

Endorsed by correspondence

Cllr Struan Mackie then joined the call and Davie Alexander handed back over the chair. It was queried as to whether the Rolls Royce had longer term aspirations for remaining in Caithness beyond the Vulcan contract. Andy Maxwell responded that this was still an aspiration and dependent on a number of factors that were sensitive from a commercial perspective.

In terms of future aspirations, June Love noted that Rolls Royce was an account managed through HIE and this would allow for future commercial discussions to continue via HIE.

June Love noted that there was ongoing discussions about Wick/JOG airport with regards setting up a PSO and asked if Rolls Royce was engaged with this. Andy Maxwell responded that he had recently been in touch with David Swanson, Chamber of Commerce and would provide him with the relevant support.

Andy Maxwell noted that he is a Non-executive director of Marketing Derby which was a non-profit organisation and carried out some similar work to the Caithness Chamber of Commerce and DSG. They invest in opportunities in accommodation or business in the Derby area. He thought it might be worthwhile having a look at the website to explore synergies.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M003/A001: June Love to send the link to Marketing Derby website to member.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Andy Maxwell for taking the time to meet with the DSG business meeting. He emphasised that DSG's remit was to look at both operational aspects of the Vulcan and Dounreay site alongside the socio economics which was hugely important to the area. He added that he was conscious that within the Rolls Royce local team there was highly skilled people that would be attractive to the UK and internationally and finding ways to retain and look at new opportunities which could be serviced from a Caithness base would be really positive.

There was a discussion around Rolls Royce past attendance at the DSG meetings. It was agreed the status quo would remain with Rolls Royce providing a written update but would not attend meetings. Andy Maxwell noted that if there was a specific topic to discuss he would be happy to meet with the business meeting members to discuss directly.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Andy Maxwell for his time. Andy Maxwell then left the meeting.

5. STATUS OF ACTIONS

It was noted that actions continue to be completed in a timely manner. Of note discussions centred on:

- DSG(2020)M03/A044: June Love to investigate how to make the Public meeting accessible to the public. June Love provided an update on the options for the Public meeting. There are two possible options. Option 1 was the preferred option, with an advert inviting public members to register their attendance at the March public meeting. The log on details would then be considered dependent on the number of pre-registered public members. This was agreed.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M003/A002: June Love to set up logistics for advertising public attendance at next DSG public meeting (24 March 2021).

- DSG(2020)M03/A045: June Love to write to WiN Highland asking for a list of organisations associated. June Love noted a response has been received and it was mostly DSRL and Vulcan. Other companies include Nuvia, Chamber of Commerce, North Highland

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College, Highland Council, CNC, Highland Business Women and NDA. Jus asked if they were content that this can be put out to the wider DSG membership.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the WiN Highland membership should go to all DSG members for their input and if accepted a WiN representative would be invited to attend the AGM and public meeting on 24th March 2021.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M003/A003: June Love to issue WiN Highland membership request to DSG members and ask for comment before the AGM.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before opening up to other members Cllr Struan Mackie noted:

- DSG(2021)C002: DSG response to NDA draft. Cllr Struan Mackie thanked June Love for collating the comments and to all members for their input. Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the comments were very robust and had focused on the important areas.
- DSG(2021)C003: Notes of Aarhus roundtable on waste management Cllr Mackie noted that he was indebted to David Broughton for attending this workshop (and others) given his waste expertise. Gillian Coghill was also thanked for her involvement in a number of waste workshops/events.
- DSG(2021)C004: Response from Scottish Government re CNSRP. It was noted that the Scottish Government had now agreed to re-instate a representative to CNSRP and had also confirmed funding to support the PSO for the airport. Following further discussion it was agreed to write back with a request to meet with Scottish Government minister in the autumn once Holyrood reconvened after the elections.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M003/A004: Cllr Struan Mackie, DSG Chair to write to Scottish Government asking for a meeting in Autumn.

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that he had attended a meeting with Alistair Jack, Secretary of State for Scotland, hosted by Edward Mountain, with a number of Stakeholders to discuss Wick/JOG Airport. This had been a positive meeting and a number of actions had been identified from that meeting including the potential for some UK funding through one of their funding mechanisms.

There was further discussion around PSO and noted that the Caithness Chamber of Commerce alongside CNSRP partners were continuing to look at additional work to understand how Covid may impact on PSO in the short term. Further work would continue and funding gaps would also be considered.

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that he was aware that the AGM was coming up and he was keen to ensure that all the activities undertaken since Covid-19 restrictions was highlighted within the annual review. June Love said she would provide a first draft and DSG business meetings could provide additional comment before the annual review was complete.

Action: DSG(2021)M003/A005: DSG Members to comment and add topics to draft annual review to June Love (once 1st draft of annual review is provided).

- Cllr Struan Mackie advised he had received some communication on a FOI to NDA requesting information on Sutherland Councillor attendance at DSG meetings. Cllr Mackie

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noted that he had advised attendance information was available on the DSG website. June Love noted that for this year 2020/21 due to COIVD an attendance report would not be made available as meetings had not been held.

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

Cllr Struan Mackie

DSG Chair

10th February 2021

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

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DSG/BM(2021)M003/A002: June Love to set up logistics for advertising public attendance at next DSG public meeting (24 March 2021).

DSG/BM(2021)M003/A003: June Love to issue WiN Highland membership request to DSG members and ask for comment before the AGM.

DSG/BM(2021)M003/A004: Cllr Struan Mackie, DSG Chair to write to Scottish Government asking for a meeting in Autumn.