

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

DSG(2021)M03

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group meeting held on Wednesday 22 September 2021 at 1900 hours via Teams.

Present:	Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair (The Highland Council)
	David Alexander	DSG Vice-chair (Thurso & Wick Trade Union Council)
	David Craig	Caithness West Community Council
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	The Highland Council
	Gillian Coghill	DSG Site restoration SG chair (Buldoo Residents chair)
	Bob Earnshaw	DSG Honorary member
	Thelma MacKenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Tor Justad	Co-opted member of the public
	David Broughton	Co-opted member of the public
	Peter Faccenda	CNSRP programme manager
	Cllr Willie Mackay	The Highland Council
	Niall Watson	DSRL Trade Unions
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Joanna Coghill	Association of Caithness Community Councils
	Ron Gunn	CHAT
	Cllr Stephen Clackson	Orkney Islands Council
	Debbie Murray	North Highland College, UHI
	Eann Sinclair	HIE
	Peter Dillon	ONR (Dounreay)
	Diane Hamilton	Scot Gov Radwaste team
	Mark Rouse	NDA Operating Company – DSRL
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	David Wallace	NDA
	Commodore Mark Prince	MOD
	Wendy Newton	MOD, Vulcan
	James Bryson	MOD DNSR
	Alan Mackay	NDA, Site Facing Team
	Prof Ray Kemp	Consultant

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked those attending for their patience as meetings continued to be held virtually noting that the DSG business meeting was continuing to review the situation to consider when face to face meetings could take place again.

He welcomed Professor Ray Kemp to the meeting. Prof Kemp would be undertaking the DSG review and his attendance this evening was the start of the process by observing the public meeting. In the near future, Prof Kemp would be contacting members and observers either via a short questionnaire or a telephone call to gauge individual thoughts prior to providing a final report along with recommendations.

Cllr Mackie also noted that there was a number of members of the public in attendance and thanked them for their continued interest in the DSG.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Brian Mutch SGRIPD
- Roger Saxon DSG Honorary member
- Sandy Mackie Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Gareth Taylor NDA (David Wallace deputising)
- Ian Rogers ONR (Peter Dillon deputising)
- Sand Onswett DSRL Unions (Niall Watson deputising)
- Alastair MacDonald DSG Honorary member
- Michelle Johnstone NHS

June Love also noted that Alan Mackay who had recently joined the NDA Site Facing Team as Programme Manager was in attendance. Alan Mackay introduced himself noting he had previously worked at both Dounreay and Vulcan.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Mackie stated that the minutes of the last public meeting held in June 2021 had been circulated to members in advance (DSG(2021)M02 refers).

He asked if members wished to make any changes to the meeting. Dave Craig noted that the minutes referred to the PFR heel pool work as ongoing when it had actually been completed. It was agreed that this would be amended. With that amendment members agreed the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Willie Mackay and seconded by Dave Craig.

Cllr Mackie moved on to the sub group minutes noting that both the Socio Economic and Site Restoration sub groups had been held on the 21 July.

He invited members of the Site Restoration sub group (DSG/SRSG(2021)M02 refers) to make any changes. No changes were identified and the minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Willie Mackay and seconded by Gillian Coghill.

The Socio Economic sub group minutes were then considered (DSG/SESG(2021)M02 refers). These were accepted as a true record and proposed by Ron Gunn and seconded by Struan Mackie.

Cllr Struan Mackie also noted that the DSG business meeting continued to meet fortnightly and the minutes of these meetings were endorsed via correspondence and then distributed to DSG members for update. He reminded members that if there was anything specific they would wish to see progressed between meetings they should make contact with either the DSG secretary or a member of the DSG business meeting.

[Secretary's note: for completeness all actions raised at the sub group meetings are included in the summary of actions at the end of this minute. These are reflected in actions DSG(2021)M03/A001 to DSG(2021)M03/A024].

Cllr Struan Mackie invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. Of note:

- Davie Alexander welcomed the news that the Judicial Review and Land Court hearings had ruled in favour of the Space Hub Sutherland project. What was equally pleasing was that Wildlands Ltd had decided not to appeal the JR decision. This now gave the green light to get on with the project and he was looking forward to seeing a satellite

launch once the site was built and operating. He was aware of the work ongoing with CNSRP complementing this project with the development of a Space Cluster strategy. He felt that this was a great boost for the area and congratulated those involved in taking this project forward. Cllr Mackie also added his congratulations to those involved noting that when this had been first discussed it had felt like a long shot but because of the commitment by those involved it now appears that Sutherland has the potential to be the first site in the UK launching satellites.

- Davie Alexander asked if there was an update on the bid to site the Fusion STEP reactor in Caithness. Peter Faccenda, CNSRP Programme Manager, noted that a UKAEA delegation had visited the Dounreay site in July and had been impressed, not only with the site, but with the visit itself. The Dounreay team who had organised and been involved in the visit had been extremely professional and the delegation had left with a very good impression. After the visit there had been a few supplementary questions that had been responded to promptly and UKAEA had intimated that they would be down-selecting sites with an announcement after the summer. CNSRP were anticipating that they would hear very soon whether the site had made it through into the next round.

Tor Justad asked Peter Faccenda who the competition was in terms of other sites and how many sites would get funding for this. Peter Faccenda responded that currently there were 15 sites in the running with 5 of these being in Scotland. Only one site would be identified for the prototype reactor but it had the potential to create supply chain opportunities.

- Gillian Coghill asked if there had been any progress on the Public Service Obligation for the airport. She believed that with the good news of the Space Hub and the potential to attract the Fusion reactor it was more important than ever to get scheduled flights back to the airport. Peter Faccenda noted that some of the funding had been secured from Scottish Government and The Highland Council. The Highland Council had appointed a specialist procurement manager to develop the tender paperwork. A specialist market engagement consultant had also been appointed and he was currently talking to potential suppliers to gauge interest. The procurement would commence within a couple of weeks.
- Gillian Coghill asked to put on record thanks to Sam Usher, DSRL Strategic Programme Director who had attended the Site Restoration sub group meetings providing detailed updates and always responding to questions raised. She noted that Sam would leave DSRL at the end of September and wanted to minute her thanks for his involvement with the group. She added that she looked forward to meeting his successor shortly. Mark Rouse thanked Gillian noting that Sam would be missed when leaving the site at the end of September.
- Gillian Coghill also thanked DSRL for continuing to maintain good links with DSG. She and David Broughton had attended a workshop looking at the site end state and the team had been very helpful in taking them through the various options. A further workshop had been organised in October and she, alongside the DSG chair, would be attending. At the appropriate time she suggested that a full presentation on the options for the site end state should come to the DSG public meeting. This was agreed.

