick Milnes noted that John Deighan would represent DSG at the Scottish Sites meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. John was on union business on Wednesday and therefore had taken the opportunity to contact Jamie Stone, MSP and arranged a meeting for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Derrick noted that again, consistent messages were required and if members had any issues they would like to see raised at that meeting they should contact the secretary as quickly as possible.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A008: All SESG members to provide secretary with any issues they would like to see raised in meeting with Jamie Stone, MSP.**

- **Change of personnel in Babcock International:** Norman Harrison had written to SESG (DSG(2010)C032) providing an update on changes in personnel. Norman Harrison would now be moving on to strategy and Roger Hardy would be taking over Norman's current role which includes the Dounreay site. It was agreed that an invitation be sent to Roger Hardy to meet with DSG at his earliest convenience.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A009: Secretary to write to Roger Hardy to invite him to meet with DSG members.**

- **NDA support costs:** It was noted that NDA were currently carrying out a review of all of its support costs (over the 19 sites). It was agreed that NDA should be invited to discuss the feasibility of supporting the NDA in reducing support costs by considering centralisation of support activities and relocating them to Caithness. It was also suggested that this could also be used to argue the case for support services from Highland Council, HIE and other public sector organisations.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A010: SESG to invite NDA Chief Executive to nominate NDA representatives to consider centralising support services in Caithness to support the vision of the NDA to reduce their overall support service costs.**

There being no further business Derrick Milnes thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Derrick Milnes  
DSG Socio economic sub group chairman

18<sup>th</sup> April 2010

## **APPENDIX 1 – PROGRESS ON ACTIONS**

### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A001: June Love to contact David Brookfield to find out what progress had been made on Viewfirth project.

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A002: June Love to circulate an email, following discussions with David Brookfield on Viewfirth, requesting views on the way forward

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A003: All SESG members to provide any questions or views they would like to raise with HIE to Secretary.

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A003: All SESG members to consider key messages for the area and send to the Secretary (*see DSG/Wick & Thurso Trades Council*)

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A005: Secretary to draft letter to NDA regarding response to national nuclear archives.

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A006: Secretary to circulate DSG(2010)P010 to site operations and environment sub group members for discussion and put on DSG agenda for 16<sup>th</sup> June.

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A007: Secretary to draft letter to NDA raising issues in business plan including skills, socio economics and planned assured funding for Dounreay.

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A008: All SESG members to provide secretary with any issues they would like to see raised in meeting with Jamie Stone, MSP.

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A009: Secretary to write to Roger Hardy to invite him to meet with DSG members.

DSG/SESG(2010)M002/A010: SESG to invite NDA Chief Executive to nominate NDA representatives to consider centralising support services in Caithness to support the vision of the NDA to reduce their overall support service costs.

### **ACTIONS CONTINUING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

DSG(2010)M001/A020: Stuart Chalmers to clarify the socio economic element of the Sellafield contract.

DSG(2009)M003/A003: Secretary to invite National Nuclear Archives Project Manager to the next DSG Socio economic sub group meeting for an update. *Action ongoing – due to change of date project manager was unable to attend.*

DSG(2009)M004/A005: June Love to organise a visit to the Dounreay site for Councillors Steven Heddle and George Farlow (and extend to other DSG members) at a convenient time. *Action ongoing – currently out to members to identify all those who wish to visit.*

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 complete – discussed at sub group meeting held in April and an agreed way forward was identified (for Viewfirth project).*



**ACTIONS COMPLETED**

DSG(2010)M001/A012: DSG to write to NDA regarding future funding for the national nuclear archives. *Action complete and response received (DSG(2010)C030).*

DSG(2010)M001/A013: Anna MacConnell to provide list of registrants for NDA competition industry event (for both Caithness and Glasgow days). *Action complete – distributed before industry event in Wick on 5<sup>th</sup> February.*

DSG(2010)M001/A014: June Love to circulate invitation to DSG members to attend National Skills award in Manchester on 11<sup>th</sup> February. *Action ongoing – invitation to all members sent on 22<sup>nd</sup> January – currently awaiting responses.*

DSG(2010)M001/A015: June Love to draft a letter promoting Caithness as an area which could host the IFMIF facility. *Action complete – DSG(2010)C003.*

DSG(2010)M001/A016: 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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010.*

DSG(2010)M001/A017: 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)M001/A019: DSG to write to NDA raising concerns regarding the socio economic element within the site competition contract. *Action complete and response received (DSG(2010)C029)..*