

## DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

DSG(2017)M004

### Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel (Ballroom), Thurso.

<b>Present:</b>	Roger Saxon	DSG Chairman
	David Flear	DSG member
	Derrick Milnes	Wick and Thurso Trades Council (DSG Vice-chair)
	Roy Kirk	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Cllr Struan Mackie	Highland Council
	Murray Lamont	North Highland Tourism
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Bob Earnshaw	DSG Site Restoration sub group chairman
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Thelma Mackenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Andrew Taylor	SGRIPD
	Tor Justad	Co-opted member of the public
	David Broughton	Co-opted member of the public
	Cllr Stephen Clackson	Orkney Islands Council

<b>In addition:</b>	Mark Raffle	NDA Programme Manager
	David Lowe	Dounreay Deputy Managing Director
	Lt Cdr Ian Walker	MOD, Vulcan
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	Cl Martin O’Kane	CNC
	Ali Coghill	Dounreay Graduate
	Chris Connelly	DRS, Commercial Director
	June Love	DSG Secretariat, Dounreay

## MINUTES

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roger Saxon, DSG Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed Chris Connelly, Commercial Director and Rachael Storey, Communications and Stakeholder Manager (Direct Rail Services) who were attending to provide an update presentation of the railhead at Georgemas. He also welcomed Dounreay Graduate, Ali Coghill, who was also providing a presentation on the graduate training at Dounreay.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- ) Brian Mutch, SGRIPD (Andrew Taylor deputising)
- ) Councillor Willie Mackay, Highland Council
- ) Councillor Matthew Reiss, Highland Council
- ) Bob Robertson, HC Planning

- ) Alastair MacDonald, DSG Honorary member
- ) George MacDougall, Caithness West Community Council
- ) Roy Blackburn, Co-opted member of the public
- ) Ronnie Johnstone, Church of Scotland
- ) Gillian Coghill, Buldoo Residents Group
- ) Eann Sinclair, CNSRP
- ) Mike Flavell, NHS
- ) Donald MacBeath, North Highland College
- ) Phil Craig, Manging Director Dounreay (David Lowe, Deputy MD deputising)
- ) Danny Gregory, ONR (for Dounreay)
- ) Cdr Ken Dyke (Lt Cdr Ian Walker deputising)

### **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Roger Saxon stated that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (DSG(2017)M003 refers) had been circulated in advance to all members. He asked if anyone wished to make any changes to these minutes. The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Bob Earnshaw and seconded by David Flear.

Roger Saxon invited members to raise any issues from these minutes.

- ) Tor Justad noted that item 3 of the minutes noted the Holliday interim report had been published and also references to Dounreay on the recently broadcasted Radio 4 programme relating to the Magnox contract. He asked whether the interim report was available. June Love noted that an electronic link to the interim report had been sent out to members along with other information on the radio 4 programme and Public Accounts Committee meeting.

**ACTION: DSG(2017)M004/A001: June Love to recirculate link to Holliday interim report to DSG members.**

- ) Tor Justad noted that Vulcan had previously indicated there would be about 12 nuclear transports over a six year period which seemed a small amount of transports. He asked if this was still the case. Lt Cdr Walker confirmed this was still correct.
- ) Tor Justad noted that there had been mention in the minutes relating to a potential North Highland College Community Apprentice Scheme. Tor recognised that there was no-one from the College to respond to this but asked what the Apprentice scheme would entail. June Love noted that this was at a very early stage of discussion and how this looked, what it would entail and how it would work still needed to be identified. This idea had been mooted to look at replacing the Dounreay apprenticeship intake when the site was at the stage where they could no longer justify employing apprentices.

- ) Tor Justad noted the action placed on him to provide HiTrans correspondence relating to the Georgemas facility. He stated that he had contacted the HiTrans author to ask permission to release his correspondence to DSG and would, once a response had been received, provide to June Love for circulation if approval was provided.

#### 4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

Roger Saxon noted that members had received in advance a copy of the status of actions. He reported that the majority of actions had been completed since the last meeting and actions arising from the sub groups held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November had been included. He stated that he would take the action status as read unless anyone wished to raise anything.

- ) Trudy Morris said she was going to ask about the action on Tor Justad regarding HiTrans views on the Georgemas facility. Tor Justad noted he had mentioned this earlier and stated that he had corresponded with Frank Roach, HiTrans requesting views on whether the Georgemas crane was suitable to use for commercial freight as well as nuclear. Frank Roach had responded intimating that he did not think the crane was useful for commercial freight. Trudy Morris responded that she found that quite surprising that this had been put out in an email given HiTrans involvement with the Far North line and Caithness Transport Forum and this had not been mentioned as a barrier. Tor Justad re-iterated it was a one to one email and he felt he could not release this until such times he had permission from the author. Trudy Morris responded that the fact that he had quoted HiTrans at the last meeting meant that, in essence, it was already in the public domain and appeared to be contrary to what HiTrans was saying elsewhere. There appeared to be a lot of mis-information going around and what was required for to have factual information. Tor Justad added that he had requested that the correspondence be released and if consent was given he would provide to the DSG secretary for distribution to member.

