

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Note of Site Restoration / Socio economic sub groups

All paperwork (for both sub group meetings due to take place on 29th April) was issued to DSG members on 24th April. Due to the restrictions of Covid-19 it was not possible to hold these meetings and therefore it was agreed that the paperwork would be issued as normal with DSG members providing comment on all documentation by 6th May 2020. All comments or questions are compiled into this report which forms the minutes of the sub group meetings.

PAPERWORK PROVIDED AND RESPONSES RECEIVED

The protocol for DSG working 'virtually' is detailed in **DSG(2020)C027**.

1. MINUTES OF SUB GROUPS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

- **DSG(2020)M001:** DSG public meeting held on 11th March 2020
Comments due on 10th May 2020.
- **DSG/SRSG(2020)M001:** Socio economic sub group meeting held on 29th January 2020.
These minutes were endorsed at the March public meeting.
- **DSG/SESG(2020)M001:** Site Restoration sub group meeting held on 29th January 2020.
These minutes were endorsed at the March public meeting
- **DSG/BM(2020)M002:** DSG business meeting held on 15th April 2020
These minutes were endorsed by e-mail.

Issues raised from minutes of meetings:

DSG/SRSG(2020)M01:

Comments made:

The comments raised on SEPA's Regulatory Notice is pertinent with more rigorous and ruthless prioritising being necessary from members. There are too many side issues and small projects that are not going to be significant and they seem to be taking up more valuable time. **Response:** DSG members should ensure they are carrying out appropriate scrutiny of site operations and there is always a balance of what information is of relevance. This is something that DSG members will need to consider going forward.

Questions raised:

- Referring to the Site Restoration sub group minutes of the meeting held in January there was a statement from SEPA on a Regulatory Notice. The question is maybe for the site to respond to rather than SEPA but can SEPA please provide more details on what standards are they referring to and why did no-one query this at the meeting?
Response: The SEPA report referred to here is an ongoing update of issues that had been reported and questioned previously. Hence the report provided an update on where the site was in discharging the actions placed on both Regulatory Notices.

2. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions was distributed and current as at 16 April 2020.

- **DSG(2019)M004/A005:** DSG Chairman to write to The Highland Council expressing frustration and disappointment regarding Caithness Horizons. **Action ongoing:** Letter sent on 11th December 2019. A holding response was provided on 13 December 2019. Action will remain open until a response was forthcoming.

Noting that a holding response from Highland Council was received on 13 December it is absolutely disgraceful that a full response has not been forthcoming. Covid-19 is not an excuse for this response not to have been provided by now and while it is appreciated that Covid-19 will presumably change the potential opening date for the facility it would have been good to see Highland Council actually taking the time to respond in full long before now.

Action: DSG(2020)M02/A001: DSG Chairman to write to Highland Council with reference to Caithness Horizons asking for a full response to the query provided on 11th December 2019.

- **DSG(2020)M01/A009:** All DSG Socio economic sub group members to provide comment to June Love on the NDA Socio Economic Impact Report, 2018/19 by end of February.

Can you confirm that members provided comment on this?

Response: some members provided comments at end of February and these were included in the response provided to NDA. This action is now closed.

- **DSG(2020)M01/A017:** Communities Fund New Criteria/Guidance.

What progress is being made to reflect new guidance for the Dounreay Communities Fund?

Response: The NDA is currently updating its processes for all socio economic funding and this fund will be part of this process. Once the NDA system is up and running and the new application forms have been finalised the guidance will be updated to reflect the discussions around criteria for this fund and the new system that will be in place. This is likely to be completed by end of June 2020.

- **DSG(2020)M01/A002:** Sam Usher, Strategic Director Dounreay to provide a response as to whether metal being transported for recycling had gone to non-nuclear uses.

It was noted that David Broughton has raised this at the last public meeting of DSG (March 2020). The action was re-opened and it has been confirmed that the response (see DSG(2020)C029) sufficiently addressed the queries that were raised.

3. **SITE RESTORATION / SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUPS (29th April 2020)**

Members were invited to comment on the following papers:

NDA

DSG(2020)P016: NDA update

Comments made:

- Have been very impressed with the NDA and Site commitment to dealing with the current crisis. Very well done to all.
- The decision to reduce the workforce profile on the site due to Covid-19 as outlined in the April update was from what I can tell a reasonable effective and efficient process. The pace that NDA and DSRL acknowledged the need to adhere to government guidelines was reassuring for staff and the local community and that should be acknowledged.
- Welcome all of the efforts NDA are making to support the nuclear communities and indeed the wider regions where they have sites.
- The acknowledgement that the lockdown is not an excuse not to engage is a positive statement and using video conferencing and other such media platforms will play a big role in continuing to work while restrictions are still in place.
- Would like it noted that David Wallace has been very proactive despite the fact he was engaging with us as a DSG and local stakeholders prior to his formal appointment with the NDA and understanding the technical difficulties he had at the beginning of his new job he continued to engage with a number of local stakeholders during this time. He has been diligent in taking the time to ask our opinions on the appetite for SSG reports / scrutiny... it has been handled very well.