Action: DSG(2021)M03/A025: June Love to put options for site end state on agenda for a public presentation at the appropriate time.

- Cllr Willie Mackay asked if the investigation on the loss of power to the site had now completed. Mark Rouse responded that SSE had identified the trip was initiated from their protection system (out-with the site) at their substation that feeds into the site. On the morning of the incident, both incoming supplies from the SSE substation to the site had been lost due to the automatic trip. SSE had identified what tripped but not the root cause. As a result SSE have adjusted some protection settings. DSRL had commissioned a full protection system study across the site's electrical distribution network.
- Davie Alexander asked for an update from both Vulcan and Dounreay on returning to work whilst complying with Covid restrictions.

Wendy Newton responded that MOD was working very closely with Rolls Royce to carry out a planned return to the workplace, partly for 'business as usual' but also for the social benefit. It was not envisioned that it will be a return to work as was prior to Covid as there would always be an element of hybrid working. Both MOD and Rolls Royce understood there were some strong business and social benefits in getting people back into offices. There was a number of largely office based staff who continued to work from home.

Mark Rouse responded that there were now approximately 800-850 people on site on a regular basis. Those on site were mainly 'hands on' workers carrying out decommissioning activities within the Covid restrictions applied to working on site. Like Vulcan, office based staff continued to work from home and the site was currently working through a Re-imagine the workplace to empower staff to think about how they want to deliver output. Guidance had been issued and people were starting to consider how best to deliver their work. Like Vulcan, the social benefit of people getting back into offices had been recognised.

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that members had received an updated status of actions. He added that the DSG Business Meeting continued to monitor progress on the actions on a regular basis. He stated he did not intend to go through the actions but invited comments from members. Of note:

- David Broughton stated that he had just seen the response to the action on Scottish Government to provide a more detailed organisation chart with background of those involved. (DSG(2021)M02/A002 refers). He noted that he was not surprised to see that there was no-one within the Radioactive Waste team with a nuclear background who could understand issues. He would be interested to get further information to get more detail on any nuclear experience those in the Team have. Dave Craig agreed with David Broughton.

Diane Hamilton noted that while the Radioactive Substance and Nuclear Decommissioning policy team have a range of experience in government and policy making, they also have a number of sources of technical advice to draw on as required including NDA and SEPA. As further background she noted that Martin MacDonald had been with the Radwaste team for over 10 years and therefore had lots of relevant experience while she had also a background in environment management. In addition the team can also utilise nuclear graduate placements. This ensures the policy team has the right balance of policy experience and access to technical advice.

David Broughton responded that it sounded like par for the course to put people into positions with no engineering technical experience both in Scottish and UK Governments.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted comments made by David Broughton and Dave Craig stating that the action would be left open until further consideration had been made. He asked that those making comment come to the business meeting to discuss what further action was required.

Action: DSG(2021)M03/A026: June Love to invite David Broughton and Dave Craig to a business meeting to discuss way forward to closing out action on Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that while a lot of DSG's focus was on socio economic activities the stie restoration was equally important and there was a requirement to ensure that members had confidence in those making policy decisions.

5. MOD PRESENTATION

Before handing over to Commodore Mark Prince, Cllr Struan Mackie noted that there had been a couple of meetings held with Wendy Newton to discuss the social value for the decommissioning contract. He thanked Peter Faccenda and Trudy Morris for taking these discussions forward and felt that these early discussions had been very useful.

He then handed over to Commodore Mark Prince to provide an update. Commodore Mark Prince provided a presentation (DSG(2021)C043 refers). Following the presentation, members were invited to raise questions. Of note:

- Peter Faccenda asked whether the operational extension would result in a new contract for Rolls Royce or an extension of the existing one, querying whether any social value had been incorporated.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that the intent was to continue with the same arrangements but replacing the contract extension within a global contract. In terms of social value he responded that this was provided within their existing contract by having a predominantly local workforce and utilising the local supply chain. Rolls Royce always had and would continue to support the local community.

- Peter Faccenda also queried If the majority of the special nuclear material was offsite by the end of next year did that mean there would be a reduction of workforce or did the extension of the contract to 2025 mean that staffing levels remain the same.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that they were maximising the opportunities that the operational extension had provided. POCO (Post operational Clean out) would continue and while there may be a requirement for a different skill set he did not imagine a big change of staffing numbers. He would argue that the numbers are not going to be that different.

- Trudy Morris asked, given the experience of the Dounreay contract and the costs that are incurred by organisations seeking to prepare bids, how certain MOD was that they could adhere to these new timelines given that the contract had already been paused once. It had already been seen how quickly things can change given the first attempt at market engagement which was pulled rather suddenly. What certainty was there with the new timeline?

Commodore Mark Prince responded that MOD had funding until the end of 2025 for operational activities and included funding to move to decommissioning. While not being

able to go into detail, he indicated there were other reasons why these dates do stand and he believed it was unlikely that the dates would slip significantly, if at all. Ministerial commitment had been made to get these dates agreed. He genuinely did not expect these dates to slip.

- Trudy Morris noted the discussion on another market engagement day early next year and asked whether this would take place in Caithness. She added it would be useful for MOD to work with CNSRP to ensure that those attending the market day understood the area's priorities and focus.

Commodore Mark Prince confirmed that the market engagement day would be held in Caithness and agreed it would be useful to work with CNSRP to allow the area's priorities to be highlighted.

- Davie Alexander followed on from Trudy Morris' first question asking if it was really going to take 2+ years to undertake the procurement process.

