

Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership Inward Investment Progress Report - January 2009

Product Development

Tourism Masterplan has been reviewed by John O' Groats promotional group. Final version expected to be completed by March 2009 and will then be put out to tender. Contact made with one of the hotel chains in connection with possible future development in Caithness.

Energy Crown Estate first phase of sea bed leasing completed 19th December with forty three serious notes of interest in the Pentland Firth. The Crown Estate has advised that in view of the level of interest they will postpone the start of the tender period from week commencing 26 January to week commencing 16 February. The new closing date for receipt of tender information will now be 15th May. The CNSRP took a stand at SRF Grid conference on January 27th in Glasgow, and have contacted the Caithness Energy Alliance for interest in the local supply chain attending "All Energy" conference in Aberdeen in May (21st and 22nd). We are planning a joint 2 day "Meet the Developer Event" with the NSIG in March to introduce them to the local supply chain.

Marketing Material Meetings scheduled in Inverness (January 23rd) and Glasgow (January 26th) to discuss marketing. Review of Pentland Firth marketing material scheduled for February. Issue 2 of CNSRP newsletter can be downloaded from new website (www.cnsrp.org.uk) and we are working on the next hard copy issue.

Prospects

Tourism Contacts established with potential developers and investors to establish interest in tourism projects mentioned above. Working with SDI and HIE Inward Investment team on proposition document and marketing materials.

Services Ongoing discussions with a number of service companies. Most are contact centres. There is potential interest in existing facilities.

Energy Ongoing discussions with tidal device companies on investing in the area.
Joint event with NSIG being organized for developers to meet the local
supply chain March 10th and 11th in Caithness and Orkney.

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Leads

We are currently in discussion with 14 companies. These include companies involved in tourism, business services and renewable energy.

Successes

- The Crown Estate has received double the expected number of expressions of interest in leases of the sea bed in the Pentland Firth region, and has therefore postponed the start of the tendering period due to the unexpected but most welcome response.