

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SOCIO ECONOMICS SUB GROUP MEETING**

**DSG/SESG(2011)M008**

**Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic Sub Group meeting held at 1330 hours in the Pentland Hotel (large lounge), Thurso on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011.**

<b>Present:</b>	Derrick Milnes	Wick and Thurso Trades Council (chair)
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary member
	Bob Earnshaw	DSG Chairman
	Koreen MacDougall	Caithness Partnership
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Alan Ogg	North Highland College
	Marcus Mennie	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Sandy Mackie	Scrabster Harbour Trust
	Eann Sinclair	CNS Regeneration Partnership
	June Love	DSG Secretary
	Ken Nicol	DSRL

**MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Derrick Milnes welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Alan Ogg, North Highland College for attending to provide an update on the Engineering, Technology and Energy Centre (ETEC).

**2. APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Apologies were received from:

Debbie Gray	North Highland College
Trudy Morris	Chamber of Commerce
David Flear	Highland Council
John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group
Anna MacConnell	NDA

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes – DSG/SESG(2011)M006 – had been circulated in advance to members. There were no comments and it was agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Koreen MacDougall and seconded by Bob Earnshaw.

No issues were raised from the minutes.

**4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS**

The status of actions can be found in Appendix 1. Of note:

- DSG(2011)M007/A023: DSG to write to the Crown Estates asking for an update on progress. The secretary noted that this action was now complete – see DSG(2011)C259.

- DSG(2001)M007/A024: Eann Sinclair, CNSRP to write to Rob Gibson, MSP updating him on CNSRP's interaction with the Crown Estates. Eann Sinclair and David Sutherland had provided a verbal update, via Gail Ross.
- DSG(2011)M007/A025: Eann Sinclair to discuss the possibility of Caithness, Orkney and Shetland working together on issues relating to renewable energy, ie the inter-connection at the next Pentland Firth Leadership Forum.  
Eann Sinclair confirmed he had raised this issue with the leadership team. There was a further meeting to be held next week between Highland Council and Orkney Islands Council and this would be raised again.
- DSG(2010)M002/A012: Eann Sinclair to develop a model on the economic impact and how this could be monitored to be shared with DSG and CNSRP Advisory Board. A draft report had been received and comments had been provided by DSRL and HIE. The consultant was currently amending the documents to take on board comments.

##### **5. ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY CENTRE (ETEC)**

Derrick Milnes handed over to Alan Ogg to provide a presentation on ETEC. A presentation was provided and this is now published on the website – see DSG(2011)C261.

Alastair MacDonald noted that the Dounreay apprentice scheme had a good reputation both in the UK and further afield. He asked if ETEC would aspire to the same. Alan Ogg responded that the Dounreay Apprentice team would move into the ETEC facility and would work closely with the North Highland College to ensure that the ETEC working ethos was comparable.

Ken Nicol noted that in the presentation it had been stated that collaboration would be key. He asked what support was being given by other local companies. Alan Ogg responded that DSRL and Nuvia had been very supportive. He acknowledged it would be good to get further support from other local companies.

Ken Nicol asked when the Operational Steering Group would be established. Alan Ogg responded that the steering group had held its first meeting a few months ago. A further meeting would be scheduled soon but it was important to get the building occupied first.

Eann Sinclair asked whether company's outwith the local area were being briefed on the facilities. He particularly wished to see a marketing and promotional plan. Alan Ogg stated that the revised business plan for the facility did recognise marketing and promotion.

Marcus Mennie noted there was a new Scottish colleges initiative which Alan acknowledged NHC was signed up to and was keeping in touch with the new project co-ordinator, Jim Brown.

Koreen MacDougall asked whether marketing material would extend to local school leavers who may be considering going away to University. Alan responded that they would be promoting ETEC to school leavers. The ERI were currently looking at private accommodation for students who wish to undertake studies in Caithness and ETEC would also do the same if required.