Questions raised:

- On the revised NDA socio economic approach: It isn't clear to me how the new NDA Socio-Economic policy and supporting application process is going to work. There is a significant uplift in funds being made available locally, which is greatly welcomed, but it isn't clear whether this additional funding will be managed through an application process directly to the NDA, or will be included in the processes that currently are managed locally at the site? Can NDA provide clarification on this please?

Response: There will be a single application process irrespective if people go to DSRL or to NDA for funding. Therefore the funding application will be seamless from an applicant's point of view and the administration of each application will be agreed between NDA and DSRL prior to any decisions on an application is made.

Dounreay

DSG(2020)P011: Dounreay update (combined report to include both site restoration and socio economic progress)

Comments made:

- May I also give a huge vote of thanks to the organisational skills of Dounreay staff. They have all gone the extra mile when called upon to help their communities in this crisis. We would have been in a darker place without you and our gratitude extends to all staff who have risen to the challenge without question to ensure a safer

Caithness.

Response: Thank you for these kind comments. DSRL continues to monitor the UK Government and Scottish Government advice while restrictions continue and the workforce is updated on the new emerging information on a regular basis. The aims and objectives for the site is to maintain the safety of our people and site within the UK Government's guidelines. Our objectives are to:

- Maintain on-site minimum staffing levels and essential maintenance routines.
- Look after the health, safety and wellbeing of our people on and off-site.
- Prepare for the future on-site working in a Covid-19 environment and develop alternatives to working from home.
- Proactively support the local community's frontline Covid-19 response.

A number of workstreams have been brought together to help meet these objectives including:

- A **Covid-19 co-ordination team**, led by Mac MacGill, maintains an overview of the current national, regional and site position to ensure we understand the latest guidance and maintain the resource levels needed to keep the site safe, secure and compliant.
- A **Covid-19 community support team**, led by Steve Young, continues to ensure we play our part in the local response to this global crisis. We are enormously proud of the people who have stepped forward to volunteer and answer calls for support from organisations such as the Highland Council and local charities, as well as the amount of PPE that we have been able to provide to the NHS. We will continue to review all requests for support as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and help where we have the capacity and it is appropriate for us to do so.
- A **Covid-19 resilience and recovery team**, led by Barrie Cran, is considering how we will operate when we are able to ask more people to return to the site. Social distancing will be a requirement for some time, and so we are thinking about how those who need to be on site will move around, what welfare facilities will be available and how we may need to manage and change the way some work is done. A return to work pre-brief is being developed to ensure this information is shared before you are requested to return to the site.
- A **Covid-19 health and wellbeing team**, led by Lesley Sewell, is vital because Covid-19 is affecting everyone, regardless of your personal circumstances or what job you do. Everyone is different, but it is important we support one another during this very difficult time. We all have days when we feel better or worse than others, so please make use of the resources and contacts that Lesley and the team are making available. Remember that it's okay to not be okay.
- A **work location options project**, led by Lesley Sewell, recognises that we are unlikely to be able to accommodate the same number of people in our offices as before because of social distancing restrictions. We understand that working from home has been a positive experience for some, but others have found it a challenge. We want to gather that feedback before agreeing a future plan, but lots of options

are being discussed including how desk space could be used on site, whether some could continue working at home and whether different off-site locations could be used for those who can't work at home and can't be safely accommodated on-site.

Next steps

Once the UK Government announces what it intends to do with the restrictions and provides a roadmap to allow an easing back to work we will review this prior to asking some of our workforce to come back to site. Anyone returning to site, at the appropriate time, will receive a pre-brief about standard and updated health and safety arrangements in advance.