- ) Roger Saxon noted his disappointment as three months had passed since the action had been placed and it was hoped that this detail could have been provided for this meeting. Tor Justad responded that he could not release the correspondence without author permission and while he had requested that well in advance of this meeting he had not had a response.

- ) David Flear said that this subject had been brought up in the public domain and since it was now something of interest to members he felt it would be appropriate for the DSG Chairman to write to Frank Roach and ask for clarification. This was agreed and would also be shared with the Caithness Transport Forum.

**ACTION: DSG(2017)M004/A002: DSG Chairman to write to Frank Roach, HiTrans asking for clarification of views on the Georgemas crane with regards to commercial freight.**

#### 5. PRESENTATION BY DIRECT RAIL SERVICES

Roger Saxon introduced Chris Connelly, DRS to provide his presentation. Before commencing, Roger Saxon reminded members that there had been a lot of discussion around whether the Georgemas facility was fit for purpose for commercial use and this was

something that the Caithness Transport Forum was also interested in. He noted the attendance of members of the Transport Forum in the public seating. He then handed over to Chris Connelly.

Chris Connelly provided a powerpoint presentation – see DSG(2017)C040.

During, and after, the presentation a number of questions were raised as follows:

- ) David Flear noted that the road access to the facility was quite difficult especially for commercial freight. Chris Connelly agreed that the access could be difficult in that they would not have the same road controls as a nuclear transport.
- ) Roy Kirk asked when the facilities were built and how long ago had it been that commercial freight had been explored. Chris Connelly responded that it was around 2010/11.
- ) Roy Kirk asked whether there was a lifting frame for ISO containers available at Georgemas. Chris Connelly responded that it would have to be fabricated. Roy Kirk questioned whether this was something that could be stored at Georgemas if made available. Chris Connelly replied that it would cost around £20K and would be a standard design. If there was an identified business use then it could be utilised and stored at Georgemas. The crane at Georgemas had a 110 tonne capacity while a fully loaded container was in the region of 25 tonnes.
- ) With regards getting commercial freight on rail, a question was raised as to whether there was a need to have facilities at intermediate stations so that containers could come up on the far north line? Chris Connelly responded that, as an example, Tesco operate a hub/spoke operation with the hub being in Inverness and the spoke in Wick. The issue was looking at the critical mass of volume which works best for them. From a cost perspective road haulage from Inverness to Wick works better for them at present. If freight was being moved from Inverness to Wick by rail the challenge for DRS would be volume distribution from Georgemas and the availability of backload. Tesco, at present, integrates primary and secondary volumes of freight.
- ) Roger Saxon asked whether that meant empty containers were going back down to Inverness. Chris Connelly responded it was sometimes a mixture and added that this was the reason commercial discussions were taking so long, the primary supplier would have to change logistics to get other material on the train to allow that to happen. If there was an intermediate point that would become an enabler further work would be required. As an example, it took 10 years to get agreement on a route from Livingstone to Carlisle.

- ) Tor Justad noted that he had visited the DRS operation in Inverness and was shown the operations from there. He asked if he was right in saying that DRS could use the Georgemas crane that is already there but equally use forklifts as well. Chris Connelly responded this was correct.
- ) Tor Justad asked whether there were advantages in using one over the other. Chris Connelly replied that the advantage/disadvantages of both – the crane would be slower to use while forklifts were more expensive but faster and would depend on the available rail time as to whether the freight needed to be moved quickly. In Inverness where time is at a premium a stacker is used but these need to be maintained to ensure no breakdowns at critical times. The crane was suitable for all types of loads and to utilise this at Georgemas it simply meant that the train moved to allow the crane to pick up load after load.
- ) Chris Connelly noted that Tesco were interested in seeing whether Georgemas could work for their operations into Wick but were currently looking at whether there volumes were there. John G Russell was another company who were enthusiastic about inter-modal traffic and would be interested in using such a facility. The barriers for use of Georgemas were down to volume, cost (road v rail) and empty return journeys. He stated that road v rail can change dependent on the price of fuel (ie if fuel goes up rail is more cost effective). The challenge would be to work with companies/organisations to get the backlogs going south. At present DRS were considering a trial run to prove the concept and Chris Connelly intimated that he would be disappointed if the trial had not taken place within the next six months. The trial would allow further marketing of the potential of Georgemas.
- ) David Flear asked whether Orkney freight had been considered in any plans. Chris Connelly responded that Orkney did figure in their plans and felt that there was a possibility to identify backlogs which could come from Orkney onto the railhead at Georgemas and transported south. Further discussions were required to follow up this line of enquiry. He re-iterated that DRS were keen to carry out a trial run.
- ) David Broughton asked whether the question was really around capacity. Chris Connelly responded that it was capacity, speed and acceleration. There were 100 mile/hr locomotives that could out accelerate trains but because these trains don't stop at stations this allows more capacity. The challenge is, as example, the HS2 which will join the west coast mainline at Crewe and when this comes into place there will be some fast freight carriers operating in other areas.
- ) Roy Kirk said he had no doubt DRS were providing a competent service for its primary purpose of transporting nuclear material. From a commercial freight point of view he

felt the road access was less than optimal and also the static crane was sub optimal for other purposes. Chris Connelly agreed noting that if the Georgemas facility had been designed for Tesco it would have been a different design. Taking the point on the road access Scottish Government had freight facilities grants which can be applied for to address road access issues.

