

DSG/SESG(2019)M003

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic sub group meeting held on Wednesday 31st July 2019 at 1330 hours in the Pentland Hotel, Georgina Suite, Thurso.

Present:	Ron Gunn	Deputy Sub Group chair
	Roger Saxon	DSG Chair
	Derrick Milnes	Co-opted member of the public
	David Flear	Honorary member
	Alastair Macdonald	Honorary member
	Bob Earnshaw	Honorary member
	Fiona Levack	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Gillian Coghill	Buldoo Residents Group, Chair
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	Highland Council
	Sandy Mackie	Scrabster Harbour Trust
	John Deighan	Wick & Thurso Trade Union Council
	Peter Faccenda	CNSRP Programme Manager
In attendance:	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary, Dounreay
	Anna MacConnell	NDA Socio Economic & Stakeholder Manager
	June Love	DSRL Socio Economic & Stakeholder Manager

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ron Gunn, Deputy DSG Socio Economic sub group chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that Davie Alexander, DSG sub group chair was unable to attend and therefore he would be acting as chair for the meeting.

He welcomed Peter Faccenda, CNSRP Programme Manager to his first sub group meeting and introductions were made round the table.

2. APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies were received from:

- Davie Alexander Wick and Thurso Trades Council (John Deighan deputising)
- Eann Sinclair HIE C&S Area Manager
- Trudy Morris Caithness Chamber of Commerce (Fiona Levack deputising)
- Cllr Struan Mackie Highland Council
- Debbie Murray North Highland College, UHI

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Ron Gunn stated that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/SESG(2019)M002 – had been endorsed at the public meeting held in June. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes.

Ronnie Johnston noted the comments made by him at the last meeting re the ambulance service. He stated that he had been trying to clarify that the reason the third ambulance had been campaigned for was that the present system, even with Dounreay support, was unsustainable. It now appeared to be working well with the addition of the third ambulance.

David Flear noted that Alex Anderson (ex Dounreay) had recently been appointed as a member of NHS Highland and therefore provided a direct link to raise local issues.

Matthew Reiss noted that on page 9 the Highland Council should read Donna Manson and not Mason.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

Ron Gunn stated that the majority of actions had been completed since the June meeting. Those outstanding included:

- Roger Saxon noted that the outstanding actions placed on him would not be closed out until the Scottish Government Scottish Sites meeting is held in October. Anna MacConnell noted that Don McGilvary had recently taken up the post vacated by Charles Stewart-Roper and would be visiting Dounreay and Vulcan sometime in August along with Martin MacDonald.
- **DSG(2019)M002/A004:** Anna MacConnell to ask JOG mill project whether the business plan could be shared with DSG members.

Anna MacConnell noted that this action was still ongoing and she would progress as soon as possible.

- **DSG(2019)M001/A015:** Cllr Struan Mackie to contact the defence minister with a view to holding a meeting with DSG on MOD's plans to decommission the site.
- **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.

June Love noted she would ask for updates as to whether the actions assigned to Cllr Mackie should be closed. This could be discussed at the Business meeting.

There was some discussion around the City Region Deal and it was felt that regardless of whether there was additional phase of this initiative that an action to look at potential funding opportunities for priority projects within the CNSRP programme should be developed now. This may allow for a 'shovel ready' project to be prepared and ready to be submitted if projects already allocated funding from the City Region Deal did not go ahead

and a surplus of funding was made available. It was stressed that given Caithness and North Sutherland had been agreed as a priority area within the Highland Council area there should be an argument made to ensure that the benefits to the county were more than the 1% already allocated.

It was suggested it would be useful to write to Stuart Black, Highland Council to request a position statement on current City Region Deal projects and to request the criteria for the projects that had been accepted for round 1 of the Deal. Peter Faccenda noted that that other areas had been more successful than Caithness/North Sutherland in receiving funding and he would take this forward and request the information from the HC Chief Executive at the next CNSRP Executive Board meeting.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A001: Peter Faccenda, CNSRP Programme Manager to raise question of status report of the City Region Deal projects already approved and the criteria that was used for these projects. Information from other areas also to be requested.

5. COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

Ron Gunn 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 were appropriate. The applications were reviewed and recommendations made.

6. DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Ron Gunn noted that no written update had been provided by the NDA. He invited Anna MacConnell to provide a verbal update.

Anna MacConnell reported the following:

- NDA had confirmed £5m funding support to Scrabster Harbour Trust for the redevelopment of the St Ola Pier. This had been well covered in the press.
- SIMBA, a local charity, had approached NDA to request the gifting of a small piece of land at the Viewfirth site that would be turned into a remembrance garden to support families affected by the death of a baby. This would include a remembrance tree. NDA are minded to approve this request and it was confirmed that it would not conflict with the proposed Community Sports Hub also looking at the Viewfirth land.
- David Peattie, NDA Chief Executive would be visiting Caithness for 4 days commencing 1st August. He would be visiting site and other locations related to socio economic projects. DSG members had been invited to a dinner on the 1st and over the weekend David Peattie would be attending the Mey Highland Games as the NDA had provided sponsorship.
- During the week beginning 5th August Andrew van der Lem and John Mcnamara, NDA would be visiting the area. Andrew had a number of meetings organised to meet with various stakeholders while John Mcnamara would be attending his first CNSRP Executive Board meeting. He would also be attending the NDA socio economic strategy meeting scheduled for Thursday 8th August.

Cllr Matthew Reiss noted that the Highland Council CEO was considering making contact with NDA to explore where support could be provided. June Love stated that given The Highland Council sat at the CNSRP Executive Board meetings it would be useful to have these discussions in the context of the CNSRP priority projects and therefore a consistent approach would be taken.

Ron Gunn thanked everyone for their input and moved on to the Dounreay Socio Economic update report – DSG(2019)P020 refers. He invited June Love to pick out the key highlights.

June Love reported the following:

- The report covered activities from DSRL and Cavendish Dounreay Partnership. At the June public meeting a request had been made (following the CDP presentation on the engineering hub), that regular updates should be provided to DSG and as progress was being made it would be included in this written report going forward.
- DSRL was awaiting the business model for Caithness Horizons from High Life Highland. This was due to be provided early August. An update from The Highland Council on the maintenance programme that was required before the facility could open had also been requested and was awaited.
- An application for funding support for STEM Space activity (a two year programme) had been received by the Dounreay Socio Economic Board for consideration.
- An early enquiry had also been received for funding to support a community partnership agreement between Monju and Dounreay. This was at the early stages and building on the ongoing discussions that had taken place following David Flear's successful visit to Japan last year.
- An update on the Community Sports Hub project had been requested. The response was that it had been quiet over the last few months and that an update would be provided in August following a meeting of the Committee.
- Dounreay had continued their sponsorship of the Halkirk Highland Games. This year had been different in that funding was provided to support the Games but it had been decided not to have a presence at the Games with the tent and refreshments. This allowed others (ie charities and other tents) to benefit from the absence of the Dounreay tent and that the Halkirk Games actually received more funding support.
- Dounreay had also agreed to support the Mey Highland Games which was taking place on Saturday 3rd August.
- The NDA was currently updating its socio economic strategy (the meeting with CNSRP and others on the 8th August was to have a discussion around this) and also looking at ways of measuring the impacts of all socio economic funding support in a consistent way across the NDA estate. This would result in new NDA guidance on socio economic activity. Once the outcome was known DSRL would work within the new socio economic structure and may result in the site's process for socio economic funding

being revised to reflect the NDA strategy.

- The Dounreay Socio Economic Board was due to meet on 21st August 2019.
- The companies awarded the Decommissioning Services framework contract would be holding a 'Meet the Buyer' event in the Norseman Hotel, Wick on 5th September. This tied in with the Caithness Chamber of Commerce dinner on the 6th September and would mean that those companies would be present at the dinner also.
- The DSG had written to the National Museum Scotland with regards one of the energy displays with information about Dounreay. An acknowledgement had been received which said that a meeting would be held shortly and a full response would be forthcoming.

