

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

DSG/SESG(2013)M001

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic Sub Group meeting held at 0930 hrs in the Pentland Hotel (large lounge), Thurso on Wednesday 16th January 2013.

Present:

Derrick Milnes	DSG Socio Economic sub group chairman
Bob Earnshaw	DSG Chairman
Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary member
Nicola Dreaves	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
Eann Sinclair	CNSRP
John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group

In addition:

June Love	DSG Secretariat
Anna MacConnell	NDA
Alastair J MacDonald	Change Director, Dounreay
Ken Nicol	DSRL
Tom Curry	Direct Rail Services

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Derrick Milnes welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Tom Curry, Direct Rail Services (DRS) who was in attendance to provide an update to the Georgemas railhead.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from:

- Roger Hardy Managing Director, Dounreay.
- David Flear DSG Vice-chairman
- Andrew Commin ERI
- Debbie Gray North Highland College
- Ronnie Johnstone Church of Scotland
- Trudy Morris Chamber of Commerce (Nicola Dreaves deputising)
- Sandy Mackie Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Murray Lamont North Highland Tourism
- Deirdre Mackay Sutherland Partnership
- Alex MacLeod Highland Council

Derrick Milnes stated it was important for members to let the secretary know in advance whether they would not? be attending the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated to members in advance – DSG/SESG(2012)M004 – refers. The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Eann Sinclair and seconded by John

Green.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

Progress on actions had been circulated in advance. Derrick Milnes noted there were four outstanding actions relating to the National Nuclear Archives. Anna MacConnell, NDA was currently organising a convenient date for the project manager to visit Caithness to discuss the NNA project.

Other actions discussed were:

- DSG (2012)M004/A008: Eann Sinclair to ask HIE what progress is being made with Fusion projects. **Action complete:** HIE has made contact with the new person at Culham who is involved with Fusion now. In terms of the IFMIF concept no progress has been made and is unlikely however there is still a potential long-term UK interest in Fusion and HIE are continuing to keep in touch with Fusion with regards these potential opportunities.
- DSG (2012)M004/A014: Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme, to provide an update on NDA's response to the National Audit Office's report on Sellafield. **Action complete:** report on NAO website:
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1213/sellafield_risk_reduction.aspx
- DSG(2012)M004/A015a: DSRL to discuss procurement topics with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Caithness Contractors Consortium. **Action complete** – meeting held on 23rd January 2013.

4. DOUNREAY COMMUNITY FUND

A number of applications were discussed. Derrick Milnes asked members to indicate an interest in any of the applications submitted.

The recommendations were endorsed by members with two applications identified as 'pledged' funding waiting confirmation that parallel funding was secured.

Tom Curry, DRS asked if it would be possible for the rules of the fund be sent to him. The secretary said she would forward these.

Action: DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A001: Secretary to forward Dounreay Community Fund rules to Tom Curry, DRS.

5. DIRECT RAIL SERVICES

Derrick Milnes thanked Tom Curry for attending the meeting and handed over to Tom for an update.

Tom Curry, Direct Rail Services, outlined the activities that DRS were currently considering:

- Fuel movements

- Other potential opportunities from Dounreay
- Traffic calming measures at Georgemas
- Oil and gas industry
- Renewables industry
- Speaking to harbours and ports
- Speaking to a number of businesses

Tom noted

- that there was potential for freight coming from/leaving Dounreay (in addition to fuel movements) and currently they were in discussion about a number of projects to support decommissioning.
- Discussions with Transport Scotland were ongoing and it was expected that Transport Scotland would come back early this year with options for traffic calming measures at Georgemas to ensure safety on the roads.
- Discussions were also taking place with a number of oil and gas companies giving due consideration to the West of Shetland development. This was at an early stage given the timescale for the development is around 2015-16.

John Green noted that there were oil developments at Lybster. Tom Curry acknowledged that DRS had some discussion on this.

