

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic Sub Group meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 1330 hours in the Pentland Hotel, Georgina Suite, Thurso.

Present:	Davie Alexander	Wick and Thurso Trades Council (chair)
	Derrick Milnes	DSG Co-opted Member of the Public
	Alastair MacDonald	Honorary member, DSG
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	The Highland Council
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Sandy Mackie	Scrabster Harbour Trust
	Cllr Struan Mackie	The Highland Council
	Gillian Coghill	Buldoe Residents Group
In attendance:	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary, Dounreay
	June Love	Stakeholder Relations & Socio Economics Manager
	Anna MacConnell	NDA Socio Economic & Stakeholder Relations Manager

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Davie Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for nominating him as the new sub group chair. He noted that David Flear had indicated that he would be stepping down as deputy sub group chair and therefore a new deputy chair was required. Davie Alexander proposed Ron Gunn. June Love has spoken to Ron Gunn who has intimated that he would be willing to take on this position provided no-one else wished to stand. As there were no further nominations Ron Gunn was nominated as the Socio Economic sub group deputy chair. This was proposed by Davie Alexander and seconded by Derrick Milnes.

David Alexander thanked Derrick Milnes who has been co-opted as a member of the public and David Flear for their involvement as chair and vice-chair respectively.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Roger Saxon DSG Chair
- David Flear, Honorary member, DSG (deputy chair)
- Ron Gunn, CHAT
- Peter Faccenda, CNSRP Programme Manager
- Eann Sinclair, HIE
- Cllr Matthew Reiss, The Highland Council
- Linda Bremner, Association of Caithness Community Councils

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Davie Alexander noted the minutes of the last meeting - DSG/SESG(2019)M001 - had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Derrick Milnes and seconded by Alastair MacDonald.

Gillian Coghill noted her name was missing from the list of attendees. No other issues were raised from the minutes.

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

Davie Alexander noted that an updated status of actions had been circulated to members in advance. The following was noted:

- **DSG(2019)M001/A021:** Cllr Struan Mackie to continue to update DSG on city region deal and the potential Caithness seminar/meeting. **Action Ongoing:** Cllr Struan Mackie noted that he had met with Jamie Stone, MP and Civil Servants from the Scottish Office to discuss the City and Region deal and his perception was that it looked increasingly more difficult to shoe-horn projects into this initiative. Discussions with Scottish Government had been more positive. Cllr Mackie noted he would be attending the Future of the City & Region Deal forum event on behalf of DSG where there would be discussions on what the City and Region Deal would look like going forward. He noted he would issue a note from the Conference..
- **DSG(2019)M001/A015:** Cllr Struan Mackie to contact the UK Defence Minister, Gavin Williamson with a view to holding a meeting with DSG on MOD's plans to decommission the site. **Action Ongoing:** Cllr Struan Mackie noted that due to the change in the Defence Minister it would be worthwhile for the communications sent to the previous minister to be sent to the new minister Penny Mordaunt. Cllr Struan Mackie has also requested a meeting with her.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A001: June Love to resend correspondence on Vulcan to the new Defence Minister Penny Mordaunt.

- **DSG(2019)M001/A020:** Cllr Struan Mackie and CNSRP Programme Manager to look at potential funding opportunities for Caithness and North Sutherland within the next round of the City Region Deal funding. **Action ongoing.** This would be discussed following the City and Region Deal conference at the end of May.

5. DOUNREAY COMMUNITY FUND

Davie Alexander noted that a summary of all funding applications had been provided to members in advance of the meeting. He reminded members to declare an interest where appropriate. The applications were reviewed and recommendations were made.

6. DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Davie Alexander noted that a written update from the NDA had been provided to members in advance of the meeting (DSG(2019)P015 refers). He noted the following:

- Applications had been submitted to the NDA regarding the Scrabster St Ola Pier redevelopment, Spaceport project and the North Highland Campus redesign. Scrabster Harbour Trust had been awarded £5m grant funding from the NDA to support the redevelopment of the St Ola Pier which would increase oil and gas support and business from cruise ships and other large vessels.