Commodore Mark Prince confirmed this was the estimated time required to undertake a rigorous procurement process.

- Davie Alexander asked who determines the transitional plan from Rolls Royce to the new organisation (assuming that may not be RR) given the next contract will follow on from the current extended one. He also queried that if a company other than RR won the contract whether there was a chance that some of the RR staff may be TUPE'd across rather than be made redundant?

Commodore Mark Prince responded that this would be dependent on who bid for the work and who the selected bidder would ultimately be but it would be developed to ensure safety of the site. With regards to TUPE, he stated that TUPE would apply and stated that it was expected that some staff would move from one company to another assuming RR did not win the competition, however under TUPE rules the individual has a choice as to whether to transfer or not.

- Eann Sinclair noted that there was mention in the presentation of the difference between the compensatory approach to socio economics that NDA employs in comparison to the social value elements that MOD will include in the contract. He asked why these were different.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that MOD was required to bring in social value within the procurement process but was not required to take on elements of the NDA socio economic activities. MOD were incorporating social value as the policy and legislation lays down. Why these requirements were different he did not know.

- Eann Sinclair stated that the timescales would be challenging for any interested company to identify social value needs, actions and goals that may still be relevant from 2026. He enquired whether consideration had been given to ask bidders to identify a process on how to assess and meet the needs on an ongoing basis, as priorities could change within the period of the procurement process. Just as important would be how any social value activities would be measured.

Commodore Mark Prince responded MOD were working closely with NDA and was therefore learning from their experience. It was difficult to provide a definitive answer until such time as the tenders are submitted and one of the reasons MOD was talking to potential bidders is so they can look at social value elements that they can deliver. There was a confidence that

a number of companies will decide to bid and those tenders will be robustly considered and scored against a number of criteria.

- Eann Sinclair asked how those companies would be held to account to deliver the social value identified within a successful bid.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that this would be done by incentivisation in the delivery phase and there could be an element of pain/gain share within the contract.

- Gillian Coghill asked whether it would be possible to depersonalise the social value element of the contract to allow organisations such as CNSRP, HIE and the Chamber to undertake a review and score this element of the contract bids. She added that with, say, a 10% weighting on social value it could become a differentiator in terms of what tender was successful.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that the scoring of the bids will be done by an independent team within MOD. The criteria and weighting would be based on consultation that has and will continue to take place with the local community. It will not go back to the community to score the bids themselves. This will be a firmly led scrutiny ensuring complete independence to ensure no prejudice in the scoring of bids.

- Gillian Coghill noted that in the presentation there was mention made that MOD was in close discussions with the NDA. She asked how many meetings had been held and who was leading the discussions from the NDA and MOD.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that there was regular discussion with NDA. Wendy Newton had attended a meeting with NDA only last week while he had also attended discussions. Dale McQueen from the NDA Corporate Centre was leading on discussions for the NDA while Wendy Newton led for MOD.

- Tor Justad enquired whether MOD was considering implementing such things as the Levelling up process considering no-one knows what this actually means.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that is part of the mandate that is given.

- Tor Justad added it would be interesting to see how this was implemented as there was so much uncertainty about what levelling up actually meant.
- Tor Justad asked whether the programme related to the Dounreay programme or was more aligned to the submarine programme?

Commodore Mark Prince responded that the programme mentioned fell under the naval nuclear propulsion programme and included delivery across the nuclear deterrent programme. Primarily those involved are those within MOD with a couple of BEIS interactions.

- Tor Justad asked if MOD could provide an example of bringing in the climate change agenda to the tenders for the decommissioning contract.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that one of the aspects to be considered is utilising the local supply chain and local labour as much as possible, as not only would this provide socio-economic benefit to the community, but it would reduce travel and therefore emissions. Other examples could include use of renewables, disposal of waste (i.e. recycling). There

was a number of areas where climate change activities could be factored in.

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the green agenda could not be taken in isolation but needed to wrap around the whole programme.
- Cllr Matthew Reiss thanked the Commodore for what he believed was a jargon free presentation.
- Gillian Coghill noted the social value element of economic equality and asked how broad that was. An example of 'economic equality' could be the broadband connectivity and queried whether this was something that could be considered.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that he believed that broadband connectivity, as an example, was leaning more towards socio economic recompense. However this would be for the bidders to consider within the context of the social value elements of the contract. He believed this would be more likely to be focussed on things like travel, sub contracts and the equality side of things that pervades across the country.

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted his interest in MOD's engagement prior to the issue of the Prior Information Notice (PIN). He was conscious that MOD contracts were quite niche and wondered if engagement would take place with industry in framing the potential of Vulcan's life time plan before the PIN goes out. He added that this was something he would like to see further engagement with the CNSRP and Chamber of Commerce. Coming back to Trudy Morris' point earlier about having the market engagement day in Caithness, he felt this was important to ensure that the local supply chain was provided with the opportunity to meet with those national organisations who would be considering bidding for the work. It would be essential for those bidders to understand the local capability that already exists.
- Cllr Struan Mackie also noted that in the past MOD had engaged closely with the local authority on things like REPPiR and asked whether any engagement had been undertaken on the decommissioning programme. While he was conscious there was a number of Councillors sitting around the table he wondered if any discussions had been taken with those responsible for planning.

Commodore Mark Prince responded this was not something that had been considered but he would take this away and discuss with Wendy Newton to consider whether this was appropriate.

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that Vulcan was continuing to align to the Dounreay life time plan but DSG was aware that the current Dounreay plan was currently being reviewed. He noted that the successful bidder would then come in and develop a new life time plan for Vulcan and at some point he would expect to see the Vulcan and Dounreay life time plans sitting side by side to allow these parallels to be visible.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that he could see this could happen within the decommissioning contract noting that constraints would continue on what information could be provided under Vulcan's operational plans.

As there were no further questions from DSG members, Cllr Struan Mackie invited those attending the meeting as members of the public whether they wished to ask any questions.