- Discussions continued with the harbours for the renewable industry (wave, tidal and wind). It was noted that some of the equipment for renewables would be fairly bulky and DRS were awaiting dimensions of some of the kit to explore whether it was possible to use freight to accommodate this need.
- A number of other companies were in early discussions but for commercial reasons these could not be named at present.

Eann Sinclair asked if DRS were in discussion with supermarkets. Tom Curry confirmed that they were.

Alastair MacDonald (Dounreay) noted that the area was getting a picture of the renewables industry and their requirements. He thought there was an opportunity to provide a joined up approach. Tom Curry responded they were gradually dispelling some of the myths surrounding rail and would continue to do this in the various discussions being held.

Ken Nicol asked if car transportation had been considered. Tom Curry responded that this had not been carried out in any detail as yet.

Bob Earnshaw asked whether there was an opportunity for local jobs to maintain the crane, etc as well as the potential for train drivers. Tom Curry responded that

DRS had a maintenance contract in place although at times local labour is used in Inverness.

Anna MacConnell noted that Highland Council had a number of major builds in Wick. Eann Sinclair agreed to facilitate a meeting between the appropriate people in Highland Council and Direct Rail Services.

Action: DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A002: Eann Sinclair to provide a Highland Council contract (related to the new builds in Wick) with Direct Rail Services.

John Green noted there was substantial investment in rail at the moment and wondered whether the far north would benefit. Tom Curry responded that he had been part of a stakeholder group looking at this and while potentially the investment would be Inverness southwards he recognised that any improvements there could also potentially benefit the far north. Projects for investment were being considered on a strategic basis.

Alastair MacDonald (Dounreay) suggested that there may some advantages of discussing the delivery of mail and suggested that DRS explore with the Post Office.

Eann Sinclair noted that previous discussions had touched on passing loops and asked whether the costs of re-instating loops had been considered. Tom Curry responded that at present the major constraints were at the south end (Invergordon onwards). Consideration has been given to this and he believed it would cost approximately £7M for a double ended loop.

Tom Curry acknowledged that at present there is not a precise business plan and this would be worked up following discussions with potential businesses.

Ken Nicol asked if DRS were looking to recruit train drivers and the like would it be possible to advertise these posts locally.

Anna MacConnell noted that Tom Curry had very quickly picked up all the issues from his predecessor Andrew Sumners for which he should be congratulated. The group agreed.

John Green noted that it may be useful for Tom to attend the Caithness Transport Forum (previous managed by Caithness Partnership which has now been taken over by the Chamber of Commerce).

Derrick Milnes thanked Tom Curry for engaging with the group and looked forward to continued discussions.

5. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Derrick Milnes invited the following people to provide an update:

NDA: Anna MacConnell provided a verbal update. Of note:

- NDA were in ongoing discussions with Wick harbour with reference to a commercial pier and heavy lift pad as well as Wick's wider business plan. At present it was too early to report anything. NDA were working closely with HIE on this.
- National Nuclear Archives: The project manager was expected to visit shortly and it was hoped that he would be able to attend the Highland Council Charettes planned for late January and mid-February.
- NDA has had a couple of discussions on the potential use of NDA land. One developer was looking at a piece of land adjacent to the site to test a new design of wind device. While discussions were ongoing it had allowed NDA and DSRL to work together to ensure the process of considering such requests was now identified. Consideration of such requests was quite complicated given tenant, access and security issues surrounding the site.

Bob Earnshaw congratulated NDA for taking this forward and was pleased that the process of considering land re-use was now tested.

- North Highland Regeneration Fund: The Chamber of Commerce are now the Management Agent for the fund.
- Caithness and North Sutherland Fund were undertaking a review of its' first year of operation on Friday.

Anna MacConnell suggested that John Henderson be invited to a sub group meeting to outline the types of projects they have supported during its first year. This was agreed.

Action: DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A003: Secretary to invite John Henderson, CNSF to attend next Socio Economic sub group meeting to update the group on the funding support provided from the Fund.

