

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

CAITHNESS AND NORTH SUTHERLAND REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER AT 1030 HRS AT T3UK, JANETSTOWN.

- Scrabster Harbour Trust provided an update on the Scrabster Harbour Developments.
- Caithness Chamber of Commerce provided a presentation on Invest Caithness.
- Eann Sinclair had provided a progress report of the meeting, of note
 - HIE successfully secured the pilot project for superfast broadband.
 - Babcock International Group had announced investment in the Pensions Administration Offices in Thurso.
- Roy Kirk updated on inward investment. Of note:
 - Dialogue is ongoing with marine developers (taking advantage of the Developers exhibition in Thursday on 9th/10th November).
 - Number of research projects, including oil & gas, data centre financial model and pharmaceuticals.
 - Four further research projects will be undertaken within the business sector,
 - Home working
 - Small contact centres
 - Back office functions
 - Investigating opportunities for public sector jobs
 - Other work will be commissioned in the future and will be reported within the next 2-3 months.
 - Currently working on 7 active leads for potential inward investment (these can take months to years to complete).
 - The particle accelerator for Fusion (IFMIF) being investigated to see if it is a potential inward investment. Dialogue will be through Culham (which had links to the Dounreay site when it was UKAEA). Also talking to UK Government Research Council. Scottish Government has responded that they view Fusion as 'green'.
 - HIE is supporting Skills Development Scotland in the PACE initiative for those made redundant by Rok.
- A draft CNSRP action plan was tabled for discussion. Members were pleased to see something produced and discussion centred around the need for a detailed programme of activity to underpin the action plan.
- Updates were provided from around the table:
 - Thurso and Wick Trades Council: attended Labour and SNP political conferences (along with DSG representative). A good response had been received at both events with Scrabster development and the berriedale braes were highlighted. A video had been produced highlighting the Council's

concerns on Dunbar hospital (can be viewed on You tube).

- Caithness Partnership: first year or three year programme and working closely with Community Councils and community groups. Assisting with the Thurso harbour centre project and Thrumster outdoor group.
- Chamber of Commerce: will attend Scottish Renewable exhibition and conference – a number of members will also attend. Funding received for Town Centre development officer.

Workforce transition programme was awaiting funding letters from DSRL and Skills Development Scotland. NDA funding was with DECC for approval. Match funding was being sought from ESF.

- SNH: Organisational changes were taking place and effectively merging with Orkney and Shetland.
- North Highland Regeneration Fund: AGM was held on 12th November – 4th year scheme had been operating
- NDA: Director of Communications had attended NHRF AGM and was complementary on the model for this initiative.

Two meetings had been organised (one with Unions and the other led by Eann Sinclair) for discussions with the bidders for the Dounreay site.

The low level waste fund (The Caithness and North Sutherland Fund) have now appointed a Board of Directors

Working closely with DSRL looking at opportunities for socio economic benefit which may not be associated with grant aid, ie looking at potential socio economic clauses in sub contracts, etc.

DSRL would be engaging with DSG on the development of the site's socio economic plan.

National Nuclear Archives: Nothing further to report – Business case has gone to NDA Executive and a decision will be made shortly.

- DSRL: Work ongoing on lifetime plan, staffing profiles will be available from new plan. On target for post reductions for this year. Formal dialogue has started with bidders for the site. Considering ways of PBO working closer with SLC to support socio economics agenda.
- North Highland College: Construction projects were progressing well. A number of initiatives going forward including Access to College (in partnership with PPP) and a recent advert for an enterprise co-ordinator to allow curriculum development.
- Highland Council: Ackergill Towers under new management and has plans to invest. Business Gateway is looking to becoming more pro-active.