Sandy Mackie stated that the funding granted was appreciated and was a vote of confidence in the project. Scrabster Harbour Trust still had a little way to go to secure all the funding required but it was hopeful that this would be secured soon. It was expected to have a contractor in place by the end of 2019 with construction work commencing in 2020 and completing in 2021.

Anna MacConnell noted that the NDA was now considering how to support Space Hub Sutherland and NHC Thurso Campus redesign.

Anna MacConnell stated that the £5m granted to Scrabster Harbour had been released from 2018/19 financial year which allowed some headroom to look at the next few years for other projects. She reminded members that the socio economic funding available included applications from Magnox as well as Dounreay.

- NDA SSG Chairs Meeting had been held in London in March and attended by Roger Saxon and Cllr Struan Mackie. Davie Alexander noted that he was disappointed to note that West Cumbria was not represented.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that this had been a good meeting and there was an appetite to look at socio economics for the longer term. A review was being undertaken by UK. The one thing he had taken away from the meeting was that Dounreay, Sellafield and Wylfa had the most dependence on the nuclear industry.

David Alexander stated he was pleased to see that the NDA recognised that there were some disparities across the estate and looked forward to seeing the consultation in September 2019, with the aim of publishing the final strategy in January 2020.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that from the DSG perspective there it would be useful to consider what the value of the end product would be rather than being prescriptive over criteria.

- Anna MacConnell noted that NDA had received an application from John O Groat Mill Trust to support the purchase the Mill. Three funders had been identified; Scottish Land Fund (who had funded 80% of purchase costs), LEADER which was pending and the NDA. The cost of the development of the mill will come from Scottish Land Fund and other bodies. The NDA had approved £43,500 to support the project and it was hoped that the LEADER application for £36,500 would now be approved.

Trudy Morris commented that the JOG Mill project had not been discussed at CNSRP and was confused in terms of the bigger funding requests which were still outstanding. She asked if the NDA were still considering what would be possible in terms of those projects and queried how the funding for the JOG Mill was approved given it was not on the CNSRP Programme.

Anna MacConnell responded that as far as the CNSRP Programme was concerned she had spoken to the CNSRP Programme Manager and his view was that as there is no strategy in place for tourism projects it had the potential to fit within this space once identified. Given the lack of clarity on this particular scope of work the funding application had gone to NDA for approval. June Love noted that she had a similar enquiry and had written to the CNSRP Programme Manager who had confirmed that this was not on the programme.

Trudy Morris asked whether this had been discussed with the CNSRP Executive Board. Anna MacConnell responded that that would be for the CNSRP Programme Manager to take forward.

David Alexander noted his disappointment that after 10 years there was still no tourism strategy in place. He also questioned the process for taking projects through the CNSRP and how the decision making process worked to get projects on the priority programme. June Love noted that there was a process for identifying priority projects and the potential for job creation was one of the major factors. She further added that DSRL had received a funding enquiry from CNSRP relating to a tourism strategy. Further discussions would be required before a funding application could be submitted. Anna MacConnell noted that the NC 500 is on the strategy as a headline but the activities associated with the heading have yet to be defined.

Trudy Morris stated that the lack of a tourism strategy was because the funding partners could not agree what type of projects they could support and this had been an ongoing discussion within CNSRP. While discussions had taken place and proposals had been put forward nothing had happened with these so far. While the strategy for major projects was defined clarity was still required on potential projects that may sit outside of the major projects. June Love noted that she had raised this in discussion with the new CNSRP Programme Manager and would expect this to evolve in more detail in the coming months.