- Brad Bowman asked whether the physical decommissioning and ultimately the end state had been defined.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that discussions continued between MOD and NDA on the end state. The site would be returned to the NDA at an agreed point. There would also be an agreement between MOD and Marine Scotland to hand back the foreshore. While it is recognised both the foreshore and the site will be returned to their respective owners there was no defined end state at present. The defined end states would be required to determine the totality of the scope required to take the site to completion which could, at the extreme end, be returning to a brownfield site. The end state would be important to ensure that a precise scope of work is included in any invitation to tender.

- Cllr Mackie summed up stating there had been a lot to take in especially for some members hearing this for the first time. He thanked MOD for the updates provided at business and ad hoc meetings and emphasised to members that if there were any further questions that came to mind that they should provide these to the DSG secretary who would ensure they came forward to the business meeting to get timely responses.

Thinking ahead to next steps, he asked whether there was a programme of activities up to completion of the procurement process that DSG could see to ensure they could ask for updates in line with the programme. He added that he was looking forward to ongoing dialogue on the social value elements and looked forward to having local involvement in the market engagement day.

Commodore Mark Prince responded that Wendy Newton would take the lead in continuing the engagement process and he would be delighted to come back to a public meeting to provide a further update as progress is made.

- Cllr Mackie thanked Commodore Prince for his presentation and looked forward to further dialogue over the coming weeks.

Commodore Mark Prince left the meeting.

6. HIGH LEVEL UPDATES

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that written papers had been provided at the July sub group meetings and invited those providing verbal updates to keep these to matters that had not been previously reported.

NDA Corporate: David Wallace reported the following:

- See DSG(2021)C044 for update presentation.

In addition, he noted:

- NDA has recently launched 'We are on a Mission' which was to share some of the work that was going on around all the NDA sites. Members of the NDA Corporate Team had received a virtual tour of the Sellafeld site and had also held one at Dounreay. There were around 130 people from the NDA on the tour.
- Andrew Van Der Lem, Director of Government Relations and Socio economics had recently left the NDA. A decision had been taken to split the two roles and currently Dr Sam Harris had been appointed as Head of Government Relations while the Head of Social Value was currently out for recruitment.

- Members of NDA had visited Caithness to engage with the local community on an NDA Scottish Strategy. Similar discussions had been held with Hunterston and Chapelcross. NDA has listened to stakeholder feedback and NDA had recognised that the information provided was not a strategy and should have not been called one. The reason for the engagement was to understand the synergies across the Scottish sites.
- David Peattie, NDA Chief Executive would be visiting Dounreay week beginning 27th September. While in the county, he would be meeting with various stakeholders alongside members of the DSRL Board and the workforce.

Cllr Struan Mackie invited DSG members to raise any questions. Of note:

- Tor Justad noted that a lot of what was reported was around the re-organisation of the NDA, with new roles and information on people. He asked what NDA was doing to support the decommissioning mission. He also noted comments on the Scottish approach and asked what the differences in this approach in comparison with England and Wales were.

David Wallace responded that the remit of the NDA would not change. Their remit was to continue to deliver the decommissioning mission and with the recent announcements, some of the AGR fleet would also come under NDA's remit. With DSRL being one of the last site licence companies to come back under NDA there was a lot of work ongoing to reflect these changes within the governance process and also provided more opportunity for sites to share experiences, learn lessons as well as potential staff opportunities.

In terms of the Scottish work, as the Stakeholder Lead for Scotland, he was conscious that this was about a narrative for Scottish Government in terms of things like how the Scottish sites can collaborate to benefit the devolved Government and local authorities. The mission would not change in terms of Scotland, England or Wales it was simply to provide one big picture of the Scottish nuclear decommissioning activities. The Scottish Strategy had been paused to allow the team to reflect on feedback and to agree what elements to take forward.

- Tor Justad noted he has provided the DSG secretary with information on how social value is measured and asked how NDA was measuring this through socio economic activities.

David Wallace responded that work on considering how to better measure social value was continuing. NDA were looking at this right now and looking to customising their approach. He added that social impact studies were being scoped out at present for all NDA sites to allow baseline information to be provided so that social value activities and measures can be developed more fully. In terms of timescales NDA did not want to hang around and there had been positive discussions with a team working on this across the NDA estate. There was still lots to do to ensure the right model was delivered.

NDA Operating Company – DSRL: Mark Rouse reported the following:

Safety, Environment and Security

- The safety statistics were in a good place at present with a low Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) of 0.03. The site, however, was not complacent and continues to track near misses to ensure it is undertaking appropriate trending so that any issues can be identified and addressed early.

- There had been no environmental non-conformances notified by SEPA in the last 12 months and substantial progress was being made on closing out follow up questions on the previous Regulatory Notices. Again, performance appears to be good but there have been a small number of low level events (very trivial spills, failures in sampling equipment) that remind us to be constantly vigilant.
- An emergency exercise was held on 15 September witnessed by ONR representatives. The exercise was a facility exercise so only part of site was involved. ONR witnessed the exercised and deemed it an adequate demonstration of our arrangements in support of an enhanced facility exercise. It was fair to say there were some learning points to be considered.

DSRL Transition to NDA

- The site had settled down since it became a subsidiary of the NDA on 1st April. The team involved ensured this was carried out smoothly and ensured thorough arrangements were put in place. The next stage was to further develop the life time plan and the site executive team were keen not to rush this as it would be an extensive piece of work to deliver a robust plan.
- As noted earlier, DSRL provided NDA with a virtual tour of the site and an invitation was extended to DSG members to take part in a virtual tour.
- The site would welcome David Peattie at the end of September. He would meet, among others, the DSRL Board who would be meeting while David Peattie visited.

Staffing

- Executive Team appointments were nearing completion. This month, the site welcomed William Lindsay (Programme Delivery Director) and Frederic Stalin (Strategic Programme Director). The positions of Commercial Director and the Major Project Commercial Manager were nearing completion with offers out to successful candidates.
- DSRL has recently recruited 25 young people - 8 Engineering apprentices, 2 Quantity Surveying, 3 Business apprentices and 12 Graduates. All started between 4 August and 13 September. In addition, 3-month summer placements for 18 university students were provided this year providing those students with some valuable experience to move on with their chosen careers once their studies are complete. And just last week, a further six decommissioning trainees started on site as part of a collaboration with Nuvia, Morson and GDES. The number of young people being recruited is even more poignant as this year marks 66 years since the first apprentice was employed at the site.