Koreen MacDougall asked what the USP (unique selling point) was for ETEC. Alan replied that the North Highland College was part of the UHI and success would depend on niche markets.

Bob Earnshaw stated that through DSG, members attended various events and meetings outwith the area. If there was literature on ETEC DSG members would be happy to promote it while attending these events/conferences.

Eann Sinclair noted that it would be worthwhile joining up ETEC, MaREE (they have MSC in renewable energy) and Make the Right Connections. He argued that if Scottish Government was looking for a Green Skills Centre the area could show this was already in place and could become one of the unique selling points for NHC.

June Love asked whether the NHC had considered getting worker/trainers involved in ETEC. Alan Ogg replied that he would be delighted to receive support like this and hoped that this would be forthcoming once the Project Steering Group was up and running. Eann Sinclair noted that support could be provided through the STEM ambassadors. Alan Ogg acknowledged the work of the STEM Ambassadors but noted that having worker/trainers in sessions would be beneficial to students. Marcus Mennie suggested looking at workplace secondments.

Derrick Milnes thanked Alan Ogg for the update and for the enthusiasm displayed for the project going into the future. He re-iterated Bob Earnshaw's invitation that DSG would be happy to promote ETEC at the various events attended outwith the county.

## **6. COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS**

Derrick Milnes noted that at the last meeting it had been agreed to relook at the funding criteria for the community fund.

### **Community Fund rules**

The funding rules were discussed and a number of comments were made. There was a discussion on requests from schools and what would constitute an acceptable request rather than something that the local authority should be providing as part of their responsibility. It was agreed that a principal should be set that funding requests from schools would not cover statutory responsibilities.

It was agreed that following comments the secretary would relook at the funding rules and come back to the sub group with a revised document.

It was noted that any changes to the rules would not come into effect until April 2012.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A001: Secretary to take on board comments on Dounreay Community Fund rules and draft a revised document to circulate to members.**

### **Community Fund requests**

The new requests for funding had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The following declared an interest:

082: Bob Earnshaw / Ronnie Johnstone / Alastair MacDonald  
083: Bob Earnshaw / Ronnie Johnstone / Alastair MacDonald  
090: Ken Nicol

All recommendations were endorsed with the exception of FY 11/12 – 082 and 083.

Both requests came from the same organisation and there was discussion around 083 which, while acknowledged in the report would be at the group's discretion, did not adhere to the criteria. Further information was sought and also on the total sum requested for 082.

The secretary noted that one late request had also been received and this would be circulated to members outwith the meeting for responses by e-mail correspondence.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A002: Secretary to circulate round the detail of the new request not included in the written funding report.**

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

DSG(2011)P054 – CNSRP progress report, November 2011 had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Eann Sinclair noted the following:

- Scrabster Harbour Trust was now a quarter of the way through phase 1 of the redevelopment of the harbour.
- An internal transport infrastructure study has been commissioned which will focus upon the roads infrastructure linking ports and key businesses/industrial space.

Bob Earnshaw noted that he had recently attended a food and drink exhibition in Glasgow where he did not see one Caithness product while there was four stands from Orkney. Eann Sinclair noted that he was aware of two initiatives in food and drink – one being an element of Highlands and Islands to Scotland Food and Drink and the other being North Highland Products (Mey Selections). He agreed to find out more detail of food and drink initiatives.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A003: Eann Sinclair to find out more detail of food and drink initiatives.**

Ken Nicol noted that he had been in the HIE offices in Inverness at a meeting and while there was products on display there did not appear to be anything from Caithness. Eann Sinclair responded that the displays did rotate at times but would look into this.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A004: Eann Sinclair to see if Caithness food and drink product is displayed within the HIE offices in Inverness.**

- In terms of where CNSRP is with the energy market there has been a lot of activity from the developments of Scrabster harbour to supply chain winning contracts. Added to that the Scottish Government had just announced a £18M fund for marine energy while consultation on the ROC bands will be undertaken shortly.
- As a follow on to NRIP-2 there will be a wave and tidal report – NRIP-3 which HIE will lead and this will commence before Christmas.