Anna MacConnell stated that none of the funding partners constrained themselves to specifically funding CNSRP projects. The NDA and DSRL were unique in trying to ensure there was a link to the CNSRP Programme by getting the CNSRP Programme Manager's view so in terms of the JOG Mill while the Programme Manager's view was that the NC500 was not yet defined there was a link to the JOG mill as the development is on the NC500 route. Trudy Morris responded that she did not dispute that but was asking why it was not then included in the CNSRP programme. Anna MacConnell agreed that one of the questions for CNSRP to consider was how projects were accepted on to the programme and that she had discussed this with the new CNSRP Programme Manager.

June Love noted that with the number of recent changes within CNSRP there had been a bit of a flux in progress and now that the new CNSRP Programme Manager had been appointed it was expected that more clarity around this would be forthcoming. She noted that having had an earlier discussion with the new Programme Manager she had stressed the need to revisit the process for considering projects.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A002: Trudy Morris to speak to CNSRP Programme Manager regarding the tourism strategy.

Trudy Morris noted that it would be useful to get more clarity on the NDA funding that was available as she was still unclear about how £5M has been found for Scrabster. Given that the NDA had intimated that there was an annual sum of £3m for socio economic activity for Magnox sites and Dounreay she did not understand how the NDA could then announce a £5m funding package at relatively short notice.

Anna MacConnell stated that the socio economic fund was not divided up between sites and this played in Dounreay's favour. Before the end of last financial year there had been some additional funding available to top up the socio economic budget and because Scrabster Harbour project was shovel ready the decision by NDA was to grant them the funding required. She added that the £5m was the total funding applied for from NDA and DSRL. Anna MacConnell also noted that none of the other funding bodies provided details of their total budget available.

June Love noted that she had spoken to the new Programme Manager regarding the underspend of DSRL's socio economic funding for last financial year. She added that a letter had been sent to the CNSRP Chairman to stress the need for a clear yearly spend profile. While there was the ability to

carry funding over from one financial year to the next it was not ideal when essentially any carry over funding was diverted from decommissioning activities.

Derrick Milnes asked what the long term plan for the JOG Mill was. Anna MacConnell noted that she has seen the Business Case and she would ask permission from JOG Mill project to share this.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A003: Anna MacConnell to ask JOG mill project whether the business plan could be shared with DSG members.

Anna MacConnell noted that some funding requests will always come out of the blue and it would be wrong to be so process driven that such projects could not be considered.

Davie Alexander stated that he had attended the CNSRP Advisory Board and had come away from that meeting wondering what members were actually advising on. He recognised that this meeting had been focussed on the new NHS Chief Executive but still questioned what the purpose of the Advisory Board was as he felt there was no real input into any of the decisions made at the Executive Board level. This was something he would further explore within CNSRP.

Trudy Morris noted that the Advisory Board had been revamped around a year ago having asked the Advisory Board members if they wished to rename the Board and what they wished to see as their remit. Davie Alexander responded that the CNSRP Programme Manager also attends the Thurso and Wick Trades Council and provides an update there and found that the Advisory Board was a duplicate of the information provided at the Trades Council.

Trudy Morris noted that there were a number of meetings held which provided exactly the same information and hence why the members of the Delivery Group did not now attend the Advisory Board.

Ronnie Johnstone stated that as a founding member of the CNSRP Advisory board he had found it exciting for the first couple of years as the mood then was that members were capable of changing the direction and/or strategy of CNSRP. However, by the time he had stepped down from this role it had become more of an information update meeting with no real input from members. He added that the DSG was also another example of this.

Davie Alexander responded that he had initially had the same thoughts about DSG in that when attending as a public member there did not appear to be a great deal happening. However, having now attended sub group meetings he recognised that there was still a lot of influencing being carried out via the sub groups while the public meeting was more about providing information. He added that the DSG Business meeting had recognised the need to focus on various topics and this would be driven through the agenda throughout the year.

June Love noted the NDA socio economic strategy that would be consulted on later this year was an example of where DSG members could comment and influence if well thought out arguments can be made. While taking on board Ronnie Johnstone's comments she also noted that the bulk of the strategic direction, which DSG had inputted into was now embedded processes and therefore there was less to influence on now as the strategy had been informed.