Bob Earnshaw noted that someone had contacted the Thurso Communities Council from the Scottish Communities Association to discuss the communities' requirements for community funding. [NB: Secretary's note: Eann Sinclair and June Love had a very brief discussion with the representative from the Association and further discussions will take place.]

Dounreay report: Ken Nicol noted that a written report had been provided prior to the meeting – DSG(2013)C002 refers. Of note, Ken provided the following update:

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- Support to the CNSRP continued with Fiona Bruce providing the programme manager with administration support.
- The report tabled was the monitoring report showing progress against the site's socio economic plan for 2012/13.
- Employment statistics had been provided to CNSRP and others based on the data from the old lifetime plan. Since consolidation of the plan was completed in December work was ongoing to finalise the new staffing forecast information and this would be made available when it was ready.
- The Dounreay Socio Economic Alliance continued to meet on a regular basis with both Roger Hardy (Managing Director, Dounreay) and Nigel Lowe (NDA Head of Programme) attending the Board meeting to provide strategic direction.
- Early discussions with a number of individuals and groups were ongoing to consider funding support.
- Discussion papers had been developed on marine, off-shore wind, skills and advance manufacturing. These had been circulated to CNSRP for input and from these papers CNSRP would develop position papers to ensure focus on the right projects going forward were considered.
- Two business plans were currently being developed on potential nuclear decommissioning services (looking at the UK and abroad). The market was being assessed as well as taking forward technical studies.
- Back office services were also being considered and the final report with deliverables going forward was expected in February.
- Work was ongoing to consider socio economic criteria in procurement.
- Support continued for Make the Right Connections programme. It was pleasing to see that approx 30 people from site were interested in starting up their own businesses following the closure of Dounreay.
- Workforce Transition. CH2MHILL, as part of the parent body organisation reach-back, had invited Peter Diaz to visit Caithness. Peter had experience of site closure at Hanford and the visit to Caithness was to exchange ideas and information. While the first half of the week concentrated internally on the site Peter had the opportunity to meet with members of CNSRP.

Bob Earnshaw noted that he had recently attended an event held by Nuvia where they had outlined recent contract awards of nuclear decommissioning work outwith the county. Alastair MacDonald (Dounreay) said it was good to see

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companies diversifying away from Dounreay and moving into other markets with the local workforce.

2013-2016 Dounreay Socio Economic Plan: Alastair MacDonald (Dounreay) provided an update. Of note:

- Consideration was being given now to update the plan going forward.
- CNSRP had been provided with a 2-

Disappointment was noted at some of the local newspaper reporting and editorial remarks recently with reference to the creation of local jobs. It was felt that where these were reported inaccurately they should be refuted as quickly as possible. The group agreed they would consider such responses if appropriate.

Ken Nicol noted the update on the Marine renewables open days which had been attended by Wick and Farr High Schools. He noted that the students had been well informed before attending these events and the renewable companies had indicated they had been impressed by the level of questioning from the students.

Derrick Milnes noted that the British Airways Air Discount Scheme website continued to list Wick airport, whereas the other airlines list it as Wick/John O'Groats airport. The Chamber was asked to speak to British Airways so that there was a consistency in the airport's name to ease bookings.

Action: DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A005: Caithness Chamber of Commerce to ensure that British airways update website for Wick airport to Wick/John O'Groats airport.

Derrick Milnes invited those round the table to provide an update.

Nicola Dreaves, Chamber of Commerce noted the following:

- The Chamber had met its second year targets for Make the Right Connections with 400 beneficiaries going through training which equated to 700 training courses. Training had been spread across a wide range of target groups and a number of people had gone through a high voltage training course.
- Business start up courses, covering planning workshops, etc were being organised for mid February.
- The Chamber had now taken over the facilitation of the Caithness Transport Forum and looked forward to continuing to build on the excellent work of the Caithness Partnership.
- A number of events were currently being finalised including SMART Exporter (30th January) in association with Scottish Chambers and a biomass information day. Representatives of the Chamber would also be attending the Best of Britain (Birmingham).