Sandy Mackie noted that the marine energy development was moving forward positively and seemed to be ramping up. Eann Sinclair noted that SP Renewables would be attending the CNSRP Advisory Board to provide a presentation. There

appeared to be a lot of interest from the marine renewables companies, including SPR, Meygen and SSE.

DSRL update: Ken Nicol noted:

- DSRL had a small amount of funding available for socio economic projects but the uptake for this had been low this financial year.
- DSRL would be starting to draft its socio economic plan for financial year 2012/12 shortly.

It was agreed that DSRL would discuss the contents of the plan with the sub group at the January meeting.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A005: Secretary to put DSRL's Socio Economic Plan, 2012/13 on Socio Economic sub group agenda for January meeting.**

- As part of the Dounreay Socio Economic Alliance (NDA, Babcock International and DSRL) an information room had been opened on the Dounreay site containing summaries of progress with priority actions being pursued by the CNSRP. The information would be rolled out to other venues in Thurso, Wick and Bettyhill.
- DSRL had commissioned a study to investigate the skills required for maintenance and operation of wave and tidal devices.

Caithness Partnership update: Koreen MacDougall noted:

- Koreen MacDougall and John Green attended Network Rails RUS2 meeting in Perth in June this year. Network Rail underlined that investment will only usually be made into a route that is commercially viable. Given that rural routes account for approx 2% of the total rail use it leaves little or no opportunity to any meaningful improvements tabled in to the RUS 2 (which stretches to 2024). Political lobbying is likely to be the only way to achieve any improvements on the Inverness/Wick/Thurso line and making the most of any other opportunities such as the proposed rail head at Georgemas.
- DORLAG have produced a questionnaire and have received over 300 responses. They have decided to go for one further trawl – so if you haven't already done so, please pick up a questionnaire and complete.
- The International Association of Transport Professionals conference in Aviemore was attended by Koreen MacDougall, John Green and Cllr David Flear. A report was provided to DSG – see DSG(2011)C247 refers. A response from Scottish Government states that the Berriedale is not identified in STPR so unlikely that funding could be found. In addition, Transport Minister, Keith Brown is not available to visit Caithness but hopes to do so as part of his easter/summer tour. Caithness Transport Forum considering how to respond.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A006: Koreen MacDougall to speak to Ken Nicol and Anna MacConnell re funding of design study into Berriedale Braes.**

- Working within the National Healthcare Transport Framework HITRANS hope to roll out a pilot integrated transport project for healthcare users within the county.

Caithness Partnership is facilitating a working group to identify needs, gaps and underused resources. SAS, THC, Caithness Rural Transport, Community Mental Health Team, CVG and the Caithness Disability Access Forum are part of the working group inputting to HITRANS.

- Consultation response to Scottish Government's Bus Service Operators Grant and DfT scoping document re Developing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation has been submitted.

Chamber of Commerce: Marcus Mennie noted:

- Make the Right Connections was going well and all research had now been submitted. There are 40 recommendations which are being co-ordinated and will help to inform the plan on the way forward. At present, about 40 people have gone through training and development of a website is continuing.

## 8. **DISCUSSION PAPERS**

Derrick Milnes introduced two DSG proposals for consideration.

- DSG(2011)C249 – A review of the DSG and its aims and objectives.

This had been circulated to members by correspondence and generally responses had been supportive. The review was to ensure that the DSG continued to focus on the important areas.

Following discussion the group endorsed the paper.

- DSG(2011)C250 – A protocol for information requests and website publishing.

This had been discussed at the Business meeting and agreed that a protocol was required.

Following discussion the group endorsed the paper.

[Secretary's note: Members of the DSG Site Restoration sub group also endorsed both papers at the sub group meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 1900 hours).