- ) Roy Kirk noted that there had been approximately 6-8 years of discussions around the commercial use of the facility with no take-up. While he welcomed the trial he pointed out that this would not be a solution. The challenge would always be around volume of freight and the challenge would be whether the volumes would ever be achievable to make this commercially viable. Chris Connelly agreed adding it was something that DRS had done previously as part of their core business. Georgemas was one of the most challenging sites and proving the viability was important therefore the trial could show that it is something that can be done.
- ) Roy Kirk asked, if, when the primary purpose for the Georgemas facility was complete and if there was no take-up in commercial freight would DRS re-assess the options for the site as it could potentially become an encumbrance on the community. Chris Connelly responded that one of the purposes that DRS were owned by NDA was the priority for nuclear transports. If no commercial use was identified for the site it would be something that the NDA and DRS would discuss and agree a way forward.
- ) Trudy Morris noted the comments relating to road access to the Georgemas facility. She said she was aware of a piece of work done around 5 years ago with NDA and Transport Scotland that had looked at the options for traffic measures. Chris Connelly noted that he was aware of this but could not recollect what the outcome was. He said he would check up on this.
- ) Tor Justad asked whether one single container would have one company's stock or could there be an option for other supermarket stocks (ie Co-op) being included in the same container. Chris Connelly responded that if the Co-op were interested it would be up to someone else to negotiate the logistics for this. The model DRS works to is that they would sell capacity to an organisation that in turn could co-ordinate logistics from other organisations.
- ) Cllr Struan Mackie asked if there were barriers to intermodal links with the far north line. While recognising DRS had robust fleets he asked whether different classes of fleets required different standards to be applicable for the far north line. Chris Connelly responded that the current 66s were suitable and DRS had a dispensation to use 68s coming up to the far north. To ensure suitability it would be up to everyone to ensure that Network Rail were in a position could provide dispensations for other fleets to use

the rail network.

- ) David Flear noted that NDA and Transport Scotland had come up with some design schemes in relation to the access route for Georgemas and asked whether DRS would let companies know that there was a solution for road access if commercial freight required to use the facility.
- ) Mike Lunan (member of the public / Transport Forum member) stated he noted the comments on 66s and seeking dispensation for 68s and asked whether the line was actually fit for purpose? Chris Connelly responded that it was nothing to do with the type of train but about route availability and axle weight. Mike Lunan said that a locomotive travelled at something like 30 miles/hr for some very long stretches. He asked if it was felt that Network Rail had the funding to ensure the rail infrastructure was fit for purpose. Chris Connelly said he was happy to support anything to do with improvements and would speak with Network Rail.
- ) A member of the public noted that currently the Far North line was a shambles with little capacity for improvements. Chris Connelly responded that DRS had the capacity because of the support required for the site and Vulcan operations.
- ) A question was raised regarding working with Network Rail to support the line. Chris Connelly responded that DRS also run passenger services and works closely with Network Rail to ensure that DRS can provide a certain services. There was 3 PLs required to come together, Network Rail (infrastructure), investment from Transport Scotland to make sure it all comes together.
- ) Mark Norton (member of the public) noted that the A9 from Perth to Inverness was in the process of being dualled and that driverless lorries had been mooted for trialling on this road sometime in the future which is likely to cut costs on road transportation. He asked how DRS and other commercial train operators would counter this in the future. Chris Connelly responded that he recognised the challenges of road versus rail, in the past there had been challenges with the introduction of double-decker buses. The bottom line for both was profits, the profit margin for road haulage was quite low and it only took a puncture for some operators to lose that profit.
- ) Jean Jack (member of the public) noted that over the last few years, trains had been cancelled, the line had been washed away and this was a regular occurrence. She asked whether DRS were confident they could continue operations even with the many problems that occur on the line. Chris Connelly responded that DRS worked with Network Rail on the resilience across the UK rail network and again pointed out the need for the three PLs to work together. DRS provides trains services in partnership

with road hauliers to ensure that if something goes wrong with rail it can ensure that products can be transferred to roads. This allowed a belt and braces service from a DRS point of view.

- ) Jean Jack asked whether this also applied to nuclear transports. Chris Connelly responded that there were robust contingency plans in place for nuclear transports.

There being no further questions relating to DRS, Roger Saxon thanked Chris Connelly for his presentation and responses and suggested that the transcript of the discussion here would also be passed to the Caithness Transport Forum to ensure that all members were updated with these current discussions.

## **6. UPDATE FROM VULCAN**

Roger Saxon noted that Cdr Ken Dyke had tendered his apologies and Lt Cdr Ian Walker was deputising. Roger Saxon stated that the site restoration sub group meeting had met on 15<sup>th</sup> November and written reports had been provided by Vulcan, Rolls Royce and ONR.

Roger Saxon added that members were aware of the correspondence to Ministry of Defence in Westminster relating to DSG's views on the future of the Vulcan site and community consultation. The last response from MOD had been disappointing and therefore further correspondence had been sent and a response to that was still awaited.

