

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**Minutes of the DSG public meeting held on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 1900 hrs in Pentland Hotel (Ballroom), Thurso and MS Teams.**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair (The Highland Council)
	David Alexander	DSG Vice-chair (Thurso and Wick Trade Union Council)
	Gillian Coghill	DSG Site Restoration SG chair (Buldoo Residents Group)
	Cllr Willie Mackay	The Highland Council
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	The Highland Council
	David Broughton	Co-opted member of the public
	Eann Sinclair	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Joanna Coghill	Association of Caithness Community Councils
	Fiona Bruce	Women in Nuclear
	Niall Watson	Dounreay Unions
	Sandy Mackie	Scrabster Harbour Trust
	Brian Mutch	SG Agriculture and Rural Economy
	Ron Gunn	CHAT
	Tor Justad	Co-opted member of the public
	David Craig	Caithness West Community Council
	Peter Faccenda	CNSRP
	Thelma Mackenzie	Thurso Community Council
	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL
<b>In addition:</b>	Mark Rouse	MD, Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd
	Iain Lyall	DSRL (Shaft and Silo Project Manager)
	Alan Mackay	NDA Site Facing Team Manager
	Cdr Ian Walker	MOD Vulcan
	Ian Rogers	ONR (for Dounreay)
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	Linda Buchan	SEPA
	Vik Winspear Roberts	ONR (for Vulcan)
	Diane Hamilton	Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team
	SI Ian Davies	CNC
	Prof Ray Kemp	Independent consultant, DSG review

## **MINUTES**

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting noting it was good to be able to meet in person again after nearly two years.

He welcomed Alan Mackay who was attending on behalf of NDA Corporate.

He also thanked Professor Ray Kemp for attending the meeting. Prof Kemp had carried out the DSG independent review and would be providing a short update at the meeting (see minute item 5).

Last, but not least, he also welcomed Iain Lyall, DSRL attending the meeting to provide a short update on the shaft and silo project.

Cllr Mackie also noted the resignation of past-chair, Bob Earnshaw who had decided to step down from DSG. Bob had intimated he had enjoyed his time with the group and hoped that he had made some positive contributions over the years. Cllr Mackie placed on record his thanks, on behalf of the members, to Bob wishing him well for the future.

Noting a full agenda, Cllr Mackie stated that the DSG Annual General Meeting had been held prior to this meeting. He thanked members for re-electing himself to chair, Davie Alexander as Vice-chair and Socio Economic sub group chair and Gillian Coghill as Site Restoration sub group chair. He thanked, on behalf of all the officials, members for their continued support.

Cllr Mackie concluded his opening remarks, noting that a different layout had been set up for the meeting. This was to accommodate the equipment required to hold a blended meeting but to also trial different seating arrangements to consider whether this would provide a positive change. He thanked Navertech for providing the means to host the meeting on a virtual platform. Since this was the first blended meeting to be held, Cllr Mackie encouraged members to feedback on their experience but also asked for patience to allow the logistics to be worked through to ensure this was a positive experience for everyone.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

- Roger Saxon, Honorary member
- Debbie Murray, North Highland College
- Cllr Stephen Clackson, Orkney Islands Council
- Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce
- Wendy Newton, MOD (Cdr Ian Walker deputised)
- James Bryson, DNSR

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Prior to moving to endorse the minutes, Cllr Mackie stated it was his intention not to ask for issues to be raised from the minutes this evening. Instead, he encouraged members to take questions back to the relevant sub groups. This would allow a focus on the presentations and there would also be an opportunity to ask questions following the high level updates from both Vulcan and Dounreay.

He noted that the minutes of the last public meeting held on 8 December – DSG(2021)M04 refers – had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. No changes were made to the minutes. These were proposed by Gillian Coghill and seconded by David Craig.

He then turned to the Socio economic sub group minutes held on 26 January – DSG/SESG(2021)M04 refers. No changes were made to the minutes. These were proposed by Peter Faccenda and seconded by Sandy Mackie.

Lastly, the Site Restoration sub group minutes held on 26 January – DSG/SRSG(2021)M04 refers. No changes were made to the minutes. These were proposed by Tor Justad and seconded by Thelma Mackenzie.

Cllr Mackie noted that the business meeting had continued to meet fortnightly and this had been useful to keep updated on a regular basis on a number of fronts and to allow activities to be progressed in a timely manner.