And in keeping with the theme of apprentices – the apprentice indentures would be held again this year in November and Mark was pleased to hear that Struan Mackie, DSG Chair had accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker at this event.

- Mark Rouse also noted he was delighted to have been appointed as the executive sponsor for Dounreay's Young Generation Network (YGN). The YGN, led by Nicole Tait, benefits individuals and the wider industry through promoting communication, collaboration and professional development in the UK and around the world. Members hosted a virtual lunch and learn session this afternoon which was open to everyone.

- In relation to skills, an event was being developed to support Dounreay's next generation to develop their innovative skills and mindset. In partnership with DSRL, NDA and North Highland College (UHI) two workshop sessions will take place this month which will provide some basic tools and techniques on innovative thinking. The first workshop (27 Sept) will focus on design led thinking practices and explore why innovation is important to business. This will be followed by a full day workshop (29th Sept) in North Highland College (ETEC) in which the next generation group will work in teams to find a solution to a specific site related problem. The aim of the workshops is to develop certain skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to creativity and innovation. The workshops will be followed by supporting the next generation group to lead on much longer term innovation based projects on site as part of business as usual. It is envisaged that the group will grow in confidence within the business, and through the development of enabling networks drive innovative solutions to the many future challenges at the site.
- Cultural engagement workshops are being rolled out across the workforce. With a lot of people coming back to site and the Re-imagine piece being considered this workshop is an opportunity for the workforce to raise any areas of concern they may have.
- A contract was awarded to Ekosgen to carry out a full skills audit of the DSRL workforce. The kick off meeting was held on 21 September and work will be getting underway shortly. This information provided by the audit will be useful for DSRL to allow it to plan its resourcing in terms of the skills required and will allow it to look at the workforce in terms of upskilling. Mark noted he is also aware that this information is equally important to CNSRP who are looking to bring new sectors into the area and a skilled workforce with demonstrable transferable skills is a good selling point for any area. The Executive team was currently working through getting the right balance of information for the company and the community.

Decommissioning activities

- Since the 9th August a Delivery Centre Model has been trialled, which is examining an alternative approach to co-ordinating and executing delivery activities. This is part of continuous improvement and DSRL is trialling this, initially for the Fuel Cycle Area, utilising virtual platforms. Basically it will bring together all those who have a decision or role to play so that a fully integrated approach can be taken ensuring all those with involvement are making real-time planning decisions and problem solving. During the trial weekly accountable reviews are being held, chaired by Mac MacGill, Security and Resilience Director.
- A 24m wide, 3m high steel door arrived at Dounreay on Friday 23 July from the T3UK facility where it had been constructed by contractors JGC Engineering & Technical Services Ltd and Grahams and was subsequently installed over the following weekend. The huge door is one of 3 that are an essential feature of the new radioactive waste store. It will span the width of the store and when closed will safely segregate the remotely operated overhead travelling crane within the crane maintenance bay. Once it is filled with concrete to provide shielding for the intermediate level waste, the door will weigh 180 tonnes.
- In August, our Interim End State Department and Nuvia conducted a trial of the FIDLER detector system for particle monitoring. Two of Sellafield's beach monitoring team visited Caithness to trial the equipment on Sandside beach and the Dounreay west

foreshore, alongside Dounreay's beach monitoring team and its usual detector system so we can compare systems.

- A contract was awarded, under the decommissioning framework, to the Dounreay Waste Alliance (DWA) as part of the decommissioning strategy for FCA North. The DWA consortium is led by Jacobs and includes Orano and EDF Cyclife. It will develop optioneering and decommissioning plans for the Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant, the Residue Recovery Plant and the Evaporator Facility.
- DSRL recently become a partner in the UK Alpha Resilience and Capability (ARC) programme, which identifies targeted projects and investments in specialist skills, expertise and facilities to sustain and enhance the UK's world-leading alpha capabilities. ARC is hosting a series of online sessions highlighting the work of the partners, and it is Dounreay's turn on 30 September to share information on the work being carried out on site.
- Noting that this had been reported previously, one of the most significant hazards at Dounreay had been removed, following 4 years of complex problem solving, in a 40 hour operation. Around 1,810 litres of radioactive sodium coolant (approximately 1.7 tonnes) remaining in a 'heel' pool at the base of the reactor vessel in the Prototype Fast Reactor (PFR) has been pumped out using specially designed equipment. This had been a significant project team achievement and Mark was extremely proud that it had been delivered successfully.

On a lighter note, Mark Rouse noted:

- In August, a BBC production crew had visited the site as part of filming scheduled for the next series of Scotland from the Sky. While at site they interviewed the Heritage Officer and the programme was planned for broadcast later this year.
- Around the same time last year DSG was updated on the plans to hold Dounreay's Decommissioning Excellence Awards on a virtual platform given Covid restrictions. The event has been shortlisted in the best event category of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Scotland Pride awards. The outcome will be announced on 6 October.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Mark Rouse for his update and invited questions from members. Of note:

- Cllr Mackie stated it was good to see a number of young people taking up employment on the site.
- Tor Justad noted he would be interested in taking up the invitation to take part in the site's virtual tour. June Love noted she would co-ordinate a date with interested DSG members.

Action: DSG(2021)M03/A027: June Love to co-ordinate a date for all interested DSG members to take part in the site's virtual tour.

- Tor Justad asked when the skills audit was likely to be complete. June Love responded that this was scheduled to be complete by 28 February 2022.

- Tor Justad asked whether there had been any further progress on identifying the unusual particle detected and whether it was known where the isotopes had come from.

Mark Rouse noted that the comparison between the two monitoring vehicle mounted systems was simply to assure that the existing Dounreay system continued to be best practical means.

- Tor Justad also noted that while he recognised that no foreign visits would have taken place during the covid restrictions he wondered whether the decommissioning activities of the site were of interest to other European countries.