- Members wish to record that it was good to see Mark Rouse back as DSRL MD and look forward to working with Mark in, hopefully, the near future. It was also noted that DSG members had appreciated his communications in recent weeks given that his appointment and return to site coincided with the outbreak of Covid-19 which does not make his job easy at this time.
- The effort of the site and the team co-ordinating the Covid-19 response has been first class and everyone involved should be congratulated. The site has stepped up for the community and I can only say positive things.
- Appreciate that socio economic needs were front and centre in this report and the role Dounreay has had in the Covid-19 response should only crystallise in people's minds how important the site is to the local community
- The DSRL contribution to the North Highland Initiative Fund was very commendable.
- Interim End State Delivery - welcome the opportunity for DSG representatives to attend the assessment workshops when they are set up.
- Commercial
 - Pleased to note that the companies involved in the Decommissioning Framework are supportive of the PSO for Wick Airport.
 - The contract awarded to Nuvia Ltd as part of the first package in the DSF is good news locally and congratulations should go to Nuvia for this win.
- Socio Economics : Look forward to sight of the new NDA Strategy Document.
 - DSRL Unions meeting with MP and MSP: Would be useful to have sight of a report of meeting and all agreed actions.
- Welcome the appointment of David Wallace as NDA Stakeholder Relations Manager for Scotland. Some DSG colleagues have already had dialogue with him and look forward to working with him in the future.

Questions raised

- Safety : The incident reported at the DCP store extension could have had serious consequences. Hopefully the investigation has addressed all shortcomings related to the incident? Can you confirm this to be the case?

Response: All identified actions have been fully implemented, although remain under continual review so ensuring the additional control measures continue to provide both short and longer improvement.

- Operational updates provide a good level of detail on decommissioning progress and new working practices being deployed is good news. How much of the core decommissioning can be done with prolonged social distancing would be good for DSG to understand.

Response: It is too early to say what the full extent will be. We will need to work through our safe systems of work to align with the restart conditions when they are given by the UK Government. However the safe systems of work that we employ to manage our core decommissioning tasks already manage hazards like contamination control.

- Will the £75K (for three years) for Caithness Horizons still be committed to? (cannot see facility open any time soon).

Response: We continue to be committed to honour our three year financial support for Caithness Horizons alongside partners The Highland Council. We are in dialogue with High Life Highland to ensure we are informed of their current thinking and recognise that if the facility does open up this year the footfall of visitors will be severely impacted on for this season and potentially the next. Our commitment to fund £75k per year for three years will remain and dependent on when the facility is open it may mean that the funding commitment is spread over four years instead of three. Further updates will be provided to the DSG as restrictions from Covid-19 and a clear way forward for Caithness Horizons in terms of re-opening the facility is known.

- Nuclear Services Hub : Look forward to seeing some of the proposals when available. Would also like to request a Meeting with Shona Kirk and Steve Young to discuss.

Response: We will be happy to provide an update at an appropriate sub group meeting and this will be placed on the next socio economic sub group agenda. This is due to meet in July and will be dependent on whether restrictions have lifted adequately to allow meetings to be re-instated.

Action: DSG(2020)M002/A002: June Love to put Nuclear Services hub presentation on next Socio Economic sub group agenda.

- Support for the Shared Apprenticeship Scheme is also encouraging. Would like to see some input from the DSG Sub group at some point.

Response: Through CNSRP, the Chamber of Commerce is developing the shared apprenticeship scheme proposal and has had early discussions with a number of key stakeholders including those companies involved in the Decommissioning Services Framework contracts.

Action: DSG(2020)M002/A003: June Love to request a short presentation by Trudy Morris on Shared Apprentice Scheme at the next Socio Economic sub group meeting.

DSG(2020)P012: CNC update

- The report makes note of the Coronavirus legislation and the forces powers. It would be good to know if any orders had been made by the CNC during this time. I note locally that there appears to be an increasing level of non-compliance with Covid-19 guidance and given the CNC frequents a number of areas that are favoured by tourists and those travelling distances to exercise, this would be useful information.

Response: CNC have not been required to issue any Fixed Penalty Notices nor seen an increase in footfall within our jurisdiction which is encouraging although this continues to be monitor this closely.

Draft Dounreay Social Economic Impact Plan 2020/21 to 2022/23

Comments made:

- Dounreay Economic Impact Plan 2020 again this could or might have to be rewritten. Good report just redundant atm.
- Dounreay Socio Economic Plan 2021/22 to 2022/23 : Welcome the opportunity for DSG members and other stakeholders to comment on plan prior to being finalized.
- Specific comments received on the plan:
 - P4 – What do they think the “Final end state” is with regards to Scottish Government HAW policy?! Need to address social society/ civil knowledge retention for 300 years
 - P5 – Germany and France have used the concept of “work mobility” or rather “works location direction” for 70 years. We haven’t except in a few instances, hence the inequality of thriving industries in the different areas of the UK. Unless the Scottish Government directs the positioning of major industries or service providers to specific areas like Caithness then encouraging work to be “sent” to Caithness & North Sutherland will have limited effect in my opinion. Having worked in the chemical industry in England I know how much people like having their suppliers within easy reach of them. It has always been necessary for people to move to get jobs so the important thing is education and training. If work is in the locality that is a bonus.