Roger Saxon further noted that at the sub group Cdr Dyke had provided an update on the catastrophic failure of one of the site heating boilers. At the time of the sub group meeting the investigation was ongoing and ONR were also looking into this. Dounreay were taking this on board and checking to ensure that they did not have similar types of boilers on site. He invited Lt Cdr Walker to provide any further information on this as part of his verbal update.

Lt Cdr Ian Walker provided the following update:

- ) The investigation into the boiler failure was still ongoing. The output of the investigation would be provided to DSG at the appropriate time.
- ) Since the written report (November 2017) there had been a lost time accident when a person tripped when leaving a small (2-3 step) scaffolding platform resulting in an injured knee.
- ) A recent emergency arrangement exercise was carried out on 2<sup>nd</sup> November overseen by ONR/DNSR and this was deemed adequate.

Stewart Ballantine, SEPA noted that he had nothing to add.

Roger Saxon noted that ONR were not present but that a written report had been submitted at the sub group meeting. Any questions relating to ONR would be placed as an action point for response. He then invited questions.



- ) Jean Jack (member of the public) asked whether Vulcan had a timescale for reporting all investigations as it appeared that the boiler failure investigation was taking a long time to conclude. Lt Cdr Walker responded that the investigation was quite complicated with a number of stakeholders to inform and they wished to ensure the investigation is thorough and correct.
- ) David Broughton asked whether the scene of the boiler incident remained as it was at the time of the explosion. Lt Cdr Walker responded that debris in the vicinity of the boiler had been cleared up as it was a potential hazard but the boiler remained in place. David Broughton enquired whether, by moving some of the debris, the evidence had been jeopardised? Lt Cdr Walker confirmed that nothing had been jeopardised.
- ) Tor Justad asked if Vulcan could provide a timescale for the conclusion of the investigation and output taking on board the comments made regarding various stakeholders interactions and the conclusion of a thorough investigation. Lt Cdr Walker responded that he would take an action to confirm the timeline for the conclusion of this investigation.

**Action: DSG(2017)M004/A003: Lt Cdr Ian Walker to provide DSG Secretariat with a timeline for the conclusion of the boiler explosion investigation.**

- ) A member of the public asked who was responsible for running Vulcan as they owned premises near to his house and the garden area of the Vulcan property required tidying up. Lt Cdr Walker said he would speak to the gentleman after the meeting and get more details and would deal with it outside this meeting.

## **7. DOUNREAY UPDATE**

Roger Saxon noted that written reports had been provided to the Site Restoration sub group from Dounreay, ONR and SEPA. In addition the Socio Economic sub group meeting had received written reports from Dounreay Socio Economic Alliance (NDA/Dounreay) and CNSRP. The minutes of both sub groups had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

For completeness the actions raised at the sub groups are recorded below:

**DSG(2017)M004/A004: June Love to send link to DSG members re the Holliday Interim Report.**

**DSG(2017)M004/A005: June Love to confirm the update on waste movements from DCP to D2001 posting cell.**

**DSG(2017)M004/A006: Danny Gregory to find out number for boiler explosions in the past 2-3 years in Britain.**

**DSG(2017)M004/A007:** June Love to contact DRS to ask if they were planning other discussions within the community during the day and what DSG would like to see addressed in the presentation.

**DSG(2017)M004/A008:** Roger Saxon to write to Highland Councillors to ask them to consider better attendance at meetings in the future.

**DSG(2017)M004/A009:** June Love to contact DRS and advise what DSG would like to see addressed in the presentation to be provided at the December DSG.

**DSG(2017)M004/A010:** Anna MacConnell, NDA to provide report on SME spend across the NDA estate when available.

**DSG(2017)M004/A011:** Anna MacConnell to write to DSG Chairman, Roger Saxon, requesting a DSG representative for the Nucleus Advisory Panel.

**DSG(2017)M004/A012:** DSG Business meeting, on receipt of request for Nucleus Advisory Panel to agree the most appropriate DSG representative.

**DSG(2017)M004/A013:** Roger Saxon to write to local councillors requesting an update on the proposed Town Centre Improvements projects.

**DSG(2017)M004/A014:** June Love to provide an update on the number of supply chain companies had signed up to LINC and to identify how many from the local area had registered their interest (both within Caithness/Sutherland and the wider Highlands).

**DSG(2017)M004/A015:** Trudy Morris to provide DSG with the latest update on Berriedale Braes.

**DSG(2017)M004/A016:** June Love to write to CHAT representative inviting him to the January DSG Socio Economic sub group meeting.

**DSG(2017)M004/A017:** June Love to circulate letter from David Batters to Roger Saxon dated 13 November to all DSG members (DSG(2017)C038 refers).

**DSG(2017)M004/A018:** June Love to write to Martin MacDonald, Scottish Government Radwaste team to ask for further information on the draft energy policy in relation to nuclear electrical generation.

Roger Saxon invited the following to provide verbal updates:


**NDA:** Mark Raffle, NDA Programme Manager noted:

) A new Director of Operations had now been appointed. Alan Cumming, a civil and structural engineering who had previously worked for EDF would take up this post in April 2018 and would be the NDA Director responsible for Dounreay. This was the position that David Batters was currently carrying out as well as his financial role. The

responsibility for Dounreay operations would be with Alan Cumming while David Batters would continue as Chief Financial Officer.

