

Endorsed on 6 April 2021

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP BUSINESS MEETING**Minutes of DSG Business Meeting held on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 0930 via Microsoft Teams.**

Present:	Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair
	Davie Alexander	DSG Vice-chair & Socio Economic sub group chair
	Gillian Coghill	DSG Site Restoration sub group chair
	Ron Gunn	DSG Deputy Socio Economic sub group chair
	Roger Saxon	DSG Honorary member
	Cllr Willie Mackay	DSG Site Restoration sub group vice chair
	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL
	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary, DSRL
In Addition:	Hazel Blears	NDA Social Value Specialist
	Neil Smith	NDA Business Development Manager
	Dave Wallace	NDA Stakeholder Relations/Socio Economics
	Josh George	Organisational Excellence Director

MINUTES**1. WELCOME**

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that this meeting signalled a year since the first lockdown. He thanked everyone for their continued support in attending the fortnightly meetings and also thanked June Love and Dawn Clasper for the additional work that these meetings had entailed.

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed Hazel Blears to the meeting and noted that Neil Smith/David Wallace (NDA) and Josh George (DSRL) would be attending the meeting for agenda item 5.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/BM(2021)M005, 9 March 2021 – had been endorsed by members via email. Members agreed this was a true reflection of the meeting. June Love noted she would now distribute these minutes of all DSG members for update. No issues from the minutes were raised.

4. ACTION STATUS

Members then reviewed the action status and noted that actions continued to be closed out in a timely manner. Of note, discussions on the actions were focussed on:

- DSG(2020)M03/A003: June Love to put on the agenda (at the appropriate time) a review of the membership of DSG.

June Love noted this was a long term action and could not be completed until such times Covid restrictions relaxed to allow DSG to meet to discuss.

- DSG(2020)M03/A014: Jacq Longrigg to provide further information on the Leadership Academy when further developed (expected to be end February 2021).

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June Love noted she had requested an update on progress with this action and was currently waiting for a response.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that it was good to see so few outstanding actions going into the AGM.

David Alexander asked if we had received a reply from the Community Sports Hub Chair. June Love noted we have not received a response at this time.

June Love stated that she had received a response from SEPA regarding action relating to the LLW pits (DSG(2020)M03/A048 refers).

5. SOCIAL VALUE

Cllr Mackie thanked Hazel Blears, NDA Social Value Specialist, for attending the meeting to discuss social value. He also thanked Neil Smith and David Wallace (NDA) to the meeting. In addition, he welcomed Josh George who would shortly take up the role of Organisational Excellence Director, DSRL from Steve Young. Introductions were made by everyone at the meeting.

Hazel Blears thanked the group for the opportunity to engage with them. She stated that she has already spoken with Mark Rouse, MD DSRL and Jane Mackenzie Head of Commercial Services along with other members of DSRL where social value would impact.

Hazel Blears provided a brief background stating that she had been an MP for Salford for 20 years with subsequent roles within UK Government. While in office, she had produced the social value act, working with others and had been pleased to see over the years that social value was considered within all procurement activities ensuring a balance between a good price, value for money and maximizing social, economic and environmental impact.

The ethos behind this was to move from traditional corporate social responsibility and to use business models to make real impacts and embed them into the business, changing the way in which goods and services, employment, investment and innovation was considered.

Hazel Blears noted she chaired a small regeneration project called 'Well Whitehaven' aiming to use the New Ideas Fund to give young people new experiences and employment opportunities. She felt there was opportunities at other NDA sites to consider these types of activities to ensure long-term benefits are available to transform people's lives.

The UK Government had agreed the strengthening of the terms of the Social Value Act and a Policy Procurement Note (PPN/006) was developed stating that when spending public funding there was a minimum of 10% scoring in the award criteria for social value. Therefore, it would then have the ability to impact on the scoring of tenders. With regard to legislation, the Green paper had now been issued in England and Wales. With approximately £292 billion of public spend this had the opportunity to delivery huge positive impacts.

The Government policy reflects five themes – Covid-19 recovery, inequality, community integration, levelling up and inclusion. There would be a need to ensure that social value was followed through the contract process starting with contract design, invitation to tender, award criteria and then at the contract management stage to deliver. A key part of this would be the measurement metrics and reporting.

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Hazel stated she had chosen Sellafield, Dounreay and North Wales as part of these considerations as there were some similar, and different challenges, e.g. opportunities for young people getting into nuclear industry and looking at pre-apprenticeship work so that young people have the future opportunity of an apprenticeship.

Hazel noted that there was a number of challenges around framework contracts because a social value plan would be required to tender to get on the framework but until such times that contracts started to flow it was difficult to hold companies to account in the delivery of their social value plan.

She felt that Site Stakeholder Groups would be a good way of engaging the public and getting views from communities. Given the current Covid restrictions this could be done digitally which might appeal to the younger people alongside other methods of communication, i.e. surveys and phone polling.

Cllr Mackie thanked Hazel for other update and noted that this would resonate with the Dounreay community and it would be important to ensure that benefit is maximized within the local area. He noted that the area was in serious population decline among working age and young people, so making sure that the opportunity of social value and socio economic come together in a coherent policy would be important.

Noting the restraints on framework contracts he noted that further work would be required to develop this but felt with the NDA taking Dounreay back in-house there was an opportunity to do some things differently. He then invited questions from the business meeting members.