Mark Rouse responded that there was a lot of interest from Japan in relation to the water vapour nitrogen activities and also links with Tepco and Fukushima. As the site would become the lead and learn site for activities across the NDA estate he expected that further interest from other countries would be forthcoming. In March, DSRL representatives would attend the Waste Management conference in Phoenix. The worldwide decommissioning market was very active at the moment with many countries, particular those with large long-term nuclear programmes such as Russia, France, South Korea and the USA, actively seeking to sell their knowledge. DSRL is very well connected in this respect in both a giving and receiving capacity.

ONR: Peter Dillon reported there was nothing to add to that set out in the April to June report submitted to the sub group in July.

- Tor Justad noted there had been a lot of changes to the ONR organisation structure and was aware that some people had been recently appointed. He asked if things had settled down and were there any differences in ONR's approach.

Peter Dillon acknowledged the organisational changes that had been made noting that Mark Foy was taking on a combined role of ONR Chief Executive and Chief Nuclear Inspector. Mark, in his single role of Chief Nuclear Inspector had worked closely with the past Chief Executive and it was not envisaged that there would be major changes in ONR's approach to regulation.

- Tor Justad noted he had attended forums with Mark Foy in attendance and felt he was particularly pro-active in engaging with NGOs.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported:

- Nothing to raise that had not been covered in the DSRL update.
- SEPA had undertaken a site visit and observed environmental & beach monitoring.
- Continued to monitor progress in closing out the regulatory notices.
- SEPA's local office staff continue to work from home and there will be a further update on this on 24th September and will be published on SEPA's website.

Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team: Diane Hamilton reported:

- A written update had been provided prior to the meeting.

- There has been a slight change to the minister's portfolio due to the Green party inclusion.
- The view of the higher activity waste policy continues. At present, the team was taking stock of the review and would look to move this forward in due course. Due to staffing changes and other priorities this had not moved forward as quickly as had been expected.
- ONR's 7th annual conference had been delayed until June 2022 and further updates will be provided once this takes place.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Diane for her update. He then invited questions. Of note:

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted the update from the Radioactive Waste team on the energy policy and queried whether the timescale for review and consultation would impact negatively on a policy decision for Fusion. He asked that this be fed back to the Energy policy team for consideration.

Diane Hamilton said she would speak to the policy team to see if she could get clarity on dates for this and how it was progressing so far.

Action: DSG(2021)M03/A028: Diane Hamilton to contact the Energy policy team to request clarity on dates for review and consultation.

- Cllr Matthew Reiss echoed Struan's comments on the urgency of getting clarity around the Fusion project. He added that it was not an exaggeration how devastating this could be to the county if they lost out because the policy was not clear. The timescale of providing clarity was very important and had the potential to put Caithness as a first rate location for Fusion. The importance of a mixed energy policy and the synergies with Caithness as an energy county could provide really positive impacts and noted the certainty would be really helpful.
- Tor Justad stated that members of DSG were already aware of his views on Fusion and the huge amount of funding that was being put into a programme that has never been successful. He was of the view that this money would be better spent in developing renewables that could provide as many if not a greater number of jobs for the future.
- Tor Justad asked if Scottish Government had considered the waste issues around the Fusion reactor stating that he understood while it may be less radioactive it would create larger quantities of radioactive waste. These are effects that Scottish Government would need to consider and weigh up while making a decision on whether Fusion would be included in the new policy. He added that given UK Government appeared to be imposing plans across the country he believed that ultimately it will go ahead regardless.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that there was differences in opinion on the Fusion project and stated that DSG was a forum where all views were, or should be, welcome.

MOD, Vulcan: Wendy Newton reported:

- In terms of health and safety, the site continued to monitor Covid-19 issues with lateral flow testing in place.

- In line with wider MOD, the Vulcan site was now a tobacco free site and vaping will also be banned on site from 1 August 2022. So far there has been excellent compliance which includes the car parks. While heading towards the winter months continued compliance would be highlighted.
- During June/July there had been a couple of minor injuries. A safety standdown took place re-enforcing the STOP principle.
- No environmental challenges were raised during this period. A SEPA inspection on environmental discharges took place on 8 September.
- The Shore Test Facility programme continues to progress with modifications and practical demonstrations towards defuelling activities.
- The removal of all fuel from the site not required for post operational checks was still on track to be complete by the end of 2022.
- The emergency Lonestar exercise was now scheduled for 25 November 2021.
- An annual review of safety with DNSR took place on 24 August.
- DNSR personnel had visited site this week to carry out inspections.
- MOD were currently recruiting in preparation for the decommissioning programme. So far engineering and graduate project controllers were being brought in. Among this was a local graduate taken on for the waste management team.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Wendy for her update and welcomed the strengthening of the MOD team. He then invited questions from members.

- Cllr Matthew Reiss noted in the absence of a CNC rep at the meeting, he would like to urge both Vulcan and Dounreay to re-enforce the dangers of speeding on the A836 road. He outlined the concerns of the local residents and while noting that this was not all down to Vulcan/Dounreay drivers he asked if anything could be done to re-enforce the dangers of speeding in that area.

Wendy Newton responded that she would raise this with safety team noting that Vulcan regularly run speed awareness and driving safety briefs for Vulcan staff. She would pass this on to ensure this was covered for the next briefing.

Gail Ross, Dounreay Head of Communications, stated that they were currently working up a safety briefing on winter driving. She would welcome input from Cllr Reiss and also from Vulcan to ensure that the relevant messages were included within this safety brief.

Action: DSG(2021)M03/A029: Gail Ross, Dounreay Head of Communications to contact Cllr Matthew Reiss re driving safety messages to be incorporated into site briefing.

DNSR: James Bryson reported:

- There was nothing to add from the sub-group report provided in July.