Response: We appreciate receiving comments on the draft plan. As some members have commented during the Covid-19 restrictions it is difficult to know exactly what the right direction for socio economics will be particularly for this year. We are considering whether some of our activities are directed towards ‘economic recovery’ rather than ‘economic growth’ at this particularly difficult time. Because of the uncertainties of how impactful Covid-19 will be on the local community we would suggest that rather than responding to individual comments at this time we will take an action to ensure that

this is placed on the first public meeting agenda so that DSG members can be updated to current thinking of supporting the socio economic agenda in the short term and discussing the more detailed comments and others that may arise during a full discussion.

Action: DSG(2020)M002/A004: June Love to put the Dounreay Socio Economic Plan presentation on the next public DSG meeting for discussion.

Vulcan

DSG(2020)P017: MOD Vulcan update

Comments raised:

- The Vulcan paper again provides little detail in comparison to the Dounreay update report.
Response: This is very helpful feedback from the DSG and MOD would certainly like to improve the reporting. It may be worth a discussion with the DSG Site Restoration sub group chair and MOD personnel to understand what the DSG might like to see in terms of a report going forward.

Action: DSG(2020)M002/A005: June Love to speak with DSG Business group to agree a teleconf with DSG Site Restoration sub group chair to discuss reporting from Vulcan.

Questions raised:

- The package received with a source. They call It an 'excepted package'. Do they mean expected or accepted?
Response: 'Excepted' is the correct Carriage of Dangerous Goods terminology and refers (for Class 7 Radioactive items) to items not exceeding a certain activity level according to the radionuclide (radioactive isotope) concerned. Excepted items are subject to limited carriage requirements under regulations as their contents pose a low risk. While trying to make this response non-technical it is suffice to say that the packaging and means of transport of radioactive material is proportionate to the dose that can be received if it is mishandled in transit. An excepted package has small quantities of radioactive material with limited activity such that the least stringent formal packaging is required.
- An email has been sent to Wendy Newton to ask for a response on the following query: It has been brought to our attention that there are workers travelling from the North of England, working on the site. We have also been informed that senior members of Rolls-Royce staff from Derby are also attending the site for three days a week. If this is indeed the situation, it is very concerning to the community during the current lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It would be helpful if you could confirm the current situation on site and also address our concerns. What risk assessments were carried out and what consultation was carried out with staff? It is important that all the facts are clear, as we (stakeholder group) are concerned that this issue might have consequences for the community at large.
Response: Thank you for raising this point with me, I have discussed it with the Vulcan MOD personnel and our site contractors, Rolls-Royce, so that they are all

aware of the concerns of the stakeholder group.

I would like to share with you our decision making process in considering travellers to the Vulcan site. Under Government policy the Defence personnel at Vulcan are classified as key workers. As such they are permitted to travel to and from a place of work in order to support critical activities. When necessary, following consultation with line managers, both military and civilian personnel are commuting to and from Vulcan NRTE where necessary in order to maintain the safety and security of the establishment.

Additionally, we are working closely with our contractors to ensure that when their key personnel are required to commute, they do so in accordance with the relevant procedures.

We continue to review these procedures to ensure that both Defence and contractor personnel protect themselves, their colleagues and the community in which they work. I hope this answers your question

On receipt of the response (above) further clarity was sought and the questions and responses are provided below:

1) What guidance are the Vulcan site adhering to UK or Scottish Government ?

Whilst Defence is not devolved to the Scottish Government, public health is; Vulcan is adhering to the Scottish Government guidance on all public health matters. Where conflicts exist the more rigorous requirement is followed.

2) Who is classed as a key worker ?

All Ministry of Defence civilians, contractors and armed forces personnel (those essential to the delivery of defence and national security outputs and the response to the coronavirus pandemic), including defence medical staff are classed as essential workers. However the SDA have reduced those that might have been considered as key workers attending the site, to only those that are essential to our most critical outputs. All other key workers are working remotely.

3) Where are workers that are travelling to site being accommodated?

Personnel are accommodated in Military Service Accommodation or long-term rented accommodation. The non-local MDP continue to be accommodated in a local Halkirk hotel that has undertaken its own risk assessments to minimise contact with the MDP. The hotel is MDP only, no other guests. A number of precautions / mitigations have been agreed between the MDP and the hotel, in order to enable social distancing and minimise the risk of transmission.

