

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the DSG Business Meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2020 at 0930 hours by Teams meeting.

Present:	Struan Mackie	DSG chair
	Davie Alexander	DSG vice-chair (socio economic sub group chair)
	Gillian Coghill	Site restoration sub group chair
	Ron Gunn	DSG socio economic sub group vice chair
	Roger Saxon	DSG Honorary member
	June Love	DSG secretariat

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Cllr Struan Mackie, DSG Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Willie Mackay.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/BM(2020)M005 – had been endorsed by correspondence shortly after the meeting, Members were invited to follow up on any issues from the last minutes.

Davie Alexander noted the discussion with NDA noting that while everyone was saying the right things on the site transition and socio economics the proof will be in delivery rather than talk. Clarity was also required on the PBO Engineering hub and the DSRL Nuclear Services hub and there needed to be a strong narrative around how these would be combined and taken forward by NDA rather than the PBO. He felt it would be useful to invite Dave Wallace to a future DSG business meeting to provide clarity on these two projects. Cllr Mackie noted he was going to raise the discussion held with the NDA under Any Other Business.

Action: DSG/BM(2020)M06/A001: June Love to invite Dave Wallace, NDA to a forthcoming DSG business meeting to discuss the PBO Engineering Hub/DSRL Nuclear Services hub.

Cllr Mackie stated that he had found the discussion on interim end states/end state review useful at the last meeting and noted that he planned to get more involved with the site operations sub group when meetings resumed.

4. ACTION STATUS

The status of actions was reviewed. Members noted the progress being made in closing out some actions that had been held up due to Covid. These were now being taken through the DSG business meeting until such times the sub-group meetings started to meet again.

5. FORWARD PLANNING – SEPTEMBER MEETING

Previous discussions at the business meeting confirmed it was unlikely that the September meeting could go ahead due to restrictions for social distancing. Further consideration was given, and it was agreed that this remained the case. Paperwork and updates would be provided in time for DSG members to provide any feedback via emails.

Davie Alexander said it was important that all members responded when paperwork was provided to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to feedback.

June Love noted she was presently collating the responses for the queries raised around the July sub group paperwork. The Q&A video with Gareth Taylor/Struan Mackie was scheduled for 8th September and therefore she was planning to issue the report with responses after the Q&A video was available so the link could be included in the paperwork.

It was further discussed that members should note that it was important that when providing views these came from the represented organisations. Struan Mackie said he would put out a note to DSG members reminding them of this and the need to respond to paperwork even if no comments are provided.

Action: DSG/BM(2020)M06/A002: Cllr Struan Mackie to write an email to all DSG members to ensure that views are representative of the organisations and the need for everyone to respond when feedback is requested.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following was raised:

- Following on from previous comments earlier in the meeting, Cllr Struan Mackie noted he and Davie Alexander had met with NDA personnel, Alan Cummings, Gareth Taylor and Dave Wallace. Discussion was wide range including the site transition progress, R&D opportunities for Caithness/NS and an NDA Scottish Strategy which is under development. It was also intimated that there was a belief that there could be opportunities within the oil and gas decommissioning sector that could take place in Caithness. It was further noted that the newly appointed NDA Chair would visit the area once Covid restrictions eased.
- An NDA/SSG forum had been organised for the 18th September (via Teams) and the Chair and vice-chair would be attending. An agenda was expected shortly, and members would be invited to raise any issues that they would like to see raised at this forum.
- June Love noted that DRS had recently written to the Caithness Transport Forum noting that the commercial freight trial for Georgemas had been postponed due to Covid-19. DRS were now considering carrying out this trial sometime during 2021 (spring).

Members noted this and voiced disappointment that this could not go-ahead earlier recognising that it would be difficult to invite stakeholders to view this operation while remaining Covid-19 compliant. It was agreed that a response, via the Caithness Transport Forum, should be followed up asking for DRS to consider how else they could demonstrate the trial if restrictions continued into Spring next year.

It was noted that there had been a trial for transport logs through the railway network. It was also stated that there was continued confusion as to whether the modifications that NDA made to Georgemas for fuel movements was in fact fit for commercial freight. It was unlikely that those stakeholders who would be invited to the trial were expert enough to be able to make this judgement. Cllr Struan Mackie asked if DSG had in the past procured any independent reports. June Love confirmed this had happened in the past. Following a further discussion it was agreed that this was something that should be explored with DSG funding an independent study of the railway capabilities and that would inform whether the platform/crane would need to be put back to what it was prior to NDA improvements. If this was to go ahead DSG would work with Caithness Transport

Forum to ensure that all questions and concerns were covered within the work that would be carried out.

Action: DSG/BM(2020)M06/A003: DSG Chairman to write to all DSG members requesting comments and consideration of DSG procuring an independent report on the suitability of the Georgemas for commercial freight.

- June Love noted she had circulated the NDA draft strategy 4 document to all members as this was now out for formal consultation. Members had been requested to provide any feedback on this document by the end of September. She noted she would put out a further prompt to remind members to provide feedback. Cllr Mackie noted he had some comment on the strategy document and would provide shortly.
- Cllr Struan Mackie noted local Council discussions continued on the proposed changes to ward boundaries and this had been on a cross party basis. This has also been discussed with MSPs and generally the majority of those people were unhappy with the proposed changes. Representation would be provided.
- Gillian Coghill noted that feedback from local trades indicated there was some large housing construction projections about to commence and this did not fit with the message of local depopulation.
- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that a catch-up meeting with Mark Rouse would take place within the next couple of weeks.
- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that HC would receive funding from the Crown Estates and there would be around £300k provided to Caithness Committee. Local discussions would consider this funding linking into CNSRP.
- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that NDA/DSRL discussions on R&D opportunities was a useful one and noted that further consideration of how to tap into nuclear sector deals would be beneficial.

There being no further business, Cllr Struan Mackie thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

Cllr Struan Mackie
DSG Chair
4 September 2020

ACTIONS ARISING

DSG/BM(2020)M06/A001: June Love to invite Dave Wallace, NDA to a forthcoming DSG business meeting to discuss the PBO Engineering Hub/DSRL Nuclear Services hub.

DSG/BM(2020)M06/A002: Cllr Struan Mackie to write an email to all DSG members to ensure that views are representative of the organisations and the need for everyone to respond when feedback is requested.

DSG/BM(2020)M06/A003: DSG Chairman to write to all DSG members requesting comments and consideration of DSG procuring an independent report on the suitability of the Georgemas for commercial freight.