- ) Following the recent Japanese visit to Caithness a number of follow-up questions had now been received.
- ) The Public Accounts Committee had met and looked at the National Audit Office report into the Magnox contract. A video and transcript of this meeting was available on the UK Government's website.
- ) The Highland Council had recently won an award for Quality in Planning, relating to its input to Nucleus.
- ) There had been an excellent Caithness turn-out at the NDA Stakeholder Summit held in September 2017.
- ) The Magnox SSG Chairs forum was due to meet in London in February and an invitation would be extended to the DSG chair/vice-chairman.
- ) On a date to be confirmed the NDA would be holding an event in Holyrood to raise awareness of the decommissioning activities for the NDA's Scottish sites. The event will be hosted by Gail Ross, MSP and the intention was to invite MSPs who have SME's in their constituencies that have benefited from decommissioning. Dependent on the size of the venue it was the intention to invite others including List MSPs as well as DSG representation.

**Dounreay:** David Lowe, Deputy Managing Director noted:

- ) The TRIR rate was now sitting at 0.09 which was the same level as reported at the sub group meeting. As of today (5<sup>th</sup> December) the site had gone 50 days without a lost time accident since the report injury of a contractor with a superficial burn had been announced. Before the injury the site had been a historical low of 0.04 in the TRIR rating.
- ) The focus for site continues to be on safety p h 

- ) A short video showing the removal of the breeder fuel from DFR had been published on Dounreay's website – [www.dounreay.com](http://www.dounreay.com).

**Action: DSG(2017)M004/A019: June Love to circulate link to DFR breeder fuel removal video to DSG members.**

- ) Over 100 companies had now registered with LINC (an innovation scheme offering small and medium enterprises the opportunity to collaborate and support the site's decommissioning programme). Sellafeld Ltd had also duplicated this initiative following the sharing of information from Dounreay.
- ) The Invitation to Tender had been issued for the demolition of DMTR (Dounreay Material Test Reactor).
- ) Dounreay Graduate Ashleigh Fenton had been shortlisted from National Skills Academy Nuclear (NSAN) for a nuclear award. She will be shortly go through an interview process and will find out the results later this year.
- ) The Voluntary Early Retirements continue to progress with 25 people having left Dounreay this year. Some individual discussions were continuing but it was expected that number of people volunteering would meet the site requirements as decommissioning moves forward. As noted in previous meetings, the site expected to be undertaking recruitment activities at some stage to ensure the appropriate skills required are made available.
- ) From a socio economic point of view, the Dounreay Socio Economic Board, approved funding of £120K to support three CNSRP projects (space, tidal and offshore wind).
- ) And finally, the workforce was treated to free festive lunches over the last couple of weeks in November. Previous to the lunches being organised, the workforce had voted for a charity to benefit from any personal donations. The workforce dug deep and the sum of £3300 was raised and would go to the Caithness Food Bank.

Roger Saxon noted that Danny Gregory, ONR had tendered his apologies. He noted that a written paper had been provided at the sub group meeting.

**SEPA:** Stewart Ballantine, SEPA noted:

- ) The PFR ventilation investigation was continuing and SEPA were on site undertaking further interviews in relation to this. Once these were complete the investigation would be concluded.
- ) The HHISO low level waste containers investigation report had been produced by DSRL and recently submitted to SEPA. SEPA was aware that further containers in the vaults may have been impacted and work continued to follow this up.

**CNC:** CI Martin O'Kane noted:

- ) A full update had been provided at the sub group meeting (15<sup>th</sup> November 2017).
- ) CNC continued to play a key role in the on and offsite operations of the site.
- ) Continue to work with Police Scotland and support to local community.
- ) Local recruitment was currently underway.

Roger Saxon then invited questions from DSG members.

- ) Tor Justad commented that he wished NDA luck with working with the Japanese given the recent contract problems in France.
- ) Tor Justad enquired about the timescales for the removal of the 1000 elements from DFR. David Lowe responded that this was still in the active commissioning phase and the removal of the fuel rods had just commenced. The initial work carried out was showing positive progress in the removal and processing of these.
- ) Tor Justad noted the empty flask received from Sellafield, reported at the last DSG meeting, which the Dounreay team had found to have low level contaminated on arrival at Georgemas and asked whether these flasks were routinely monitored. David Lowe responded that they were and that the surveyors had carried out their usual monitoring when the flask had arrived at Georgemas which had led to the discovery of low levels of contamination. Once detected the surveyors had taken the appropriate action.
- ) Cllr Struan Mackie asked if NDA could provide DSG with information on the NDA's budget for socio economics. He also asked for the spend to be broken down into regional areas. Mark Raffle responded there were two elements of funding with DSRL being allocated £500K/annum while NDA allocates socio economic more nationally. He did not have the specific details to hand but would take an action and report back.

**Action: DSG(2017)M004/A020: Mark Raffle, NDA Programme Manager to provide the NDA's yearly budget for socio economics and the spend broken down into regional areas.**

- ) Tor Justad asked whether the slight delay to the demolishing of DMTR was due to the accident which had been reported previously. David Lowe noted that the accident Tor referred to was the superficial burn previously reported and confirmed that the project had been delayed slightly until such times the investigation had been completed. The output of this investigation would be reported to the DSG sub group at the appropriate time.