Anna MacConnell noted that the Community Sports Hub project had slowed down and felt that part of the reason was that Shona Kirk who had previously been seconded to this project to support funding applications had been busy with other work commitments. She felt that the project needed some support and thought that perhaps that Dounreay could support this with potential funding to get someone on board who could drive through funding applications. June Love said she would speak with Phil Cartwright, chair of the Community Sports Hub to explore whether this was something he thought was required.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A002: June Love to speak to Phil Cartwright re progress with the Community Sports Hub project and whether additional support was required.

Ron Gunn noted there had been an action placed to collate all the google reports relating to socio economic spend across the NDA estate. David Flear noted he had suggested this as a way of monitoring projects from other sites to explore the potential to bid into some funding for similar type projects in Caithness and North Sutherland. He asked how this could be taken forward. Roger Saxon responded that he would take this to the Business meeting for further consideration.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A003: June Love to bring socio economic reports to Business meeting to discuss what this information would be used for and how it could be monitored.

Roger Saxon stated that, at the NDA stakeholder summit, there had been a lot of information relating to skills and that it would be useful to have a local discussion with the NDA Head of Skills, Jacq Longrigg. Anna MacConnell responded that discussions were ongoing with the North Highland College to explore the potential for funding to support safety case courses. Roger Saxon noted that Davie Alexander had extended an invitation to Jacq Longrigg but given it was at an event where many other things were discussed it would be worthwhile extending the invitation in writing.

Peter Faccenda noted that CNSRP had a skills enabling project on CNSRP priority programme and there was a discussion ongoing around skills at this time. Roger Saxon noted that all decommissioning sites were in remote areas and as a result when

decommissioned they are not looking for nuclear skills they are looking for transferable skills.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A004: Davie Alexander to follow up, in writing, an invitation to Jacq Longrigg to visit Caithness to discuss potential funding for skills projects.

There being no further questions, Ron Gunn thanked June Love for her input.

7. UPDATES ON SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Ron Gunn noted that CNSRP had provided a written update prior to the meeting – DSG(2019)P025 refers. He invited Peter Faccenda to pick up key highlights. Peter Faccenda reported the following:

- Some projects have moved on since last update.
- BOWL project is pretty much in full operational mode. Official opening was held on Tuesday 30th July. From CNSRP point of view that falls into whether there are any other complementary activities that could be supported. Moray East is now in its early phase of planning and development. While Fraserborough as O&M port there is still potential for the region to support some of the services and other opportunities to attract work into the area. Moray West is at an even earlier stage but again potential that some activities could be attracted to the area.
- CNSRP Programme Manager had recently held discussions with Crown Estates about next leasing round for offshore wind. It is a very competitive process because it is sites all around the country.
- On tidal power, lobbying continues to attract tidal power from the point as it is now (concept proven) to full operation. Discussions continue on Contracts for Difference and attracting potential big power users.
- Space project is in pre-planning and work ongoing with environmental surveys. On track to submit planning at end of this year.
- The CDP Engineering hub continues to progress to allow a firm plan to be brought forward.
- On tourism, HIE has supported an economic impact assessment, via North Highland Initiative, which should help identify a tourism strategy.

David Flear asked what the scope of this project was. Peter Faccenda said it was to look qualitative and quantitative impact of the North Coast 500 and would build on the baseline developed in 2015. This should refresh this opportunity and highlight opportunities. David Flear asked whether it would also look at the deficiencies of the route. Peter Faccenda stated that the report would give an idea on numbers of people visiting the area but would not provide a complete answer to those activities that could be supported by CNSRP. It did however allow the discussion to start. David Flear asked who would be consulted with as this should be done with business and communities to ensure a wider picture. Peter Faccenda said strategy would not be at the granular level, it may be (as an

example) the partnership may identify the type of activity that they could support and it would be up to others to come forward with projects that aligned to that activity. There will be a tourism strategy that will be agreed by the CNSRP Delivery Group and taken to Executive Board for endorsement. Peter Faccenda noted that the economic impact assessment should be complete in around a months' time and once received CNSRP would discuss this as part of the consideration of taking forward activity within the priority programme. After a long discussion around tourism Peter Faccenda stressed there was not one unity authority to take this forward as there were several strands that impact on tourism.