Eann Sinclair noted that it was also pleasing to hear that Natural Retreats (John O'Groats) had a busy Christmas and new year with a number of chalets booked out over the festive period.

7. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

Derrick Milnes noted there was no outstanding correspondence since the last meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Derrick Milnes noted the following:

- Highland Council would be running a series of meetings to help develop the local plan. The launch is scheduled for 23rd January with workshops being held in mid-February. The secretary was asked to circulate the details:

Action: DSG/SESG(2013)M004/A006: June Love to circulate information on Highland Council Charettes to DSG members.

- NDA's draft business plan which was currently out for consultation (DSG(2013)C001 refers) and closes on 1st February.

Bob Earnshaw noted that the business plan reported funding of £175M for Dounreay. He had thought the budget for the site was £150M. Alastair MacDonald noted that when bidding for the contract the NDA had asked the bidders to assume a flat £150M funding for the first three years. He believed that with additional funding for security along with the £150M plus escalation the budget reflected approximately £161M.

Members agreed to read through the NDA business plan and provide the secretary with any comments or questions to allow a response from DSG. The question on funding would be included for clarity.

Action: DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A007: All members to consider NDA's business plan and provide comments to the secretary for collation into a response by DSG.

- Members were invited to a drop-in session on Thursday 17th January to view current plans to construct a new firing range for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary's firearms officers.
- Bob Earnshaw noted that the AGM was scheduled for March 2013. He intimated he would not be standing for re-election as chairman although he wished to remain an active member of the DSG.

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

Derrick Milnes
DSG Socio Economic sub group, chairman

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ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A001: Secretary to forward Dounreay Community Funding rules to Tom Curry, DRS.

DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A002: Eann Sinclair to provide a Highland Council contract (related to the new builds in Wick) with Direct Rail Services.

DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A003: Secretary to invite John Henderson, CNSF to attend next Socio Economic sub group meeting to update the group on the funding support provided from the Fund.

DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A004: Secretary to co-ordinate a suitable date for a workshop with DSG members (and other relevant stakeholders) to provide input for the new Socio Economic plan.

DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A005: Caithness Chamber of Commerce to ensure that British airways update website for Wick airport to Wick/John O'Groats airport.

DSG/SESG(2013)M004/A006: June Love to circulate information on Highland Council Charettes to DSG members.

DSG/SESG(2013)M001/A007: All members to consider NDA's business plan and provide comments to the secretary for collation into a response by DSG.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

DSG(2012)M002/A018: Anna MacConnell, NDA to continue to keep DSG updated on progress of national nuclear archives. **Action ongoing** - *further updates will continue and separate meeting to be organised.*

DSG(2012)M002/A029: Nigel Lowe to discuss socio economic elements in contract (in relation to National Nuclear Archives) with project team. **Action ongoing** – will be covered at NNA meeting (date to be confirmed).

DSG(2012)M002/A031 – DSRL and HIE to discuss requirement for trades and skilled people. **Action ongoing** – *will take place after December 2012 when consolidation phase is complete.*

DSG (2012)M004/A005: DSG to write to the NDA asking for clarity of the scope and timeline for the business plan for the National Nuclear Archives. **NB:** Separate meeting to be set up with NNA Project Manager to discuss all topics re NNA.

DSG (2012)M004/A006: Anna MacConnell, NDA to arrange to invite the NNA Project Manager to a DSG meeting. **NB:** likely to be a separate meeting.

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DSG(2012)M004/A016: Secretary to put socio economic impact (with regards contracts) on next Socio Economic sub group agenda.

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

DSG(2012)M003/A001: Nigel Lowe, NDA to discuss with DRS traffic management for commercial freight at Georgemas junction. **Action complete** – Tom Curry, DRS Business Development Manager talking with Transport Scotland about traffic management.