## **8. GRADUATE PRESENTATION**

Roger Saxon stated that DSG was always delighted when they hear that Dounreay continues to take on young people through apprenticeship and graduate programmes and have been pleased to see an increase in recruitment numbers over the past couple of years.

Roger Saxon introduced Ali Coghill, one of the site's graduates, who had volunteered to provide a presentation on the Dounreay Graduate scheme. He noted that it was nice to see young and local people benefiting from these schemes and noted that Ali was also a very enthusiastic STEM ambassador. With that he handed over to Ali Coghill.

Ali Coghill provided a verbal presentation on his experience with the Graduate programme at Dounreay. He noted that:

- ) He had gone to University not knowing what he really wanted to do and after graduating had spent some time in Japan teaching English to Japanese school children. While in Japan his mother had sent him a facebook link which had been advertising Graduate vacancies at Dounreay and he had applied. On the day of the interviews he had met with another 22 hopeful Interviewees (150 applications had been received) and following 2 days of interviews and testing this had been whittled down to 15.
- ) After an eight year hiatus, 12 graduates had been recruited in 2016 with a further 12 in 2017. Those who had completed the graduate scheme were all now fully employed on site.
- ) The graduate scheme covered a 2 year training scheme ensuring graduates were set to work on jobs, shadow various roles, exchange visits to other sites, attendances at conferences and are also encouraged to go for a master degree where applicable.
- ) One of the most important areas was the push towards chartership schemes which last 2 years but to become a chartered member takes a minimum of 5 years and includes professional development, secondments around various areas on site and to other sites.
- ) Last year one of the Dounreay graduates had been runner up at the Nuclear graduate awards and this year Ashleigh Fenton had been shortlisted and was currently going through interviews with the outcome announced next year. Another graduate had been nominated for the New Employee award at the Babcock safety excellence awards.
- ) The scheme has seen all the graduates taken on in a professional capacity and are now working as Facility Managers, Technical services, commissioning plants and the like.
- ) All the graduates meet with their allocated mentors on a regular basis. The senior managers also take time out to speak with the graduates and provide personal and professional support. Often the Executive team provide their time for discussions with the graduates which includes technical issues, challenges, how the site contract works and how the parent body earns fee. Some of the Executive team members came up through the same routes and have been willing to provide their experience on how they moved up the career ladder.
- ) All new graduates are offered a buddy system and those graduates going through their chartership now will eventually become buddies to new graduates coming in. In addition the graduates are all involved in STEM activities, which inspire young people to

take up the science, technical, engineering and math subjects.

- ) Five of the current graduate intake was working on research into alternative energy at the request for CNSRP.
- ) On a personal note, Ali stated that he was gaining positive working experience at the site which would also stand him in good stead as the jobs declined at Dounreay. His hope was that the CNSRP opportunities identified for employment after Dounreay closed would allow him to stay and work in the area in the profession he is gaining experience in now.

Roger Saxon thanked Ali Coghill for his presentation and stated that one of the things he was always concerned of what the young people would simply leave the area once Dounreay was gone. He was pleased to hear that Ali was looking at the future opportunities with a view to staying in the area.

Roger Saxon noted that this was what we should all be working towards, ensuring that once the decommissioning of the site was complete there were other jobs for these young people to move into without having to move away from the area. It was important that everyone needed to get behind the CNSRP and sometimes remind the agencies that span the whole Highlands and Islands area that Caithness and North Sutherland is a priority area and as such the organisations tasked with regeneration should not be making decisions in isolation. He added that everyone in the county should look at the potential opportunities beyond Dounreay and the work of the CNSRP which is helping to create the right dynamics to ensure that these opportunities will be captured for people like Ali and for the next generation of young people in the area.

Roger Saxon then invited questions from the audience. Of note:

- ) John Deighan stated it was good to see vibrant apprentice and graduate training schemes at Dounreay. He noted the comment on the fee earned by the parent body and stated that the unions had been trying to ensure that some of that fee was put back into the local community. He congratulated Ali on his presentation and said the national recognition of the graduates was something to be proud of.
- ) Cllr Stephen Clackson (Orkney) noted that he was interested in the STEM activities mentioned. Ali Coghill responded that one of the projects he was currently involved in was working with primary 5,6 and 7 school children on a 'planet pioneers' getting the children to identify a planet to travel to and live on it for a year. He added that some of the children, aged around 9 and 10, have come up with more ideas and more knowledge on the subject as those who were providing the STEM support.
- ) David Broughton noted that while at Dounreay he had been the Chair of the Apprentice Training Board for around 10 years. One of the things he had always encouraged was for young people to get a rounded training at various different parts of the sites as well as in other industries. He would encourage Ali and his colleagues to continue to get as

much experience working in the different areas.