#### 4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

Cllr Mackie stated that the status of actions had been kept under review on a regular basis by the Business meeting. These had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

There were three outstanding actions:

- Action M4/A1: an update on the FIDLER (Particle monitoring) comparison. This would be closed out once an update at the site restoration sub group was provided.
- Action M4/A16: members to consider key principles that we would like to encourage when bidders tender for the Vulcan contract. He stated that a meeting would be held with all DSG members to discuss this and the DSG review sometime later this month.
- Action M2/A7: information of the governance arrangements of the NDA. He noted that while David Wallace had taken this away to progress it had been clarified that at present DSG were looking for the existing structure and that this should be easily obtained.

Cllr Mackie stated that actions raised at the sub groups and business meeting were also recorded and these continued to be progressed.

He invited members to raise any issues from the status of actions.

David Broughton noted that after the last meeting, David Wallace had provided the NDA's organisation charts. He stated he had been horrified at the number of people working within the NDA Corporate, He felt that the NDA's role was to be the link between UK Government and the competent organisations (the sites) and could not understand the need for the large number of people employed.

For completeness the actions from the sub groups are listed here:

**DSG(2022)M01/A001: June Love to a draft agenda for an ad hoc meeting in February to discuss the DSG review and Vulcan MOD principles.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A002: Dawn Clasper to email DSG member to find a suitable date in for February meeting.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A003: June Love to confirm that Debbie Murray is attending the Socio Economic sub group meeting on Janu 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the NHC merger.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A004: Business Meeting to provide comments (on NHC merger) to June Love to collate by Friday 18 February.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A005: Dawn Clasper to email DSG member to find a suitable date in for March /April meeting.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A006: June Love to liaise with Caithness Chamber of Commerce regarding company hosting there meet the executive event. .**

**DSG(2022)M01/A007: June Love to email DSG member to advise of hybrid AGM and public meeting and ask if anyone requires copies of the paperwork.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A008: June Love to arrange a meeting with Mark Rouse and to enquire about the direct employees.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A009: June Love to distribute the DSG Review Report to the wider DSG members.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A010: June Love to arrange a Teams meeting to discuss the Permit Variation for Dounreay Low Level Waste Facility once SEPA open up the consultation.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A011: Frederic Stalin to provide an update on the Breeder Fuel removal.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A012: June Love to include a list of glossary of the acronyms used in future reports.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A013: June Love to request questionnaire for North Highland College proposed merger to allow a combined DSG response to be submitted.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A014: Dawn Clasper to co-ordinate a date in February with all DSG members to discuss DSG review and key principles for engaging with contractors for Vulcan contract.**

**DSG(2022)M01/A015: June Love to distribute the draft response to SEPA consultation to DSG members.**

## **5. DSG REVIEW**

Cllr Mackie noted he had mentioned the DSG independent review in his opening remarks. The report had now been finalised and issued to members. He proposed not to go into a lot of detail at this meeting but asked that members consider the recommendations with a view to meeting outside of regular meeting dates to discuss the report, recommendations and how, as a group, the recommendations would be taken forward.

He then invited Professor Ray Kemp to provide a high level view of the final report. Professor Ray Kemp provided a short presentation (see DSG(2022)C011).

Cllr Mackie thanked Ray Kemp for his update. He added that the report allowed DSG to get a good understanding of strengths and weaknesses. He thanked Ray Kemp for his time and input into this valuable piece of work. Cllr Mackie then invited any immediate questions. Of note:

- David Wallace, NDA stated that it had been a really interesting presentation and asked for permission from DSG to share this with the NDA Group. Cllr Mackie responded that the logical next step would be for DSG members to discuss the recommendations and agree an action plan for the way forward and at that stage he would be happy for the report and findings to be shared. Professor Kemp responded that he would be happy to support the NDA to take this forward.
- Tor Justad noted that the presentation provided a high level update of the report and asked if Prof Kemp could provide more detail in relation to his comment regarding the need for nuclear expertise and why this could be a difficulty in the future. He asked for clarification. Professor Kemp responded that this related to the fact that a number of the members of DSG had a broad understanding of the complexities of the site but as these members left the group it may become more difficult to recruit new members who had the same breadth of knowledge. In addition, it was apparent that new challenges would be forthcoming on both the Dounreay and the Vulcan sites.
- Tor Justad noted the comments on social value and asked why this was recorded as being 'not so relevant to the community'. Professor Kemp responded that the definition of social value was

different to that of socio economics. In terms of MOD procuring a decommissioning contractor the weighting on the social value criteria would be determined by MOD and that benefits from social value may not necessarily mean a positive benefit to the local area.