Anna MacConnell stated that it would also be good to look back sometimes and consider all the positive activities that had been achieved. Davie Alexander agreed that there had been a lot of positives over the last couple of years.

Alistair Macdonald noted that at the beginning of DSG it had been hard getting all the various organisations to work together and while there had been an improvement over the last few years there were still some examples of duplication of activities across various groups.

Cllr Struan Mackie stated that the new HC CEO, Donna Manson was considering setting up a Caithness forum to bring all the funders together and look to bring in additional funders to the area. The area was unique in that funding was available from some funding bodies that were not available in other parts of the UK.

Sandy Mackie noted that it would be useful for funding organisations to regroup and for members to remind themselves why they are there. It was because of the closure of Dounreay and the massive impact this will have on the area. Therefore there was a need for numerous projects to be considered going forward. There needs to be focus on improving this situation to allow projects to come to fruition which means funding is required to allow these projects to be realised.

Anna MacConnell felt that this could be an opportunity to consider how the programme is refreshed and developed.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A004: Anna MacConnell to raise with CNSRP Programme Manager to consider how the CNSRP programme will be continually refreshed.

- Anna MacConnell noted that SSE were in discussions with NDA regarding the purchase of ground for a substation adjacent to the Dounreay/Vulcan sites. The relevance reporting this around the discussion of the interim end state for the site and whether stakeholders were looking for a green/brownfield site. A substation located there would allow the potential to use power to source an industrial use or transfer it down the lines.

Trudy Morris asked where the land was located. Anna MacConnell responded that it was down the Vulcan road there is a sharp turn the old substation is just at the end of that road to your left to the west side a large area there had been purchased by SSE for the substation.

June Love asked if they would need planning permission. Derrick Milnes advised that they had been consulting with local residents and there has been 2 days of presentations at Forss and Reay. He believed that a planning application had been submitted.

- Anna MacConnell noted that David Peattie, NDA CEO was developing a 'one NDA' where there would be a blurring of the lines between NDA and SLCs which would allow resources to be maximised across the NDA estate. DSRL sat outside this in the sense it still had a contract in place. The NDA was restructuring to fit this model and would impact on most of the sites.

Davie Alexander noted that this was very similar to what was first put in place when NDA was first constituted. DSRL was slightly alienated due to the contract still in place and wondered how NDA would reconcile this as all other sites would align to the new NDA vision. Anna MacConnell noted that the NDA had issued a handbook on this and would ask for copies to be distributed to DSG members.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A005: Anna MacConnell to provide copies of the 'One NDA' handbook to distribute to DSG members.

- The NDA Stakeholder Summit would be held in Anglesey in July. The focus of this year's summit was skills development.

June Love stated that she has spoken to the DSG Chair Roger Saxon and suggested that Davie Alexander also attend as the focus on skills aligns to the remit of the Socio Economic sub group.

- IAEA representatives would be visiting Caithness and Dounreay in October 2019. The focus of the meeting was still to be finalised but there was potential interest in stakeholder and community engagement.

Dounreay update:

June Love noted the following:

- The new socio-economic plan (2019-2023) had been submitted, as per DSRL's contractual obligation to NDA on 31st March. The plan was still in draft and DSG were invited to provide comments. .

Sandy Mackie asked what the status was on the people resource plan. June Love responded that the information would not be updated until the performance plan was finalised and approved. She added that as soon as the staffing profile was updated to align with the new performance plan it would be provided to CNSRP and DSG. It was expected that this information would be available around September 2019.

David Alexander noted that this had not materially changed since the contract award in 2012 and it was a disgrace that this information was not available. Sandy Mackie noted it would be useful information to have in the context of lobbying for funding in relation to the City and Region Deal. . David Alexander agreed adding that it was key to retaining the confidence of the workforce.