- David Alexander thanked Hazel for her update. He noted that Jacobs and Cavendish have won substantial contracts and this would be a good time to consider social value within these contracts. Hazel noted that the Sellafield PPP Contract provides some good examples of innovative as within this contract it had been recognized that funding would not be profitable for a number of years but that did not stop the work to identify the social value could not be done. As an example, if a, say, £10M contract was won there would be a requirement to identify the social value that would derive from this, recognizing that the social value impacts would be provided at the start of the tender process.
- June Love noted that framework contracts were starting to flow and those successful in the framework bid were all asked to provide a socio-economic plan and there were signs of this starting to bear fruit. One company has been involved with the Space Cluster Development work alongside early discussions around sustainability. Other companies have other good examples and recognized that reporting these back out was key.
- Gillian Coghill noted it was very interesting that young people could not get into the nuclear industry because of education. She noted that Wick has huge deprivation areas and something that needed more attention. There could be an opportunity through CNSRP, UHI, NDA and DSRL to encourage young people with a social program to get meaningful employment and a way to enhance the community. Hazel Blears noted it was heartwarming to hear this and she could send over the internship program that the PPP are about to launch in West Cumbria.

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- Cllr Mackie noted that it was good to hear of these opportunities. MOD Vulcan and DSRL are UK Government owned sites and have, over the years, generated sustainable and skilled employment. He believed there was a role for Scottish Government, Highland Council and the NDA to work together to promote social value.
- Roger Saxon asked what the reporting mechanism would be. He felt this was a really useful piece of work but important to ensure that the value of this is reported out to show what benefits can be captured and developed. Hazel Blears replied that accountability was important. This was not about looking to spend additional funding but to use the funding wisely in a direct way and this was one of the recommendations that would form part of her report. How this would be measured and reported would be an important element.
- June Love noted that the reporting of benefit had been the most difficult thing to do because without the metrics for reporting these out it appeared to her that sites would not be compared in an equal way and having consistent metrics would help to alleviate this.

Hazel Blears noted that the PPN did not apply to Scotland but she hoped that it would flow through all the NDA sites. She noted the community asset transfer was pioneering in Scotland and hoped that the PNN would be something that could be considered with the Scottish landscape.

Hazel Blears also noted the discussion on work mobility rather than worker mobility within the NDA. There were good examples of this working within the Cumbria area. Cllr Mackie felt this was something that could be teased out further given the development of the social value work going on at present. He added that UKAEA Pensions was a good example of retaining work in the area even after the company had been sold on.

6. ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Cllr Mackie welcomed Josh George, Organisational Excellence Director and noted that DSG had a good relationship his predecessor Steve Young. Josh George noted he was still in the process of his handover with Steve Young and his perspective was that on the 1 April when DSRL become a subsidiary of NDA, he had a lot of work to do to get up to speed, not just on the socio economic agenda, but also others parts of the organisation and looked forward to providing updates as and when appropriate to the DSG.

He added that Covid-19 had been a gamechanger and it was clear that a large number of the site's workforce did not want to leave the area and therefore key to this would be, in part, discussions with the NDA around the work mobility piece.

Cllr Mackie thanked Josh George for his comments and welcomed him to his new role and noted that if DSG could help support some of the external messaging around a bright future beyond Dounreay they would be happy to do so.

7. AGM PAPERWORK

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the AGM and Public Meeting were being held tomorrow. Cllr Struan Mackie asked if there had been any interest in attending the Public Meeting. June Love noted there had been four requests to attend the Public Meeting and the links have been sent out the MS Team etiquette. [Secretary's note: prior to 24th March 10 requests for the link from public members had been received and issued.]

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- Cllr Mackie noted he had spoken with MOD who were unable to provide a presentation at the Public Meeting. They would provide a site update that will include COVID and an operational update, but they could not provide a strategic update on decommissioning timelines or market engagement. MOD were keen to provide this information and had indicated they would be willing to meet as soon as practically possible following the Scottish elections. June Love noted that we would not receive any updated from MOD for the April subgroups due to the pre-election period and that Cmdre Mark Prince talked about social value for the decommissioning contract and he believed that benefits to the community would be positive. Gillian Coghill noted that MOD needed to provide their decommissioning journey going forward to the community so that it was well understood and at some point it was possible that NDA would take back the ownership of the site to continue the decommissioning phase.
- June Love stated that a letter of support for STEP fusion program has been sent to CNSRP and had, for the interests of transparency, noted the one objection from a co-opted member. David Alexander noted that recent press articles showed the majority of the community was in support of the Fusion project however he felt that the DSG letter had been correct in including the one objection as everyone's view needed to be taken into consideration. He asked Cllr Struan Mackie when the council would be discussing this. Cllr Mackie noted it was being discussed on the 25th March at the full Council meeting and would be seeking local authority approval. [Secretary's note: At the full Highland Council meeting on 25th March approval was given to pursue this opportunity.]

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following was raised:

- June Love noted that we had received a letter from Scottish Government re DSG(2021)C010 asking for a meeting with the finance minister. They have responded asking to request a meeting after the elections.
- June Love asked if the Business Meetings should be kept fortnightly at present. Cllr Mackie noted he was happy to keep the fortnightly meetings as it was important to continue to keep updated on the changes at both Vulcan and Dounreay. David Alexander agreed with fortnightly meeting stating these were beneficial to discuss any issues in a quicker timescale. Roger Saxon noted that there would be two meetings held in the purdah period. June Love noted that given the business meeting did not pick up on political issues this should not be a problem as it was 'business as usual' however suggested that meetings could be cancelled if there was no pertinent business to discuss.
- June Love noted that she had distributed the NDA Protocol for pre-election period, and this would need to be considered in the light of the April sub group meetings. It was agreed that this would be considered at the next business meeting.

There being no further business, Cllr Struan Mackie

Cllr Struan Mackie

DSG Chair

29th March 2021