

NDA – SOCIO ECONOMIC REPORT FOR DSG SUB GROUP

Scrabster Harbour St Ola Pier/UKVL/NHC Campus Redesign – application to NDA

Following application from Scrabster Harbour Trust (regarding the St Ola Pier), an application from HIE (for UKVL) and from North Highland College (for Thurso Campus redesign) the NDA was in a position to be able to top up the socio economic budget and awarded £5million to Scrabster Harbour. The award to Scrabster is to support the redevelopment of the St Ola Pier to increase oil and gas support and business from cruise ships and other large vessels.

The NDA is now considering how to support UKVL and NHC, and reviewing what might be possible over the next few years.

NDA SSG Chairs meeting

SSG chairs and vice-chairs from Magnox and Dounreay met in London in March (attended by Roger Saxon and Struan Mackie for DSG). West Cumbria was not represented at the meeting. There was discussion on socio economics with Andrew van der Lem, NDA's Head of Government Relations who is currently the lead for socio economics in the NDA, and he has confirmed a direct funding pot of £3million for Dounreay and the Magnox sites for 2019/20. This does not include the additional funds ring-fenced within the Dounreay annual site funding and similar for Magnox or any established arms-length funding streams such as the CNSFund. There was also recognition that the situation in Anglesey is currently particularly acute. Sellafield arrangements are that there is £6million available for West Cumbria. The Magnox contract ends in September and support for socio economics is under review. Several Magnox sites will move to care and maintenance over the next few years.

NDA Socio Economic Strategy

Andrew van der Lem presented to the SSG Chairs that the NDA recognises that there are inherited disparities in socio economic support across the estate, as well as various legacy pots of money that have remained unchanged over the years. A refreshed strategy for socio economics is to be developed with consultation beginning in September this year, with the aim of publishing in January 2020. It is hoped that the DSG will provide input to the consultation.

JOG Mill

John O Groat Mill Trust is seeking £43,500 from the NDA towards total purchase cost of the mill, two holiday cottages and a field adjacent to the mill. An award of £291,000 has been approved by Scottish Land Fund (80% of purchase costs) and an application to LEADER for £36,500 is under consideration. NDA funding (if approved) will be dependent on full match funding being confirmed from LEADER or another source.

Mey Highland Games

NDA has provided sponsorship of £15,000 for this year's Mey Highland Games. It was agreed that the Invictus Highland Games theme fits well with the NDA's work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The Mey Games are leading the way in the highland games arena by providing equal value prizes for all athletes - male female and disabled. The Games will be held in John o Groats on 3rd August.

Dounreay SSE substation

NDA is currently transferring ownership of an area near Dounreay and Vulcan to SSE to provide a site for a new substation. The substation is required to receive power generated in Orkney via subsea cabling landed west of the Dounreay and Vulcan sites.

Georgemas Crane

The trial of the lifting mechanism required for commercial freight was successfully carried out earlier this year. We await a date for the full trial to which representatives of DSG will be invited to observe.

JAEA secondment – Kazumatsu Matsui

Mr Matsui is to be seconded from JAEA to Dounreay for a period of 6-7 months beginning summer 2019. The secondment is primarily to help JAEA understand the activities required to deliver large scale decommissioning programmes such as the Monju reactor in Japan. Mr Matsui will spend a proportion of his time in the Dounreay Programme Office as well as focussing on PFR decommissioning. The work will also help determine what expertise can be drawn from UK companies, and the secondment will be delivered with close involvement from the UK Monju Team, made up of representatives from Wood, Cavendish and Nuvia. The detailed programme for the secondment is still to be finalised and will include an introduction to DSG, review of some key local socio economic projects and discussion on stakeholder engagement. In return Mr Matsui will be able to provide insights from the Japanese decommissioning mission.

Other potential land transfer

NDA has been approached to consider transfer of the walled garden area of Viewfirth site to a charitable organisation. This is currently being explored. The plans would not impede the ability of the Sports Hub to create a full scale running track and indoor sports buildings at Viewfirth.

Nucleus

Visitor numbers and outreach work at Nucleus continues to be successful with many individuals and groups using the Caithness archives on a regular basis. Of note Nucleus provided a venue for a series of events during Caithness Science Week . The NDA sponsored the launch of the Women In Nuclear Highland branch in Nucleus in March.

Restore is currently conducting a recruitment campaign to fill 41 positions however this is expected to take some time because of the need for security clearance. Currently national clearance processes (external to Nucleus and NDA) are taking up to 6 months to complete. The recruitment is

largely to support a ramping up of deliveries to the facility from Sellafield and other sites, following the completion of Harwell and Dounreay archive migrations.

An arts programme (required as a planning consent for the building) is ongoing and two local artists have been commissioned to produce work for display at Nucleus – these are glass artist Karlyn Sutherland from Dunbeath and composer John Ross of Wick. In addition a piece has been commissioned from collaborative artists Thompson and Craighead and their installation will be unveiled later this year. The artistic installation, a counter which demonstrated the length of time nuclear waste records require to be stored, will be placed in the community room at Nucleus.

One NDA

David Peattie's OneNDA initiative is developing and a restructure of the NDA is underway. On termination of the Magnox contract 85% of the NDA "group" will be directly managed by NDA. The shape of the organisation is being modified to reflect a group structure, with NDA corporate centre drawing in support and exporting it across the NDA group. A fuller report will be provided sometime in the next few months as the new structure is firmed up.

NDA Stakeholder Summit

The NDA Stakeholder Summit will be held in Anglesey in July. Two places for representatives from each SSG are paid for centrally by the NDA, although other members are welcome to attend using other sources of funding. DSG is asked to nominate attendees. The focus of this year's summit is skills development.

IAEA visit in October

A group of international representatives of the IAEA will visit Caithness and Dounreay in October. The focus of the meeting is still to be made final but there may potentially interest in stakeholder and community engagement.

ANNA MACCONNELL – 2 May 2019

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS & SOCIO ECONOMICS MANAGER