

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP (DSG) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019/20**

This year sees my third year as DSG Chair come to an end and as I have intimated I will be stepping down from the chair's role. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone involved with DSG for their input and commitment over the three years that I have chaired the group and look forward to continuing my involvement in DSG in the future.

As we move into 2020, I felt this was a good time to stand down and allow someone else to take over the chair's role to allow some continuity over the next three years as I believe an active and focussed DSG will be vital to ensuring our community is not let down as the decommissioning of the site moves ever closer. This is also set in the context of diminishing budgets of The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise at a time that support for economic projects to diversify and transition the Dounreay workforce will be vital for not only the confidence of the existing workforce but to ensure good high quality sustainable jobs in the area for the next generation who may choose to stay in the area.

During my time as chair and vice-chair, I have seen the sites priority diverted to the removal of fuels to the detriment of high profile projects like the Shaft and Silo. I hope the site can swiftly get back on track with these and other decommissioning projects. We saw a large number of staff take voluntary redundancy and reductions in the contract workforce. As DSG, we should expect to have to respond to similar events as the decommissioning projects evolve. We responded to the Phase 3 Interim End State planning process and to a review of CNSRP. We have responded to the 'one NDA' reorganisation plans and questioned its impact on Dounreay. We continued to press DSRL for the performance plan and the effect it will have on staff numbers and end date. And we queried the MoD on its options for decommissioning of Vulcan. Neither of these have been satisfactorily answered and will take sustained effort from the DSG officials and members to ensure that these questions continue to be raised.

Of note, it was good to see DSG member, Struan Mackie invited to Japan to continue the collaboration that David Flear started when he visited along with DSRL representatives. It is equally pleasing to see a project at Thurso High School looking between Caithness and Japanese schools starting to take shape.

It is normal for the chairman to look forward to the priorities for coming year, but that is for the DSG and the incoming chair to shape. All I can say is I would encourage all members to continue to scrutinise, prod and lobby for safe decommissioning, sound environmental performance and strong socio-economic benefits from Dounreay, its owners, operators and regulators.

Like every year I would like to stress that DSG is not just about four public meetings per year. DSG has continued to contribute to a number of activities that attempt to join up the offerings for our area whether that is from a socio economic or site operations point of view. Given that DSG members are volunteers with a number working in voluntary groups this is even more evident that members are committed to support the rundown of the site and more importantly the future of our community.

Throughout this current year our membership has continued to evolve and we have said goodbye to some and welcomed new members and observers to DSG. I am sure this will continue to be the case as we move into 2020/21. It is also prudent to remember those who contributed to DSG who are sadly no longer with us and I remember with affection the timely and entertaining interjections from Rev Ronnie Johnston and the very open and honest approach of Dounreay's Steve Beckitt.

For this year, we have been involved many activities out with normal meetings, which include:

### **RESPONDING TO CONSULTATIONS/ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

- Dounreay Socio Economic Plan, 2019/2020
- NDA Draft business Plan, 2020 onwards
- NDA Local Economic and Social Impact Strategy 2020 to 2026.

## **SUPPORT TO OTHER PROJECTS**

- Space Hub Sutherland
- Nucleus
- Japanese / Caithness business and stakeholder exchange

## **DSG PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations to the public DSG meeting during this financial year include:

- Cavendish Dounreay Partnership (CDP) socio economics and engineering hub.
- Space Hub Sutherland
- Decommissioning Vulcan

## **EXTERNAL VISITS/MEETINGS**

- NDA SSG chair's forum, London
- Public value from nuclear facilities (University of Lancaster)
- Tony Perry, NDA Head of Programme
- Socio economic discussions with Richard White, Unite Officer
- Involvement in conference on nuclear heritage
- Martin Moore, MD Dounreay
- John McNamara, NDA Head of Stakeholder Relations
- Adrian Simper, NDA Executive Director, Strategy and Technology
- David Peattie, NDA Chief Executive
- CoRWM meeting
- Simon Tucker, NDA (Nucleus)
- STUC discussions on socio economics
- CNS Fund, Annual General Meeting
- Susan Gee, Non-executive Director, DSRL Board
- Prof John Fyfe

## **DSG REPRESENTATION AT OTHER MEETINGS**

- Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting
- CNSRP Advisory Board
- Caithness Transport Forum
- North Highland Regeneration Fund
- Nucleus Advisory Panel
- Caithness Community Planning Partnership

As the AGM takes place, it would be remiss of me not to thank those who held office in an official capacity over the year. To those who held these positions I thank you for your support over the last three years.

Another year has passed and it is inevitable that as the decommissioning programme of Dounreay (and plans for Vulcan) progresses working together for the one aim to ensure that the community has a future after Dounreay will become more and more important. I believe DSG has a continued role to ensure that as we move steadily towards closure of the sites our community is not detrimentally impacted on for a future beyond nuclear and that role will be vital over the next three years.

**Roger Saxon**  
Chairman, DSG  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020