- Tor Justad stated that when he had inputted his views he had raised the issue of expenses. He understood the reasoning behind the chair and vice-chair receiving a small remuneration but also felt that those who lived a distance from the area were entitled to expenses. He felt that this was not in keeping with other organisations where expenses were provided. Professor Kemp responded that it was not within his remit to comment on this and that this was something he would leave with the Chair. He did, however, note that the blended approach to the meeting and the likelihood of these continuing would be beneficial for those who might otherwise need to travel long distances.

There being no further questions, Cllr Mackie thanked Professor Kemp for his update.

## **6. DOUNREAY PRESENTATIONS**

Cllr Mackie noted that the site restoration sub group had requested a presentation from Mark Rouse on the Near Term Work Plan (NTWP) and this would be followed by an update on the shaft and silo project from Iain Lyall.

Mark Rouse and Iain Lyall provided their presentation – see DSG(2022)C010.

Following the presentation, Cllr Mackie invited members to raise any questions. Of note:

- David Broughton queried whether the waste would be compactable. It appeared to him that there was a multitude of heavy equipment and years ago there had been discussions around 3 cubic metre boxes but also some bulk waste. Iain Lyall responded that the assumptions recognise there will be bulk items. These would be size reduced and this would allow them to be compacted. He added that it might be that all waste was compacted but the shredding capability can deal with oversized waste also. There would be no difference in that approach. It may be that there are metals that will be shredded and separated and that could generate voidance and could be super compacted. The compaction capability would be very similar to what happens with low level waste in the WRACS facility. The contingency was to take large items and separate them out and take them down the appropriate waste route.
- David Broughton noted that this project had been talked about when the PBO (Parent Body Organisation) had managed the site and it appeared that they had not achieved very much in their time at the site. Mark Rouse reflected that when the PBO was contracted there was a change in strategy and the focus was on accelerating the Exotic fuels programme.
- Peter Faccenda noted that the NTWP was a 3 year look ahead at activities. He asked if the intention was to have the Life Time Plan on a rolling 3 year programme. Mark Rouse confirmed this was the case.
- Tor Justad asked whether the assumption was that all the waste in the shaft and silo was higher activity waste (ILW), given historical reports that there were uncertainties of the inventory of the shaft. Iain Lyall responded that all assumptions had been considered and this took into account historical reports and observations. The indications were that it would all be within the ILW category. He believed this was a credible assumption. Iain added that it was more likely that some of the waste would be within the LLW threshold. Therefore there were contingencies that if a large item was extracted and if deemed to be LLW it would be dealt with within the LLW

waste streams. Tor Justad responded that he could only take this response in good faith and felt this was something that the sub group should continue to keep an eye on as waste is retrieved.

- Tor Justad also noted that the diagram outlined in the presentation appeared to show that the retrieval building was being built very close to the sea and queried why it had not been sited to the south of the building where it would be further away from the coast. Iain Lyall responded that the shaft was on the north coast and had previously been isolated from the environment with a robust large concrete curtain. The shaft retrieval building would be situated on the top of the shaft and there was no intention to encroach on the coastline.
- David Craig asked what the timeline was for the project in terms of moving through the various stages of design, construction, commissioning, operations to completion. Mark Rouse responded that at this time the timeline was still going through the loop of the Life Time Plan and therefore permissions were not in place to allow a discussion on timelines. It was fair to say this project would take a number of years to complete. The advanced transition works would take approximately 2-3 years but at this time it was difficult to go into more detail on timelines.

Members of the public were invited to raise any questions. No issues were raised.

Cllr Mackie thanked both Mark Rouse and Iain Lyall for their input.

## **7. VULCAN UPDATE**

Before inviting updates from Vulcan, Cllr Mackie requested that those reporting should keep their updates at a high level and asked them not to repeat what had already been discussed at sub groups. He added that he would invite updates from all those identified on the agenda and then would open up for questions.