Trudy Morris noted that there was still an issue with the supply chain and staff being lost to Dounreay as recruitment activities continues. This was causing issues with the local supply chain and it was believed that a situation was being created which is not economically sustainable for the future. June Love noted that Simon Middlemas would be attending the June DSG meeting to provide an update on the CDP strategy and Engineering hub project. She also suggested that if DSG felt strongly about this it would be useful to have a pre-meeting with the new Dounreay Managing Director to discuss these issues and ask for clarity.

Davie Alexander noted that the question that should be raised was why it is taking so long to finalise a programme and resource plan. He also noted the new alliances created for the decommissioning framework contracts and believed this would further exacerbate the pressure on the supply chain retaining staff.

Trudy Morris noted that there was a number of examples of the site's make/buy policy having a detrimental impact on the supply chain.

Davie Alexander felt the best way forward was for a small representative group of DSG to meeting with the Dounreay Managing Director prior to the public meeting to discuss these issues.

Gillian Coghill agreed with Trudy and noted she had been approached by representatives of engineering companies who were taking on apprentices, investing in their training only to have them recruited by Dounreay. One such company had indicated that they wished to expand their employee numbers but found it impossible because Dounreay were recruiting their staff. She added

that there would be a socio economic implode at interim end state when the Dounreay workforce all left.

Trudy Morris commented that she was concerned as the local supply chain were the companies that need to be encouraged to take apprentices on to future proof their business but they are reluctant to invest in the training. It appeared that DSRL was creating an issue with wages that this area cannot sustain as they are substantially higher than everywhere else. If the local business are competing with supply chain in the Midlands, for example, the cost for certain levels of jobs are now higher than the average wage and this was not sustainable.

Cllr Struan Mackie commented on the staffing projections and recognised the need to get it was accurate as possible. From a Highland Council point of view his understanding was if Brexit happened there would be a replacement for European funding which would be a shared prosperity fund. One of the things the Scottish Councils were pushing for, and one of the key criteria and the biggest driver, would be depopulation. This could be tangibly shown within the Highland area but it was important that information on this was as robust as possible as this provides advantages when it comes to the wider framework of what funding looks for particularly from central government.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A006: June Love to organise a meeting with Martin Moore, Dounreay MD to discuss supply chain concerns and staffing profiles.

Trudy Morris added the decommissioning services framework had several successful bidders. It had taken a long time to get this contract out and this had added substantial cost implications for the supply chain who had bid for the work. Out of seven consortia/partnerships, six had been successful in getting on the framework contract.

There are probably more companies on the framework that was anticipated but this also meant that the socio economic element could be diluted as the value of the contract could potentially be split ways. June Love responded that she has asked the same question as some had good plans in place but if companies were going to get a small amount of work then the socio economic plans would not be fully committed to. Discussions with the six consortia would take place shortly.

Trudy Morris added that her concern was that some companies may say they cannot commit to their socio economic plan as it was based on an approximate contract value.

Ronnie Johnstone noted that this was an inevitable consequence of unfettered capitalism. Capitalism thrives on competition, and he corrected the fact that Dounreay was not government funded because it was all sub contracted to Cavendish Dounreay Partnership, and therefore there is a bit capital player playing games at the expense of smaller capital players. There was a philosophical problem here that the more you privatise what was happening at Dounreay the only loyalty these companies have is to their shareholders and they were simply not interested in the community or if local business go out of business. Their sole concern was maximising their profits and that is the basic philosophy of capitalism. He added that he would support DSG having these discussions as DSG have the voice on behalf of the weakest and that it was important to ensure that the local supply chain thrived beyond Dounreay.

June Love responded that they she has spoken to the Head of Commercial and they were planning to have a meeting with all 6 consortium and part of that discussion would be around the socio economic plans submitted. She would be involved in these discussions and would be looking for some commitments coming forward. It would be important to ensure that the socio economic element is maximised and co-ordinated between the various consortiums.