DSG(2012)M003/A002: Anna MacConnell, NDA to discuss Georgemas with Transport Scotland to encourage Transport Scotland and DRS to consider how to address the issue of traffic management. **Action complete** – Tom Curry, DRS Business Development Manager and Anna MacConnell, NDA Socio Economic Manager, are in discussions with Transport Scotland about traffic management.

DSG(2012)M003/A007: Secretary to circulate DSRL's socio economic elements paper for further consideration. **Action complete** – DSG(2012)C019 circulated on 22nd July 2012.

DSG(2012)M003/A012: Secretary to write to NDA to ask for examples of the type of projects that could attract funding from the £15M research and development fund. **Action complete:** Information on the fund can be found here: <http://www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/developing-the-civil-nuclear-power-supply-chain1.ashx>. The closing date for registration is 2nd September therefore there are no specific examples available at present.

DSG(2012)M003/A016: Highland Councillors (Willie Mackay, Roger Saxon, Alex MacLeod and George Farlow) to raise with Convenor the timeline for getting the feasibility study for the Berriedale Braes started. **Action complete** – taken forward with Convenor (see minutes DSG/SESG(2012)M004 for update).

DSG(2012)M003/A017: Nigel Lowe, NDA to provide contact details for the newly appointed DRS Business Development Manager. **Action complete** – **DSG Secretary has contact details.**

DSG (2012)M003/A018: Secretary to draft letter to HIAL outlining support for the production of the business development plan. **Action complete** – DSG(2012)C069.

DSG (2012)M003/A019: Roger Hardy to write to HIAL illustrating the effects on business at the cancellation of flights. **Action complete** – letter was sent.

DSG (2012)M003/A020: Eann Sinclair to put Coastal Community Fund on next CNSRP Advisory Board to explore this with Crown Estates. **Action complete** – **on Advisory Board agenda for next meeting.**

DSG(2012)M003/A021: Secretary to circulate an electronic version of the Dounreay Socio Economic Plan 2012-15 to all DSG members. **Action complete** – emailed to all DSG members on 19th July 2012.

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DSG (2012)M003/A022: DSG members to provide comments/views on Dounreay's Socio Economic Plan by 17th August. All comments should be sent to the DSG secretary who will collate all comments for consideration. **Action complete** – all comments received by 17th August were incorporated and are currently being considered.

DSG(2012)M003/A023: Nigel Lowe, NDA to highlight skills from Caithness (on liquid metal technology and fast reactors) to NDA Project Team responsible for R&D projects. **Action complete** – Nigel Lowe confirmed that he had highlighted Caithness skills to the NDA project team and also to Adrian Simper (Strategy). They were open and positive to the discussion and are keen to utilise the skill set in the local community.

DSG(2012)M004/A001: Secretary to write to Nigel Lowe to confirm slot in DSG December agenda. **Action complete** – emailed on 16th November 2012.

DSG (2012)M004/A002: Secretary to update DSG agenda and issue to members on 4th December with rest of paperwork. **Action complete.**

DSG (2012)M004/A007: Ken Nicol to amend monitoring report to reflect Chamber's comments. **Action complete.**

DSG (2012)M004/A008: Eann Sinclair to ask HIE what progress is being made with Fusion projects. **Action complete:** HIE has made contact with the new person at Culham who is involved with Fusion now. In terms of the IFMIF concept no progress has been made and is unlikely however there is still a potential long-term UK interest in Fusion and HIE are continuing to keep in touch with Fusion with regards these potential opportunities.

DSG (2012)M004/A014: Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme, to provide an update on NDA's response to the National Audit Office's report on Sellafield. **Action complete:** report on NAO website:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1213/sellafield_risk_reduction.aspx

DSG(2012)M004/A015a: DSRL to discuss procurement topics with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Caithness Contractors Consortium. **Action complete** – meeting held on 23rd January 2013.