David Flear noted that most of the partners around the CNSRP table had some sort of tourism remit and therefore it should be for the CNSRP partners to agree the priorities for the priority programme. Peter Faccenda noted that there was limits for CNSRP to take this forward as CNSRP is not an organisation with its own budget and was reliant on the budgets for the partner organisations albeit that there was the opportunity to bid in for additional sources of funding available).

- Oil and Gas – Funding from NDA and HIE (totally £8m) was provided for funding support for the redevelopment of the St Ola Pier. Good example of a collaborative approach to support a project.
- The skills investment plan is under development and there have been various discussions on this.
- The PSO study for Wick JOG airport has now been submitted to Transport Scotland and to the Department for Transport in response to its Aviation 2050 green paper consultation. It has also been discussed with a number of key stakeholders. Fiona Levack noted that the Cabinet Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity would be visiting on 29th August and this would feature in the discussion.

Ron Gunn thanked Peter Faccenda for his input and invited other members to provide any other updates.

June Love noted that it would be useful to have more contact with the Newton Room and the STEM activities. Peter Faccenda noted that a new STEM co-ordinator for the Newton Room was advertised and once that post was filled it would be essential to join this up with the Skills Investment Plan as well as the various STEM activities within the area. Anna MacConnell noted that there were high numbers going through the Newton Room. David Flear asked how children were being transported to the Newton Room given there appeared to be no funding available for transport. Anna MacConnell noted that, from memory, the numbers including the three high schools.

Ronnie Johnstone asked about the proposed sleeper train from Thurso and queried whether a potential client base had been assessed. Ron Gunn noted that Cllr Struan Mackie had been involved with this and it would be worthwhile getting an update from him. Peter Faccenda noted that HiTrans had looked at this quite extensively and believes that there is a market and a way of making it work with rolling stock coming available. Bob Earnshaw agreed with Ronnie Johnstone that it would be useful to understand how this was arrived at.

Gillian Coghill stated that if the sleeper service proved to be viable there was a need for further connectivity to allow those travelling by sleeper train to go onwards to destinations within the county.

DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A005: June Love to ask Cllr Struan Mackie to provide more information on the proposed sleeper train for Thurso and the market assessment that had underpinned the decision.

Fiona Levack, Caithness Chamber of Commerce reported that:

- Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills, would be visiting the area on 6th August to discuss the Skills agenda.
- Eastern Airways were due to cut flight services further. A meeting will be held on the 8th August.
- The commercial freight trial for Direct Rail Services (DRS) would now take place week commencing 19th August 2019.

There being no further updates, Ron Gunn thanked everyone for their input.

8. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

Ron Gunn stated correspondence received since the last meeting had been provided in the paperwork sent out to members for this meeting. These included:

- DSG(2019)C023: NDA SSG briefing for July 2019.
- DSG(2019)C024: National Museums Scotland.
- DSG(2019)C026: Rolls Royce about recruitment and local supply chain
- DSG(2019)C027: Response from Rolls Royce (re Correspondence 26)

Ron Gunn noted that the correspondence to the National Museums Scotland had been covered earlier in the meeting.

He also noted the letter to Rolls Royce and the response and asked that an action be placed on the Chamber of Commerce to inform DSG members when Rolls Royce had made contact to discuss this matter.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A006: Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce, to inform DSG when Rolls Royce and Chamber had discussed the recruitment issues (relating to DSG(2019)C026 and C027).

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ron Gunn invited members to provide any other business. Of note:

- Cllr Matthew Reiss noted that the Scottish Government Environment Minister had recently visited Forsinard to discuss the World Heritage status and there cautious optimism that this would happen in the next year or two. It was further noted that if

this was to be realised it would benefit tourism and jobs.