With reference to the Dounreay Socio Economic Plan, Derrick Milnes asked, on behalf of David Flear, the process identified in Appendix 3. David Flear had noted that at the point the DSG were engaged the decision had already been made according to the flow chart. June Love responded that while the Dounreay Socio Economic Alliance Delivery Team discussed and reviewed applications when received the input from DSG was provided before any recommendation was made to the Dounreay Socio Economic Board. While it was recognised that DSG was not a formal decision maker in this process any views provided were included in the thinking of the DSEB before a formal decision was made.

Davie Alexander asked how often this happens. June Love responded that it depended on when applications were received. In the most case if applications were going forward to the DSEB for consideration then the DSG Socio Economic chair would be contacted along with the DSG Chair and vice-chair.

Dounreay Socio Economic Alliance Annual Review 2018/19: June Love noted that she would take the report as read as it was for information only providing an annual report on the activities undertaken by the three nuclear partners. The report provided an overview of what had been achieved in the financial year by a small team of people.

Socio Economic report: June Love also noted that she had provided a written update (DSG(2019)P013) and noted the following.

- **Caithness Horizons:** June Love noted that DSRL were still awaiting a decision from Highland Council on the future of Caithness Horizons. The total support from DSRL available for this year was £75K if Highland Council could match fund and High Life Highland were prepared to take over the running of the facility.

Trudy Morris stated that the summer would be over before this was concluded. The Highland Council CEO, Donna Manson had indicated that she wanted to see the facility open as quickly as possible. Anna MacConnell stated that this was a catch 22 situation as the HC could only commit funding for one financial year and High Life Highland would not be able to operate the facility with some surety over longer term funding.

- **Public Service Order, Wick John O'Groats airport:** Trudy Morris noted that DSRL had funded the piece of work which was identified on the CNSRP programme. The final report had been received and consideration of a communication strategy with CNSRP was now being pursued. The business case for the PSO would be presented to Transport Scotland. Local stakeholders would be given a briefing on the key messages to ensure a consistent message.

7. CNSRP UPDATE

Davie Alexander noted that a written report (DSG(2019)P007 refers) had been provided by Eann Sinclair and would be taken as read.

David Alexander noted his concerns that there was a lot of yellow on the report which would not fill anyone with confidence of progress being made. He had had a brief discussion on this with the new CNSRP programme manager it he had indicated he was considering how to report progress on a more pro-active way.

8. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

Davie Alexander noted correspondence DSG(2019)C016 which was a letter from DSG Chair to the CNSRP Chairman on the City and Region Deal. This had closed out action DSG(2019)M001/A006.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Davie Alexander noted:

- CNSRP Advisory Board had been held on 22nd March, Roger Saxon represented DSG while Davie Alexander attended as representative of the Thurso and Wick Trades Council. Roger Saxon had raised the City Region Deal and, as mentioned earlier, had subsequently written to CNSRP Chairman on this topic.
- Representatives of the DSG met with Tony Perry, NDA Head of Programme on 24th April. Tony Perry will become the NDA representative at the public meetings while Stuart Pyper will continue as the representative on the site restoration sub group meeting. This meeting was to allow Mr Perry to be introduced to some of the DSG members and a number of topics were discussed including the site contract, socio economics, decommissioning programme and other issues.
- Richard White, Unite Officer met with June Love, Roy Kirk, Davie Alexander and John Deighan on 29th April. This was about highlighting the opportunities around the spaceport project. Offers of support for these initiatives going forward were given.
- A number of DSG representatives had met with Rick Wylie, University of Lancaster when he was up in Caithness providing a presentation on the public value of Nucleus. A previous study had been carried out for the Dounreay site and DSG members had input into this. David Flear, the DSG representative for Nucleus would be attending a 2 day conference on public value in May in Cumbria. Derrick Milnes noted that he had attended the presentation on the findings of public value for Nucleus and had found it a good presentation.
- The letters written regarding the future options for the Vulcan site were noted with responses still awaited.
- Richard Leonard, Labour MSP met members of the DSG to discuss the socio economic activities of the area. This was a good discussion with an offer to support some of these initiatives coming forward was given.