## 9. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

Since the last meeting the following correspondence had been circulated:

- DSG(2011)C243 – Summary of main DSG held on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Members were reminded that this should be circulated to members of their respective organisations in order to take views on any issues and report back into DSG at the appropriate sub group or main meeting.
- DSG(2011)C244 – NDA briefing to SSGs for September.
- DSG(2011)C246 – DSG response to the Aviation Policy framework. This was approved by correspondence and submitted.
- DSG(2011)C247 – A report on the International Association of Transport professionals. Koreen MacDougall, John Green and David Flear all attended this conference and Berriedale Braes was mentioned a few times during the event.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Derrick Milnes noted:

- The key influencers document had now been finalised. It is a big document and is constantly changing. Therefore if members require information from this document they should request this from the Secretary.
- Correspondence had been received from Rhona Button who is spearheading the 'Save the Dunbar hospital' campaign. It was noted that a number of organisations, represented at DSG, were awaiting the revised paper on Dunbar hospital before agreeing the next steps.
- DSG(2011)C253 - letter from SSE consulting on the Orkney to Caithness 132 KV transmission connection. The Secretary reported that SSE had contacted her to inform DSG that a public meeting would now be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November in Scrabster.
- Rachel Skene had provided an update on Ambitious for Tourism Caithness and North Sutherland. Phase 2 of the project has commenced with the CNS Tourism Leadership Group brought together which forms a network for key people within the sector and area. The Leadership Group consists of representatives from The Highland Council, HIE, North Highland Tourism, Caithness Chamber of Commerce and the NDA.

Local Tourism Development Groups and plans will be formed to bring a greater degree of cohesion, communication and enable grass roots up development across the area.

- Derrick Milnes attended the SNP conference along with John Deighan. It was a very upbeat conference with calls for independence and Scottish Oil revenues. Energy was the main topic of Alex Salmond's key note address. At one of the fringe meetings John Swinney confirmed that they were looking at extending the operating life of Hunterston and Torness.

The opportunity was also taken to speak to a number of MSPs, MPs, MEPs and other interested parties on the work of CNSRP and the activities ongoing to regenerate the area.

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A007: DSG to write to Fergus Ewing inviting him to visit Caithness.**

**Action: DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A008: DSG to send Nicola Sturgeon details of Dunbar hospital.**

- On 28<sup>th</sup> October a small group met with Rob Gibson and discussed a number of topics relating to socio economic activities.
- A number of DSG members had attended the launch of the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund on the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

As there was no further business Derrick Milnes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Endorsed on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Derrick Milnes**  
**DSG Socio Economic sub group chairman**  
5<sup>th</sup> November 2011



## **APPENDIX 1 – STATUS OF ACTIONS**

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

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A001: Secretary to take on board comments on Dounreay Community Fund rules and draft a revised document to circulate to members.

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A002: Secretary to circulate round the detail of the new request not included in the written funding report.

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A003: Eann Sinclair to find out more detail of food and drink initiatives.

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A004: Eann Sinclair to see if Caithness food and drink product is displayed within the HIE offices in Inverness.

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A005: Secretary to put DSRL's Socio Economic Plan, 2012/13 on Socio Economic sub group agenda for January meeting.

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A006: Koreen MacDougall to speak to Ken Nicol and Anna MacConnell re funding of design study into Berriedale Braes

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A007: DSG to write to Fergus Ewing inviting him to visit Caithness.

DSG/SESG(2011)M008/A008: DSG to send Nicola Sturgeon details of Dunbar hospital.

### **ACTIONS ONGOING**

DSG(2010)M002/A012: Eann Sinclair to develop a model on the economic impact and how this could be monitored to be shared with DSG and CNSRP Advisory Board.

DSG(2011)M006/A033: Roy Kirk to speak to George Farlow re potential local business for the supply of wood fuel.

### **ACTION COMPLETED**

DSG(2011)M006/A021: Roy Kirk to speak to Doosan Babcock to understand the reasons for not remaining in the county and to learn lessons for the future.