4) What type of risk assessments were carried out prior to travel?

The route and method of travel was risk assessed in each case to ensure that it reduces, as far as practical, the possibility of contact with other people. In all travel adherence to social distancing guidelines and other travel related guidelines provided by Public Health Scotland and England is paramount.

- The Dounreay Socio Economic Impact Plan 2020 is a really good document. Vulcan used to do very similar socio economic activity on a smaller scale 15-18 years – it would be useful to understand what the MOD/RR operations bring into the county in terms of direct and indirect benefits. While we appreciate the client/customer relationship of MOD/RR there should be a mechanism to understand the benefits of

the Vulcan site to the local community as a whole. Would be even better to get an annual socio economic report from Vulcan (inclusive of both MOD and RR) but don't expect to see that any time soon. Can we please ask if this is something that could be provided – how much the Vulcan activity brings into the area on top of the estimated £80M that comes from the direct/indirect benefits of Dounreay would be a useful figure to understand.

Response: With the new Social Value Clause coming into contracts in the future, this is an area where MOD will be looking for greater focus going forwards, especially in support of the sustainability appraisal for decommissioning. It may be difficult to provide an update on this at the next meeting but will ensure this is addressed going forward. [Secretary's note: Discussions with DSG Chair, Chamber and CNSRP are ongoing with MOD re the market engagement day and social value has been raised. The DSG Chair will continue to be updated on this and the wider market engagement day discussions.] Further reporting will be provided at the appropriate time.

DSG update information:

Following discussions at the March public meeting on the market engagement day for Vulcan decommissioning contract a follow up meeting was held between Wendy Newton (Head of Establishment, MOD) and two MOD colleagues alongside DSG Chair, Cllr Struan Mackie, Trudy Morris (Chamber of Commerce) and Peter Faccenda (CNSRP programme manager). The main topic of discussion was involvement in the market engagement day which MOD intend to undertake virtually if possible. A system to allow this to be done is being tested at present and the date for the event will be confirmed shortly but currently is being organised for early June 2020.

The market engagement event will be for interested suppliers to receive an initial introduction to the future programme as either future tenderers or supply chain members. It has been agreed that 15 minutes will be handed over for DSG, CNSRP and the Chamber to provide a short presentation on the local capability that exists within the area to encourage national organisations to utilise the local supply chain.

Once the system has been tested formal confirmation of the details, including Online Tool and joining instructions will be issued to all suppliers who have registered on AWARD .

The Chamber has issued the PIN notice to its members and it is hoped that some local supply chain companies will be interested in getting involved.

DSG(2020)P015: Rolls Royce update

- With John Hook having retired from RR Vulcan, I know that we are all now working towards a relationship with his replacement, and that would be worth follow up through the subgroups.

Response: Prior to John Hook's retirement he emailed to inform DSG that his replacement would be Andy Maxwell.

- Can we record DSG's thanks to John Hook for providing a regular update from Rolls Royce to the DSG sub groups and for responding to any queries from DSG and wish him well for the future.

Response: DSG would like to place on record their thanks to John Hook for providing reports and responding to any questions raised. DSG members would like to send him best wishes for his retirement.

- [Apprentice numbers are positive but we obviously yearn for more information on any post-Vulcan outlook for the business.](#)

Response: It is understood that there is a yearning for more information on any post-Vulcan outlook, however having just take over the post and currently developing an understanding of both the current situation and will be developing a strategic outlook and supported development programme over the next few months.

Regulators

DSG(2020)P010: ONR report for Dounreay, January to March 2020

Questions raised:

- [Can we get a more detailed explanation around permissioning activities?](#)

Response: ONR's activities on site fall under three main topic areas: Compliance inspections against all relevant legislation; Permissioning of high hazard activities or activities with the potential to impact significantly upon nuclear safety if inappropriately conceived or implemented; and enforcement [investigations and subsequent enforcement action following incidents or significant breaches of legislation on site]. A small number of activities are specified within legislation as requiring a formal 'permission' to proceed. Examples include a 'Consent' required before a reactor can restart operations following a planned outage and the 'Approval' of a site's revised emergency arrangements before they can be implemented. The significant majority of permissioning activities undertaken by ONR are in support of projects being undertaken on site and are at the discretion of the site inspector [following the guidance provided within ONR's own documentation]. These permissions are in the form of regulatory hold points which prevent the site from proceeding with the activity until such time that ONR is satisfied that all regulatory requirements [specified by the inspector] have been met. Examples of the sort of activities subject to formal regulatory hold points include: commencement of construction activities; commencement of active commissioning; implementation of a significant organisational change. Regulatory hold points are released formally by the issue of a Licence Instrument following a rigorous process involving detailed reviews of documentation and (where applicable) an assessment of the implementation of all necessary arrangements on site (including task observations where necessary)