Trudy Morris asked if Vulcan would be attending the site restoration sub group meeting as there were issues with the supply chain also losing staff to Vulcan. June Love responded that there would be a representative from MOD attending but this was likely to be a Rolls Royce issue and not a MOD one. She agreed to take an action to write to John Hook with these concerns.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M001/A007: DSG Socio Economic sub group chair to write to Rolls Royce regarding issues with recruitment from local supply chain companies.

Davie Alexander stated that it would appear that the Unions at Vulcan were not being allowed to discuss business through the Trades Council as there were not actively engaged. Gillian Coghill added when she asked a Rolls Royce employee what was going on she was told that they had been guaranteed their jobs post-Vulcan but could not say where. Cllr Struan Mackie noted that his

concern was the Rolls Royce departure from their plan which was a 20 year plan around civil as much as military.

June Love noted that in response to an action on Rolls Royce the response had been “We remain fully engaged on the UK submarines programme now and going forward.” Cllr Struan Mackie commented that the contract that RR had won from MOD was still an area of concern around deployment and because it is such specialist skills, people would probably find work and therefore his concern was more on a regional and geographical one about the impact.

Davie Alexander noted that during the procurement for the Dounreay Contract an event was held in Wick where local stakeholders presented to potential bidders. At that time Rolls Royce were looking to set up another business in the area. This was a number of years ago.

Ronnie Johnstone commented on the redesign of the hospital system stating it was very good news that the Scottish office minister has agreed to the general proposals. This was an exciting possibility and should be encouraged. June Love asked whether any consideration was being given to the fact that support from the Dounreay ambulance (fire brigade and CNC) would no longer be available over the next 10 years and enquired whether this was being factored into the arguments for sustainability of these services over the longer term. Ronnie Johnstone noted that one of the reasons that a 3rd ambulance was provided in the area was because if an ambulance from Thurso was away on call then the Dounreay or Bettyhill service would cover.

Davie Alexander noted that it was important to ensure there was a sustainable infrastructure support mechanism available in the area which would also support the efforts of encouraging new business into the area. Alastair MacDonald stated that when young professionals were being encouraged to relocate to the area to work at Dounreay the service and infrastructure for young people would not be encouraging at present.

June Love asked when the Premier Inn would be built, as last year DSG had approached Bill Hamilton, NDA to consider holding an NDA stakeholder summit in Caithness. One of the comments that had been provided was that travel was difficult and the other was identifying a big enough venue to accommodate stakeholders. If the Premier Inn was built there was a potential that this would be useful for accommodation purposes. Davie Alexander asked how many delegates attend this event. Anna MacConnell responded that around 250 attended last year in Gloucester. For the event in Anglesey it was expected that around 200 would attend. Trudy Morris asked if it would be possible to hold this event during a different month as July is the height of the tourist season.

10. CLOSE

There being no further business, Davie Alexander thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

Davie Alexander
DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Chairman
29th May 2019

ACTIONS ARISING

DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A001: June Love to resend correspondence on Vulcan to the new Defence Minister Penny Mordaunt.

DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A002: Trudy Morris to speak to CNSRP Programme Manager regarding the tourism strategy.

DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A003: Anna MacConnell to ask JOG mill project whether the business plan could be shared with DSG members.

DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A004: Anna MacConnell to raise with CNSRP Programme Manager to consider how the CNSRP programme will be continually refreshed.

DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A005: Anna MacConnell to provide copies of the 'One NDA' handbook to distribute to DSG members.

DSG/SESG(2019)M002/A006: June Love to organise a meeting with Martin Moore, Dounreay MD to discuss supply chain concerns and staffing profiles.

DSG/SESG(2019)M001/A007: DSG Socio Economic sub group chair to write to Rolls Royce regarding issues with recruitment from local supply chain companies.