DSG(2011)M006/A028: Secretary to draft letter supporting business use for the air discount scheme.

DSG(2011)M006/A032: June Love to circulate date of Highland Council on community benefit workshop when available.

DSG(2011)M007/A002: Secretary to put draft DSG protocol on sub group agenda for November meetings.

DSG(2011)M007/A003: Secretary to put draft review of DSG on sub group agenda for November meetings.

DSG(2011)M007/A009: Secretary to circulate draft aims and objectives of DSG review to DSG working group for comment. Once finalised the draft paper will be circulated to all DSG members for endorsement.

DSG(2011)M007/A013: Caithness Chamber of Commerce to circulate DSRL's draft paper on socio economic criteria in contracts for input from members.

DSG(2011)M007/A014: Secretary to request an update from John Owens, Rolls Royce on the number of apprenticeships for the coming year.

DSG(2011)M007/A019: Secretary to circulate NDA presentations to Site Stakeholder Group Chair's forum to all DSG members.

DSG(2011)M007/A023: DSG to write to the Crown Estates asking for an update on progress.

DSG(2011)M007/A024: Eann Sinclair, CNSRP to write to Rob Gibson, MSP updating him on CNSRP's interaction with the Crown Estates.  
Eann Sinclair and David Sutherland had provided a verbal update, via Gail Ross.

DSG(2011)M007/A025: Eann Sinclair to discuss the possibility of Caithness, Orkney and Shetland working together on issues relating to renewable energy, ie the inter-connection at the next Pentland Firth Leadership Forum. Eann Sinclair confirmed he had raised this issue with the leadership team. There was a further meeting to be held next week between Highland Council and Orkney Islands Council and this would be raised again.

DSG(2011)M007/A026: Eann Sinclair to circulate paper on Enterprise Zones when complete.

DSG(2011)M007/A027: Anna MacConnell to Simon Tucker to get a full update on the National Nuclear Archives.

DSG(2011)M007/A028: DSRL to provide more information on funding request for 2011/043.

DSG(2011)M007/A029: DSRL to provide a paper on the criteria for assessing funding requests for the Dounreay Communities Fund.

DSG(2011)M007/A030: June Love to put Criteria for Dounreay Community Fund on next sub group agenda.

DSG(2011)M007/A031: Secretary to request a presentation on the Engineering Skills Centre at the next Socio Economic sub group meeting.

DSG(2011)M007/A032: Anna MacConnell to co-ordinate an update on the NDA competition with Graeme Rankin to Socio Economic sub group members (at an appropriate date in September) which will outline the plan for announcing the preferred bidder in November 2011.

DSG(2011)M007/A033: Anna MacConnell to identify date when Direct Rail Services would meet with Caithness Transport Forum to rail transportation. Action complete -

DSG(2011)M007/A034: Secretary to write to Anna MacConnell requesting information on the difference of costs in terms of total lifetime costs for all credible options

DSG(2011)M007/A035: Secretary to write to Pauline Craw requesting the Highland Health Board short/long term plan for Dunbar hospital.

DSG(2011)M007/A036: Eann Sinclair to provide further clarification to the replacement of the Wave and Tidal Project Manager (Crown Estates) based in Caithness.

DSG(2011)M007/A037: All DSG Socio Economic sub group members to provide the Secretary with updates and additions for the key influencer's document.

DSG(2011)M007/A038: Secretary to draft response to Meygen's scoping document on socio economics and circulate to members for comment /approval

DSG(2011)M007/A039: DSG to write supporting John O'Groats as a destination for the Olympic torch.

DSG(2011)M007/A040: Secretary to write to Roy Kirk, HIE requesting a meeting be organised for members of DSG Socio Economic sub group to meet with a representative from SDI to understand SDI's remit and how this impacts on Caithness and North Sutherland.

DSG(2011)M007/A041: Secretary to write to Rob Gibson, MSP to invite him to meet with representatives of the DSG.