- The Vulcan Site Annual Review of Safety (ARoS) provides an opportunity to carry out a stand-back review of Vulcan site's performance during the previous year. They can include DNSR's view on successes and challenges, lessons learned, DNSR's inspection findings summary and an update to the Naval Superintendent Vulcan (NSV) Commander Mark Cleminson on how DNSR issues are being addressed. The ARoS review seeks to align the views of NSV with those of DNSR and note where there are differences. It is also an opportunity to look ahead to the next year's interactions between DNSR and NSV. Overall these meetings reflect DNSR's wider regulatory remit and regulator's requirements on efficient means of engagement. Consequently, where practical the ARoS is not limited to reviewing nuclear safety but is scoped to cover as broad a range of DNSR's regulatory purposes as appropriate, providing a "one stop shop" for NSV through a "One DNSR" approach.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported:

- A recent visit to the Dounreay site had taken place with the SEPA site inspector. The visit had not identified any compliance issues.
- A regulatory update meeting took place focusing on current activities as well as future decommissioning activities. A further visit was planned for the near future.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked everyone for their updates and to those raising questions.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before opening up to members, Cllr Struan Mackie invited Professor Ray Kemp to say a few words on the forthcoming DSG review.

- Professor Ray Kemp noted this was the first meeting he had observed and would take cognisance of this as part of his overall findings. He provided a brief background noting he was an advisor to Fukushima and also sat on COMARE and CoRWM and therefore was aware of some initiatives in relation to Fusion in terms of policy. He was also aware of the social equality element of the work of NDA/Dounreay and looked forward to discussing the views of DSG members and observers on how effective DSG was.

Cllr Struan Mackie encouraged DSG members to get involved with this review.

- Cllr Mackie placed on record congratulations to David Flear who had received his honour from Prince Charles last month. David's nomination was based on the work he had carried out within the community and DSG had played a major part in that role.

Cllr Struan Mackie also reported:

- The chair and vice-chair had much more interaction, via the Chair's forum, with the rest of the SSGs across the NDA. There was a small working group set up to discuss with NDA their continued support for the running of the SSGs and in particular funding and the site support provided. He added that DSRL had continued to be extremely good to DSG in that they had maintained the DSG budget and secretariat support. He was extremely thankful for this support.
- DSG members looked forward to hearing more detail around the new life-time plan at the beginning of the next financial year.
- Some members may have received an invitation from Rick Wylie, University of Lancaster who was visiting Caithness early in October to carry out interviews on the public value of the Dounreay site. He encouraged those who had been invited to speak with Rick to do

so if possible and asked that if members who had not been contacted but wished to take part to contact June Love who would co-ordinate a meeting with Rick.

- The DSG Chair and Vice-chair would, alongside CNSRP partners, be meeting with David Peattie, NDA Chief Executive when he visits site at the end of September. As part of this there will also be an opportunity to meet with the DSRL Board Chair and some of the Board members.

Cllr Mackie then invited others to raise any other business. Davie Alexander noted the following:

- The next socio economic sub-group was going to test out a blended meeting approach – numbers of people attending in person would be limited so there will still be a requirement for some members to attend via Teams. He added it would be interesting to see whether a blended approach provides the same meeting experience for everyone. Following this meeting, views would be sought from members to determine how future meetings go forward. For avoidance of doubt, the site restoration sub-group that will also be held in the evening would be a full Teams meeting.
- John West of High Life Highland had attended a recent business meeting to discuss the re-opening of North Coast Visitor Attraction (formerly Caithness Horizons). It had been good to hear that the maintenance of the building was now complete and the keys had been handed over by HLH. Recruitment for the facility had also taken place and during this month they would be undertaking a deep clean of the facility and collections with the intention of re-opening the doors in October sometime.
- The Caithness Transport Forum had met on 20 September. Of note it was reported that the NDA Chief Executive of the Nuclear Transport Division would visit Caithness on the 12th October.

8. **CLOSE**

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

Cllr Struan Mackie
DSG Chair
25 September 2021

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG(2021)M03/A001: Rebecca Marshall to provide slide presentation to June Love to cascade to DSG members.

DSG(2021)M03/A002: June Love to provide email introductions to the Chamber of Commerce and CNSRP for follow up discussions.

DSG(2021)M03/A003: June Love to circulate final scope for DSG review to all DSG members.

DSG(2021)M03/A004: DSG Socio economic sub-group members to provide any comment on DSRL's Social Impact Plan and programme.

DSG(2021)M03/A005: June Love to speak with Dave Wallace re an update of the NDA Scottish Strategy at the December public meeting.

DSG(2021)M03/A006: June Love to send Tor Justad the DSG status of actions to reflect the responses to actions raised in January 2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A007: Sam Usher to liaise with June Love re setting up meetings with Frederic Stalin to allow introductions to DSG and Buldoo residents.

DSG(2021)M03/A008: June Love to circulate final DSG review scope to all DSG members for information.

DSG(2021)M03/A009: June Love to invite John West, HLH to business meeting to discuss progress on the re-opening of the North Coast Visitor Attraction (former Caithness Horizons).

DSG(2021)M03/A010: June Love to commence the DSG review by inviting tender responses to the DSG review scope.

DSG(2021)M03/A011: June Love to ask SSG Chair of Chairs for an update on the NDA SSG guidance and prompt for copy of email relating to NDA topics for discussion.

DSG(2021)M03/A012: June Love to invite Jill Tilt to a meeting of the DSG business meeting.

DSG(2021)M03/A013: Davie Alexander to write to Maree Todd requesting support for the PSO for Wick/JOG airport.

DSG(2021)M03/A014: Davie Alexander to write to Highland Council expressing disappointment of delays to maintenance for North Coast Visitors Attraction (formerly Caithness Horizons).

DSG(2021)M03/A015: Dawn Clasper to circulate DSG review proposals to business meeting for discussion at the meeting to be held on 31 August 2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A016: June Love to check status of DSG representation at the Caithness Community Planning Partnership.

DSG(2021)M03/A017 Cllr Struan Mackie to write to NDA requesting update on NDA property regarding the SimBA charity.

DSG(2021)M03/A018: Dawn Clasper to circulate response from Maree Todd.

DSG(2021)M03/A019 Dawn Clasper to circulate the NCVC brief.

DSG(2021)M03/A020: DSG to arrange a meeting in the NCVC once back to normal meeting arrangements.

DSG(2021)M03/A021: Dawn Clasper to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposals.