- Roger Saxon noted that he, along with Cllr Struan Mackie and Davie Alexander, had attended the NDA Stakeholder Summit in Anglesey at the beginning of July. As mentioned the focus was around skills and it appeared while funding was available for nuclear skills it was recognised that these skills could transfer into other industries in the longer term. He felt it was important to understand NDA's strategy on what they would and would not support via the skills budget.

June Love noted that two apprentices had also attended the summit to provide STEM activities. Roger Saxon added that they were a credit to the organisation and had interacted in a number of workshops during the event.

- David Flear noted that he and Davie Alexander had met with Adrian Simper, NDA recently and again skills had been discussed along with progress being made to continue the relationships between the Dounreay and Monju community. Keith Franklin, on Adrian Simper's advice, had contacted June Love to take forward discussions on further community involvement. June Love noted that while at very early stage discussions were ongoing and a response from Japan was awaited.
- Ronnie Johnstone noted that the surfing centre was now open with an official opening to be held on 17th August. The Rotary agreed to hand the facility open. This was seen as a good example of organisations working together.

Anna MacConnell noted that the surfing centre was provided funding via the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund. She added that given this was NDA funding she had spoken with the sub group chair/vice chair to explore whether it would be useful to provide a quarterly update of the spending within CNS Fund to the DSG.

Ronnie Johnstone noted that the importance of this project was that the Rotary (and similar organisations) could access funding that others (agencies) could not. David Flear noted that as a trustee of Hydro Electric Trust he had negotiated a reduction in the electricity cost for the facility.

Action: DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A006: Anna MacConnell to provide quarterly updates from CNS Fund to DSG Socio Economic sub group.

- John Deighan noted that, through the Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council, the issue of Victoria Walk had been raised with The Highland Council to look at ways of ensuring the safety of pedestrians using the walk as it was in state of dis-repair. Cllr Matthew Reiss said that Highland Council was looking at this but there was some confusion as to who owned which part of the related walkway. This was being taken forward in discussion with the Community pay back team with HC discretionary funding.
- June Love noted that Superintendent Martin O'Kane had written to DSG to inform members of his forthcoming retirement. He thanked DSG members for their interaction with CNC over the years at DSG. Members asked, through the minutes, to thank Superintendent Martin O'Kane for his involvement in DSG over the years and for the way in which he ensured that community needs and concerns were addressed. They

looked forward to working with his predecessor in the future.

- Roger Saxon noted that DSG members wished to provide NDA with a proposition for holding the next NDA stakeholder summit in Caithness. He stated that there would be a discussion at the Business meeting to agree a way forward which would be shared with all members for comment before being finalised and submitted to NDA.
- Ron Gunn stated that the Thurso Community Development Trust had taken ownership of the public toilets at the harbour. At present the disabled toilet is now open and once the male/female toilets were cleaned up would also be opened up to the public. This was being done on a voluntary basis and a donation box would be available to support the upkeep of these.

10. CLOSE

There being no further business, Ron Gunn thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Ron Gunn
DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Deputy Chair
2nd August 2019

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A001: Peter Faccenda, CNSRP Programme Manager to raise question of status report of the City Region Deal projects already approved and the criteria that was used for these projects. Information on other areas to also be requested.

DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A002: June Love to speak to Phil Cartwright re progress with the Community Sports Hub project and whether additional support was required.

DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A003: June Love to bring socio economic reports to Business meeting to discuss what this information would be used for and how it could be monitored.

DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A004: Davie Alexander to follow up, in writing, an invitation to Jacq Longrigg to visit Caithness to discuss potential funding for skills projects.

DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A005: Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce, to inform DSG when Rolls Royce and Chamber had discussed the recruitment issues (relating to DSG(2019)C026 and C027).

DSG/SESG(2019)M003/A006: Anna MacConnell to provide quarterly updates from CNS Fund to DSG Socio Economic sub group.