



Programme Manager Update

October - December 2014

This update incorporates reports from a range of partners involved in delivering elements of the *Caithness & north Sutherland Delivery Plan*. It is hoped that by condensing multiple reports into one paper the information will be disseminated more efficiently amongst the various groups such as the CNSRP Advisory Board, Executive Board and the Dounreay Stakeholders' Group.

Key Issues and highlights:

- 147.5 FTE jobs have been projected by companies since the start of the 2014/15 financial year (115.5 new and 32 retained).
- HIE has announced that Thurso and Wick are in the next round of communities to have superfast broadband connectivity enabled.
- The first iteration of the CNSRP high-level programme plan has been completed, and CNSRP's Annual Review 2014 has been published.

2014-17 Jobs progress

| Sector | 3 year Target | | Current projections | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Low | High | New | Ret | Total |
| Energy | 138 | 197 | 60 | 32 | 92 |
| Business Services | 62 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tourism | 12 | 22 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Food & Drink | 15 | 25 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| Other Sectors | 22 | 45 | 21.5 | 0 | 21.5 |
| Local market | 110 | 110 | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| Totals | 359 | 479 | 115.5 | 32 | 147.5 |

Caithness & North Sutherland Action Plan 2014-17

The key priorities identified for 2014-17 are to:

- Work with existing area businesses in the energy and business services sectors to help them diversify and grow their businesses.
- Encourage new business starts in the energy and business services sectors
- Deliver a targeted programme of inward investment activity focused on energy and business services-related opportunities.
- Support the delivery of key enabling infrastructure such as ports and harbours, road, rail and air transport, skills transition and digital connectivity.

Key to “traffic light” reporting system:

Each text entry will have a colour-coded box. This will indicate the status of the project’s delivery, and will indicate the responsible owner for the activity. The box will be colour-coded as follows:

| | |
|--|---|
| | Activity is on schedule to be delivered. |
| | Activity has been delayed, or is taking longer to complete than originally expected. |
| | Activity has not happened, or is in danger of not happening. |

Progress with High-priority activities

Existing company growth

Support growth aspirations for companies

HIE

JGC Engineering Services was awarded a multi-million pound contract by Atlantis Resources to supply elements of the Meygen tidal project. The company will manufacture and supply 24 steel structures for the initial devices being deployed in the Inner Sound of the Pentland Firth.

Dunnet Bay Distillery began production of its Rock Rose Gin in Summer. Its first three batches sold out within days of going on sale. The company has received advice and support from HIE and the NDA-funded North Highland Regeneration Fund.

Denchi Power is making progress with its plans at Thurso Business Park, with further HIE investment enabling the creation of 18 FTE jobs at the facility.

Ashley Ann is also undertaking a further expansion of its business, creating 10 new FTE jobs.

Support non-account managed company growth

NHRF/BG

Business Gateway reports continued strong interest and enquiries from both business start-up and existing businesses. 27 companies have committed to creating 33.5 new jobs.

Inward investment

HIE/SDI

Discussions continue on potential investment plans with several oil & gas sector companies – all seeking to establish a facility in Caithness. These and other discussions are progressing well, with proposition documents now prepared for six different energy sector companies. HIE

led on a Caithness-focused event on 28th October, bringing around 25 oil & gas representatives from Aberdeen visited Caithness to see the area's facilities and meet local companies.

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| Enabling Activities |
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| Scrabster Harbour | SHT |
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Scrabster Harbour Trust (SHT) has submitted to CNSRP Programme Manager scope and plans for its proposed phases of work. Scoping and screening applications have been made to Highland Council for associated works.

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| Wick Harbour development | WHA |
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Wick Harbour Authority continues to plan for facilities likely to be required if major offshore wind projects in the Moray Firth go ahead. .

| | |
|---|------------|
| Superfast broadband to key parts of C&NS | HIE |
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It was announced in October that Wick & Thurso will be in the next round of areas to be enabled for Next Generation (superfast) Broadband access (speeds of up to 80 Mbps). Work will take place over the next 6 months to prepare exchanges and street cabinets. Discussions continue between HIE and BT regarding plans

of the archive building, which will also include the Highland Council's North Highland Archive. Both contracts are due to be awarded in spring 2015 and construction is expected to start in summer 2015, with completion expected by the end of 2016. It has been estimated that the facility when fully operational will provide around 20 full time jobs.