- [Is further information available on the IAEA transport container – how did it occur?](#)

Response: To date there is no further information on the IAEA container or the cause of the leak. It has been confirmed that following a more detailed examination the leakage was found to be below the threshold for formal notification to ONR. ONR is still awaiting visibility of the DSRL formal investigation report however this has been subject to delays resulting from a combination of the Covid-19 restrictions and personnel unavailability due to illness. The site will progress the submission of the report to ONR as soon as practicable at which point ONR will consider what further action, if any, is appropriate.

DSG(2020)P014: SEPA report, April 2020

No issues raised.

DSG(2020)P018: DNSR report, Jan to March 2020

Questions raised:

- The report mentions the facility safety case presentation. Was this a revised (site) safety case and were there any significant changes from the previous version?

Response: The presentation given to DNSR was the Dounreay Submarine Prototype 1 (DSMP1) Fuel removal Pre Operational Safety Case (POSR). It is a new stand-alone Process Safety Case (PSC) under the 'umbrella' of the DSMP1 Pond Facility Safety Case (FSC) and is considered as an extension to the scope of the extant DSMP1 Pond FSC. The POSR has gone through site due process and is awaiting comments before formally issued to stakeholders.

- What remains the highest safety issue and will the safety case be revised (or not needed) once the fuel is removed?

Response: To remove all fuel from the Site. Once this has been safely completed then the Site will come under the umbrella of the Vulcan Decommissioning Safety Case. There will be no need for fuel removal and movement Safety Cases at Vulcan.

Other papers

DSG(2020)P013: CNSRP Programme Manager update, April 2020

Thanks to everyone for taking the time to review this information and show such interest in the details of the programme. While responses have been provided below more detail can be provided and would be happy to have an individual discussion if required with anyone who wishes further information.

Comments made

- A very different report due to the current crisis. However it will give time to reflect and prioritise how we go forward in the future. UHI will have to be ready to adapt courses etc to encompass post Covid-19. Needs, expectations and jobs will all be fluid after Covid-19 is over.

Response: The current Covid-19 crisis will undoubtedly change the business and societal landscape in the short to medium term and in some instances permanently. The CNSRP Partners are currently heavily involved in providing support to individuals and organisations to weather the immediate issues arising from the lockdown. In particular The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise) are managing several emergency grant and loan schemes providing millions of pounds to thousands of local organisations. The other partners are variously providing support through organisational efforts such as those being provided by Dounreay, and through information and advice as with Caithness Chamber of Commerce and Skills Development Scotland in support of their members and clients. Once the lockdown begins to be lifted all of the partners will need to assess the next steps and what support is best placed to support the recovery efforts - exploratory discussions are already underway in this.

Future support may well include additional or different skills development needs. College staff face immediate, short term challenges, with teaching staff having to review every individual Students' progress and assess gaps to allow progression in

qualifications. There are also discussions ongoing on how best to provide teaching in practical subjects whilst maintaining staff and student safety with social distancing. In more academic subjects the college is actually well placed compared to many Further and Higher Education establishments. It has excellent systems in place for the remote delivery of learning and is well practiced in supporting Students at a distance, due to the dispersed nature of our population. These changes are just one example of the numerous adaptations that will be needed post Covid-19.

Questions raised

- **Why is the Beatrice Project still showing on the plan?**
Response: The Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm is of course fully operational, but this doesn't mean that there are no further opportunities for development either in the local supply chain or through other means. Discussions with SSE to seek to develop training for Offshore staff at UHI/NHC are ongoing and the College is seeking approval to the Global Wind Standard to achieve this. This would also provide a further boost to the attractiveness of the area to other potential Offshore developers, with a view to encouraging them to based their Operations and Maintenance activities in the region. For this reason it makes sense to keep this on the programme.
- **Unfortunate that a number of projects are now affected by the Covid-19 crisis.**
Response: Agreed. The seismic nature of this change needs to be recognised. The positive message here is that the underlying need for the projects in the programme continues and that whilst there may be delays the nature of these will allow them to recommence as the restrictions are lifted. They are delayed, not lost.
- **P2 – In the table “other sectors” massively outways the other sectors but there is no indication of what these are. If they are so important and contribute so much they ought to be explained.**
Response: Noted – and this will be considered to allow further analysis and reflect this - this section captures numerous smaller scale activities being supported through the partnership, and we've tended to concentrate on the progress of the Headline projects.
- **P5 – In the actions on Tidal Power – “attract a high power user to C& NS” – No high power user will risk being reliant on wind power or the small array of Meygen turbines. The UK government shut down Dounreay and Scottish Government is against any reliable constant output power station. Need a bit of realism here.**
Response: It has been frustrating that this technology has had less focus than other more mature generation equipment. The last Contract for Difference(CfD) round saw contracts being won by Offshore Wind Farms pretty much at market prices, with little(no) actual subsidy. Put another way Offshore Wind is now cheaper than new combined cycle gas power generation, the previous lowest cost technology. See