- ) June Love noted that through the socio economic benefit in contracts some of the companies were offering secondments to the apprentice/graduates on site to work out of their headquartered offices while a company was delivering a contract at Dounreay. This was also providing the apprentices/graduates with an opportunity to see for themselves what it was like to work in a different environment.
- ) Ali Coghill noted that opportunities for graduates had already been extended through the Battery Factory and Subsea 7. These placements were useful and would likely continue.
- ) David Flear noted the comments on the supply chain offers to take graduates for placements and noted that June Love's comments provided evidence that the companies tendering for contracts at Dounreay were taking the socio economic commitment seriously. He reminded DSG that with support from the Chamber of Commerce, this had been something that members had taken forward with the previous Managing Director at Dounreay and with Phil Craig when he was appointed. The site should be congratulated on taking this forward while noting that DSG would continue to keep an eye on this.
- ) Cllr Struan Mackie stated that it was nice to see graduates coming back to the area after leaving to go to university. It was equally pleasing to hear that all graduates had been currently retained which is testament to the good scheme in place. From a personal development point of view it was clear that the site management was supportive and STEM was a useful initiative to ensure that young people were aware of the opportunities in these fields.

## 9. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Roger Saxon noted that the members of the public in attendance had been extended the opportunity to raise questions throughout the meeting. He asked whether they wished to raise anything further.

- ) Jean Jack (member of the public) noted there had been some talk about a potential space port in Sutherland and asked if anyone could provide an update on this. Roger Saxon responded that the CNSRP priority programme outlined space as one of the potential opportunities for the future. Roy Kirk, HIE added that in line to grow new jobs in the area space had indeed been identified as a potential priority for the area. The project was still not guaranteed but was continuing to progress well. It was expected that early next year CNSRP would be in a better position to know with more confidence if this project is worth pursuing.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before opening up to members for any other business, Roger Saxon noted:

- ) A number of stakeholders from Caithness and North Sutherland had attended the NDA stakeholder summit which took place in September. The event had concentrated on the



socio economic successes and he, as all those who attended, had been extremely proud to attend as part of 'Team Caithness/NS'. Scrabster Harbour had provided a well-received presentation with a number of external stakeholders from other NDA sites commenting on the video that showed Caithness at its best. Others who attended from Caithness/NS included the Chamber, CNSRP, CNS Fund co-ordinator and reps from Nucleus. The exhibition display set up for the area was quite impressive showcasing the county's successes and looking to the future.

- ) He and Derrick Milnes, along with other local stakeholders, had met with David Batters, NDA Chief Financial Officer and other NDA and BEIS representatives on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. This had provided an opportunity to raise some points and at every opportunity the DSG continues to raise the need for continued site funding at the appropriate level to allow the completion of the site decommissioning programme and making sure those who consider the spend profile understand that this area cannot simply turn the workforce and supply chain on and off like a tap. It had been stressed that the site needed a period of stability to let the workforce get on with the job and while NDA are very supportive in this the DSG would continue to keep an eye on this as Government spending reviews come round again.
- ) A number of other activities have been ongoing since the last meeting, stressing that DSG does not simply meet four times a year but that a lot of discussion goes on in between meetings to ensure that issues are raised at a relevant time.

Roger Saxon then invited other members to raise any issues.

- ) Tor Justad asked Mark Raffle is there any further update on the position of Euratom. Mark Raffle responded that he had no further information.
- ) John Deighan noted that this would be his last meeting, representing the Dounreay Unions as he was standing down after many years. He noted the work and commitment of various DSG members over the years and reflected on some excellent work carried out. The Unions would continue to have a seat at the table and DSG would be shortly advised as to who the Union rep would be. He wished everyone well for the future.
- ) Derrick Milnes noted the Royal Bank of Scotland's announcement to close their Wick branch along with a number of others. He noted that this was the type of thing that the area could ill afford especially when inward investment to the area was so important at this time. He asked for the committee's agreement to write to the MSP/MP raising these concerns.

**Action: DSG(2017)M004/A021: DSG Chairman to write, on behalf of DSG, raising concerns with MSP/MP on the announcement of closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland Wick branch.**

## 11. CLOSE

Endorsed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Roger Saxon noted there were no further issues to be raised. He thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone a safe journey home and a Merry Christmas. He formally closed the meeting.

**Roger Saxon**  
**DSG Chairman**  
8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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

**DSG(2017)M004/A001:** June Love to recirculate link to Holliday interim report to DSG members.

**DSG(2017)M004/A002:** DSG Chairman to write to Frank Roche, HiTrans asking for clarification of views on the Georgemas crane with regards to commercial freight.

**DSG(2017)M004/A003:** Lt Cdr Ian Walker to provide DSG Secretariat with a timeline for the conclusion of the boiler explosion investigation.

**DSG(2017)M004/A004:** June Love to send link to DSG members re the Holiday Interim Report.

**DSG(2017)M004/A005:** June Love to confirm the update on waste movements from DCP to D2001 posting cell.

**DSG(2017)M004/A006:** Danny Gregory to find out number for boiler explosions in the past 2-3 years in Britain.

**DSG(2017)M004/A007:** June Love to contact DRS to ask if they were planning other discussions within the community during the day and what DSG would like to see addressed in the presentation.

**DSG(2017)M004/A008:** Roger Saxon to write to Highland Councillors to ask them to consider better attendance at meetings in the future.

**DSG(2017)M004/A009:** June Love to contact DRS and advise what DSG would like to see addressed in the presentation to be provided at the December DSG.

