

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

Product Development

Tourism Physical master plan for John O Groats has gone out to tender. Contact made with one of the hotel chains in connection with possible future development in Caithness, feasibility study to be carried out.

Energy The Crown Estate has announced that it plans to match fund option fees paid by developers in order to de-risk and accelerate the development of tidal and wave energy projects in the Pentland Firth Strategic Area. Option fees will be charged in order for developers to secure sites for commercial scale marine energy development whilst they prepare environmental impact assessments and apply for planning consent and financial approvals.

The Crown Estate has announced that the first stage of the process to allocate sites for wave and tidal renewable energy in the Pentland Firth strategic area is complete and 38 companies/consortia have been invited to tender.

Marketing Material Review of Pentland Firth marketing material is ongoing. Issue 2 of CNSRP newsletter is in draft and will be available on www.cnsrp.org.uk

Prospects

Tourism Working with SDI and HIE Inward Investment team on proposition document and marketing materials, due by March.

Services Ongoing discussions with a number of business service companies. There is potential interest in existing facilities or new builds.

Energy Ongoing discussions with tidal device companies on investing in the area.

The "Meet the Developer Event" with the NSIG in March has attracted 15 developers.

Grid study is in final draft and will be available shortly.

Inward Investment Progress Report - February 2009

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 invited 38 companies/consortia to tender sites for wave and tidal renewable energy in the Pentland Firth strategic area.
- Atlantis Resources Corporation who have a vision to build a data centre in Caithness running off power from tidal energy has formed a strategic alliance with Internet Villages International, a sustainable property company specialising in energy efficient Data Farms.
- Photographer Mike McCartney's exhibition is to highlight the North's beauty and diversity as a place in which to live, work and visit. Throughout 2009 the exhibition will tour galleries around Scotland.