interesting article here: - <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-uk-auction-offshore-wind-cheaper-than-new-gas>. Who would have predicted that 10 years ago?

This has arisen through the CfD mechanism used to support early developments, to give the developers/ manufacturers the breathing space to scale equipment and develop the technology. There is a further round of Contract for Difference consultations underway and this is suggesting that there will be 3 separate CfD 'pots' to bid into, with one being to support newer technologies such as Floating wind, Tidal and Wave power. Depending on the details of this it may be that this opportunity will allow further progress in Tidal stream development. There is also a suggestion that innovation funds might be being considered to accelerate these too. The UK has a massive need to increase renewable generation, and so there is potentially scope to expand the types of equipment to reduce the risk of 'all eggs in the one basket' and at the same time allow multiple different developments to progress simultaneously.

I understand the concern about the intermittency, but this might be dealt with through storage (battery technology developed locally?) or by having access to multiple sources of renewable generation (constrained wind locally is a significant untapped resource). It is suggested that any large power user would have multiple options as to where to source its power - even private wire arrangements would almost certainly have a grid connection. The risk to the generator or the power user would be too great that the other party would cease operations, so there would always be an alternative if it was technically possible; or perhaps the user could flex demand? With the right commercial deal this might make sense? There are strands of development here that merit the effort to follow them up. It'd be a shame if this technology was piloted here only to be picked up and implemented elsewhere?

- P6 – Scabster – The current situation will lead to long term changes in the Oil & Gas sector and the visits of Cruise Ships. Need to be careful not to waste money.
Response: It is accepted that the demand will be different after Covid-19 - this is probably the only certainty. There will undoubtedly be opportunities arising as a result of the changes post Covid-19 as well as challenges. It is important that we support our projects and our local businesses where possible to maximise the opportunities and minimise any downside.
- P7 – PBO Eng. Hub – This will need a large company to relocate to Caithness or some joint venture with existing big players like Nuvia and RR.
Response: This strand of activity has been in development for some time and discussions continue. Perhaps the process of reviewing operational activities post-Covid-19 might offer some opportunity to progress this.
- P8 – NC500 – For safety no major road improvements should be made and also “modern” roads would detract from the charisma. Parking charges would be

absolutely daft and locals and visitors need public toilets.

Response: The current crisis will offer some real challenges to the tourism and hospitality industries. The recent successes of attracting large number of visitors, including many from overseas is likely to take a big knock. The whole approach to these sectors will need revisiting and CNSRP partners will be the heart of those discussions.

- P10 – Shared Apprenticeship Hub – Who is going to pay/fund this? The atmosphere needs to be of a works not a college. Youngsters wanting to do apprenticeships want to be part of the adult “going to work” world not college students.

Response: The underlying intention here is to provide a larger number of high quality apprenticeships in the region. The shared hub is being explored collaboratively between college and employers, but must meet the needs of the apprentices and employers first. However this is established it needs to be sustainable and add value to all sides.

- P11 – We need any reasonable inward investment that creates meaningful jobs and the emphasis on “climate change” and that over used word “sustainability” needs not to be such a priority in my view.

Response: It is useful to explain the rationale behind the climate change and sustainability focus, to make it clear that these are not driven by 'political correctness' but by economically sound principles. Whether one agrees with the 90%+ of scientists that say that Climate change is partly driven by man, or even whether one believes it is real at all is not really the issue. The fact is that governments are legislating and investing as if it is an urgent problem, and individual consumers are making choices in support of this agenda that offers risks and opportunities. The businesses (regions?) that see these and react first can reap the rewards.