**DSG(2017)M004/A010:** Anna MacConnell, NDA to provide report on SME spend across the NDA estate when available.

**DSG(2017)M004/A011:** Anna MacConnell to write to DSG Chairman, Roger Saxon, requesting a DSG representative for the Nucleus Advisory Panel.

**DSG(2017)M004/A012:** DSG Business meeting, on receipt of request for Nucleus Advisory Panel to agree the most appropriate DSG representative.

**DSG(2017)M004/A013:** Roger Saxon to write to local councillors requesting an update on the proposed Town Centre Improvements projects.

**DSG(2017)M004/A014:** June Love to provide an update on the number of supply chain companies had signed up to LINC and to identify how many from the local area had registered their interest (both within Caithness/Sutherland and the wider Highlands).

**DSG(2017)M004/A015:** Trudy Morris to provide DSG with the latest update on Berriedale Braes.

**DSG(2017)M004/A016:** June Love to write to CHAT representative inviting him to the January DSG Socio Economic sub group meeting.

**DSG(2017)M004/A017:** June Love to circulate letter from David Batters to Roger Saxon dated 13 November to all DSG members (DSG(2017)C038 refers).

**DSG(2017)M004/A018:** June Love to write to Martin MacDonald, Scottish Government Radwaste team to ask for further information on the draft energy policy in relation to nuclear electrical generation.

**DSG(2017)M004/A019:** June Love to circulate link to DFR breeder fuel removal video to DSG members.

**DSG(2017)M004/A020:** Mark Raffle, NDA Programme Manager to provide the NDA's yearly budget for socio economics and the spend broken down into regional areas.

**DSG(2017)M004/A021:** DSG Chairman to write, on behalf of DSG, raising concerns with MSP/MP on the announcement of closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland Wick branch.

### **ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**DSG(2016)M003/A016:** Wendy Newton to liaise with June Love to agree appropriate sub group meetings to provide update on the future options of the site. **Action ongoing.**

**DSG(2017)M003/A003:** Tor Justad to provide June Love with the information he received from Highland HiTrans. **Action ongoing:** information requested.

**DSG(2017)M003/A018:** DSG Business meeting to consider the roles and remit of the sub groups once all vacancies had been filled. **Action ongoing** – will be progressed after the AGM as there will be some changes of membership.

### **ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING**

**DSG(2016)M003/A024:** Eann Sinclair, CNSRP Programme Manager to provide the CNSRP high priority programme pipeline for projects for the next three years at next sub group meeting. **Action complete:** Plans and scopes are now developed and will be reported via the CNSRP progress report on a quarterly basis.

**DSG(2017)M003/A001:** June Love to put public members on business meeting agenda for discussion. **Action complete:** letter drafted awaiting response from members.

**DSG(2017)M003/A002:** June Love to circulate DRS update to DSG members following the Caithness Transport Forum. **Action complete:** Circulated to all DSG members [note DRS will be providing presentation at December DSG).

**DSG(2017)M003/A004:** June Love to contact Gary Cameron regarding North Sutherland councillor. **Action complete:** Kirsteen Currie has now been nominated to sit on DSG.

**DSG(2017)M003/A005:** June Love to request a presentation at the next public DSG meeting on procurement and local benefits within contracts. **Action complete:** request made and Stephen Adamson, Head of Commercial will provide presentation.

**DSG(2017)M003/A006:** DSG to provide comments to June Love on the Dounreay Socio Economic Plan 2017-202 by 7<sup>th</sup> August. **Action complete:** reminder out on 3<sup>rd</sup> August – one clarification received. No further comments.

Endorsed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**DSG(2017)M003/A007:** June Love to provide Caithness Horizons letter to Cllr Matthew Reiss.  
**Action complete.**

**DSG(2017)M003/A008:** DSG to write to Highland Council regarding Caithness and Nort



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Dounreay presentation on Commercial confirmed. NDA presentation held back until after NDA stakeholder summit and decision taken to defer this one until more clarity around Magnox contract. December meeting will include a presentation from DRS.

**DSG(2017)M003/A023:** June Love to write to DSG observers clarifying information required to be verbally reported at the DSG public meeting. **Action complete:** clarification sent on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.

**DSG(2017)M003/A024:** June Love to issue reminder to DSG members for feedback to the Dounreay planning phase 3 consultation (deadline 11<sup>th</sup> August for responses to be received). **Action complete:** See DSG(2017)C029.

**DSG(2017)M003/A025:** June Love to include update on progress of LINC initiative via sub groups in November. **Action complete:** information provided in written updates for 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**DSG(2017)M003/A026:** June Love to put correspondence relating to health physics training on next Socio Economic sub group meeting for discussion. **Action complete:** This was discussed at Socio Economic sub group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**DSG(2017)M003/A027:** Tor Justad to send the website links to June Love on power cost and the UN Rapporteur relating to waste. **Action complete:** -

Power costs: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/nils-pratley-on-finance/2017/sep/11/hinkley-nuclear-power-no-match-for-renewables>

UN Rapporteur report: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/10/uk-flouting-duty-to-cut-air-pollution-deaths-says-un-human-rights-report>