DSG(2021)M03/A022: June Love to contact John West regarding the soft opening for the NCVC.

DSG(2021)M03/A023: June Love to draft response from DSG group re CNSRP Advisory Board.

DSG(2021)M03/A024: June Love to invite Gail Ross to a Business Meeting.

DSG(2021)M03/A025: June Love to put options for site end state on agenda for a public presentation at the appropriate time.

DSG(2021)M03/A026: June Love to invite David Broughton and Dave Craig to a business meeting to discuss way forward to closing out action on Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team.

DSG(2021)M03/A027: June Love to co-ordinate a date for all interested DSG members to take part in the site's virtual tour.

DSG(2021)M03/A028: Diane Hamilton to contact the Energy policy team to request clarity on dates for review and consultation.

DSG(2021)M03/A029: Gail Ross, Dounreay Head of Communications to contact Cllr Matthew Reiss re driving safety messages to be incorporated into site briefing.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

DSG(2021)M02/A002: Diane Hamilton, Scottish Government Radwaste Team, to provide a more detailed organisation chart to provide background of those involved. **Action ongoing**

DSG(2021)M02/A003: Diane Hamilton, Scottish Government Radwaste Team, to ensure Ministers were aware of urgency to reach a decision on whether Fusion was new nuclear and would be part of the Energy policy. **Action ongoing:** Scottish ministers confirmed their intention to update Scotland's energy strategy in 2021. SG have now started this work and these fusion issues are now being considered in more detail. A draft of the strategy for consultation is expected in 2022.

DSG(2021)M02/A007: Following on from the recent announcement on the NDA Review, can NDA/DSRL provide DSG with a one page diagram of what the current NDA plethora of Boards is to allow DSG to understand the oversight/sanctioning process.

Action ongoing: With the One NDA model, we have reduced the number of Boards, and the creation of a new Group Leadership Team (GLT), we now have all our Operating Companies represented on the GLT. This means much closer working and sharing of information at the highest levels of the organisation. Mark Rouse, MD of Dounreay, is a member of the GLT.

Recognising the important role the GLT has to play with the One NDA Group going forward, we are looking to 'fine tune' how it interacts with the rest of the organisation by developing a new Operating Framework. The OP will reflect how we are organised, our interfaces and our interactions across the Group.

Once this work is completed, expected to be within the next three months, we will share this information with DSG and talk through in more detail. **Final response not due until approx. end September/beg October 2021.**

DSG(2021)M02/A009: June Love to ask Dave Wallace to provide an update at the next Socio Economic sub-group meeting and have this as a standing agenda item. **Action ongoing:** Dave Wallace unavailable for sub-group on 21st October but this will be included as a standing agenda item from October onwards.

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

DSG(2021)M01/A003: June Love to explore with NDA the potential to arrange a workshop for all DSG members on social value. **Action complete:** The social value report by Hazel Blears will be submitted to

the NDA Group Leadership Team in the autumn. An update for DSG will be provided at the December public meeting.

DSG(2021)M01/A015: June Love to ask John McNamara whether he had a timeline for undertaking the review of the SSG guidance. **Action complete:** The NDA Guidelines for conduct of SSG meetings are periodically reviewed to ensure relevance, and to accommodate any contextual changes or take account of emergent issues. The guidelines, which the independent SSGs use to frame their own terms of reference, were last reviewed in 2018. A review is currently underway, and we anticipate only minor changes. One update to be added will be the guidance around holding meetings in periods of political sensitivity. The NDA received further clarity and guidance from its sponsoring department, BEIS, on this matter, and this updated protocol will be included in the new version of the guidelines. The NDA aims to circulate the updated guidelines to all SSGs during the summer months, for the SSGs themselves to review and comment. It is hoped the finalised updated version could be circulated by September.

DSG(2021)M01/A013: June Love to invite the wider DSG to the July Socio Economic sub-group for the Pentland Offshore Wind presentation. **Action complete;** presentation provided on 21 July 2021.

DSG(2021)M02/A001: Mark Rouse to provide information on the changes requested for the LLW facility EASR authorisation. **Action complete:** See DSG(2021)C033

DSG(2021)M02/A004: DSG Chair to write to MOD, copied to UK Government Minister for Defence setting out the proposal as agreed with regards MOD engagement with DSG. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)C032.

DSG(2021)M02/A005: DSG members to provide June Love with any questions from DNSR written update. **Action complete:** no questions were raised from DSG members.

DSG(2021)M02/A006: With regards the recent announcement of EDF Energy's seven Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors future decommissioning and appreciating it is early days and confirmation of where DSRL sits within the organisation structure is still to be announced can the NDA provide an explanation of how they envision the existing sites, such as Dounreay, will support this mission and whether these will be factored into the ongoing work on the site's Life Time Plan? **Action complete:** As part of the NDA Group, Dounreay remains a unique site within the NDA family – as one of only two Category 1 sites. Wherever it sits within the organisation it will be recognised as a key site for meeting the future challenges of decommissioning.

The first transfer of AGRs will most likely take place within the next 5 years, with the final transfer estimated around 10 years from now. Hunterston B will be the first AGR station to transfer for decommissioning, however, EDF will be responsible for defueling operations. At Hunterston B, this is estimated to be around 3 years – each station is different and these timescales may vary station to station. NDA, through its Magnox Ltd Operating Company, will work closely with EDF during the defueling process as we will have a key role in transporting fuel to Sellafield. During this period of defueling, NDA (Magnox) will take time to understand the decommissioning requirements of each AGR station and through this period will come to better understand how other sites, including Dounreay, might support the decommissioning of the AGR fleet.

DSG(2021)M02/A008: June Love to distribute the note for the record from the SSG Chair's forum working group. **Action complete:** Distributed to DSG BM on 30 June 2021.

DSG(2021)M02/A010: Dawn Clasper to book Ormlie hub for October sub-group meeting. **Action complete:** Ormlie hub booked for October Socio Economic sub-group.

DSG(2021)M02/A011: Cllr Struan Mackie to provide a copy of the letter sent to CNSRP. **Action complete:** This was a Highland Council letter not for distribution to other organisations.