Disruptive business models are often naturally more sustainable because some key costs are lower, or it offers some other advantage such as convenience. For example, cost of materials might be lower, and increasingly sustainability costs need to be considered in this - rising costs to landfill waste, European directives on Repairability and consumer pressure to reduce plastic content to name a few are all real costs producers need to be conscious of. Remember Blockbuster? - now content is streamed online. This wasn't developed for a sustainability reason, but because costs were lower, reach was wider and distribution quicker and much cheaper. As a by-product, no more plastic tapes and DVDs going into landfills (although more power used...?) The point being that sustainable business can be very lucrative and less location dependent as a consequence.

The biggest single investment in the region in recent years has been the Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd, which has created 90 sustainable jobs (25 year lifetime or hopefully more), and at the same time regenerating the harbour at Wick. The offshore wind technology installed at BOWL has been developed partly with

Governmental support (not just in the UK) specifically to address Climate Change. This has also meant that over the last few years numerous other Wind Farms and related grid and transmission infrastructure has been built in the region, with £billions invested. More sites are being offered for development in the upcoming Scotwind leasing round so hopefully more activity can be attracted to the region. Sadly the UK missed a real opportunity to be at the vanguard in producing the equipment for this Industry. Despite having been the world leader in the early stages of its development the nascent UK Turbine Industry failed to get the commitment it needed. Denmark seized the opportunity and backed it, and the rest as they say... Today wind turbine production employs 20,000 people in Denmark and sales are circa \$3billion with 90% exported. To put this in context Denmark is only a bit bigger than Scotland, with 5.8 million citizens compared to 5.45 million here.

When we are looking to attract Inward Investors we need to offer advantages over other locations and that means finding and promoting the unique benefits that our region offers. We are seen as remote from traditional markets, and this difference needs to be factored into our thinking. The area already produces more low carbon energy than we use, so we are already a sustainable region in that sense. Doesn't it make sense to use this as a positive and build on it?

CORRESPONDENCE

For action

Dounreay Communities Fund applications

To note that the funding applications have been circulated to the Socio Economic sub group for their consideration. An update report will be provided to DSG members providing detail of the successful applicants.

DSG(2020)C025: Scottish Government response to DSG letter re HIE budget cuts.

A number of comments were received and a further letter will be drafted and sent at an appropriate time during Covid-19 recovery.

For noting

DSG(2020)C023: Transport Strategy consultation: submission by DSG.

Comments made:

- There are good criticisms in this paper
- It is not helpful to creating proper strategy if it is not understood, or denied, that travel by car dominates over other means in most cases. Therefore road transport for business purposes has to be catered for robustly. This above point requires "climate change" to be dismissed more often as it is used constantly as a delayer.

DSG(2020)C024: NDA Site Stakeholder Group briefing

DSG(2020)C028: NDA Decommissioning newsletter, April 2020

Comments received:

- DRS... good to see them adapting. They may have to do more of this in the future.

NEW UPDATES FOR INFORMATION

Since the DSG paperwork was distributed and comments/questions provided by members the following correspondence has been received:

Email to DSG Chair from the SSG Chair of Chairs (Aled Jones).

Dear Friends

As I am sure that you are aware that during this extraordinary situation, all future meetings of the SSGs have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

I hope that you and yours, our colleagues and friends in Magnox and the NDA, including the associated members of the nuclear family stay safe and well during these unprecedented times.

Please keep in touch and if you have anything you would like to raise, just drop Jill a line and she will ensure that I receive this.

I look forward to us all meeting again in much more certain and happier times when this virus has passed.

Kind regards and take care

Aled M Jones

Wylfa SSG Chair

Magnox Chair of Chairs.

DSRL personnel

Mark Rouse, Dounreay MD announced recently that Craig Brown was being appointed as the site's Head of Strategic Planning. This follows a few months where Craig has combined his role as Head of Fuel Cycle Area (FCA) with supporting people across the organisation to develop an updated delivery plan for this year. Craig, who is known to many of you, will oversee the development and implementation of our decommissioning programme and performance plan in addition to a range of other strategic planning initiatives. He will report to Sam Usher, Strategic Programme Director. Craig will replace Glenn Ellcock who has left the site ahead of his retirement.

25th May 2020

ACTIONS RAISED

DSG(2020)M002/A001: DSG Chairman to write to Highland Council with reference to Caithness Horizons asking for a full response to the query provided on 11th December 2019.

DSG(2020)M002/A002: June Love to put Nuclear Services hub presentation on next Socio Economic sub group agenda.

DSG(2020)M002/A003: June Love to request a short presentation by Trudy Morris on Shared Apprenticeship Scheme at the next Socio Economic sub group meeting.

Action: DSG(2020)M002/A004: June Love to put the Dounreay Socio Economic Plan presentation on the next public DSG meeting for discussion.