The following was reported:

**MOD. Vulcan:** Commander Ian Walker reported the following:

- He had recently taken over from Commander Mark Cleminson.
- Apologies had been tendered from Wendy Newton who could not attend the meeting. After six years supporting the Vulcan programme, Wendy Newton would be moving on to a new role within the SDA and hence this would have been her last DSG. He added that he was sure that everyone joined him in thanking Wendy for her efforts, including her input to the DSG, and wished her all the best in her new role.
- In terms of Covid, the Vulcan site continued to align with both UK and Scottish Government guidance. The site was in the process of determining what 'Living with Covid' means for Vulcan. Therefore, over the next few weeks, in-line with the legal requirements being removed, the off-site and on-site restrictions would be reviewed and removed where possible.

It would, however, be emphasised to all those working at Vulcan that if they display any symptoms of Covid – or indeed any other contagious illness – they should not come to site and self-isolate at home. If they are fit and able then it would be expected that they work from home, otherwise, as pre-Covid they would report as Sick. There had been a number of staff reporting Covid symptoms, however current trends would suggest this was mainly community transmission (schools etc) rather than from on-site contact. This had not impacted on the ability to maintain a safe and secure site or indeed deliver the programme. Most have continued to

work from home whilst isolating.

- With reference to health, safety and environment there had been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period. There had been one minor injury where an individual had cut their finger by trapping it in a door. This had occurred in January.
- DNSR were currently on site undertake a routine inspection.
- The programme remains on track.
- Finally, the ongoing preparatory work for the decommissioning of Vulcan NRTE has now identified that the transfer of responsibility for site decommissioning to the NDA is a credible option that requires further assessment. This had been agreed by both NDA and MOD and thus a joint team was being created to undertake this assessment.

It was stressed that no decision had been taken at this time, however the transfer of ownership of DSRL to the NDA now meant that this previously discounted option was worthy of reassessment. There was a significant amount of work to undertake to determine if this option is deliverable. Stakeholders would be kept updated on progress and this would include updates at the DSG meetings.

The transfer of liability for decommissioning, if agreed, would only occur once the current operational activities had been completed and all fuel removed from the Vulcan site. Completion of all operations and removal of all fuel from site by the end of 2025 remains on track, and thus the transfer was unlikely to occur before 2026.

Cllr Mackie noted the announcement of the new option for decommissioning the Vulcan site. He added that DSG had been outlining a degree of concern around the decommissioning procurement and had previously queried why this option had not been on the table. He recognised that with the contractual arrangements of the PBO this option had not been viable (for contractual reasons) and was pleased that this was now being reconsidered. However, he recognised at this time the option was being further developed and it would be for MOD to determine the preferred option going forward.

Cllr Mackie continued by welcoming the fact that DSG was now aware of this and the joint working between Vulcan and Dounreay. On that basis he stated that DSG would continue to actively monitor, scrutinise and support the option as this evolved.

Noting the update on Covid, Cllr Mackie welcomed the fact that there was a move towards a 'new normal' and that also meant that regulators were able to get back to sites to carry out physical inspections.

Before moving on, Cllr Mackie mentioned that while MOD police were not represented at this meeting he was aware that they had recently helped clear the Reay road of debris that appeared to have come from a good vehicle shedding some of its load. The MOD police had stopped and helped to clear the debris. This, he felt, was a good example of the type of support that was provided due to the presence of both sites. He asked that his thanks be passed to the MOD police. Commander Ian Walker said he would pass the message on.

**DNSR:** Vik Winspear Roberts noted that James Bryson, who had been at site that day, to carry out an inspection. He had taken poorly and had tendered his apologies for this evening.

**SEPA:** Stewart Ballantine reported that there was nothing to add from the update provided at the January sub group.

**ONR:** Vik Winspear Roberts noted that she had recently issued the half yearly ONR report for DSG. She noted the recent exercise that had taken place. There was nothing further to add to the information provided in the written report.

Cllr Mackie thanked everyone for their input and invited questions from members.

- David Broughton noted Wendy Newton's move to a new role and queried whether she was being replaced. Commander Ian Walker responded that Wendy's role as Head of Establish would revert to him as Naval Superintendent as well as continuing to head up the operational activities.
- Tor Justad asked whether the projections of the fuel movements were still on track. Commander Walker responded that nothing had change and this continued to be delivered to schedule.

There being no further questions from DSG members, members of the public were invited to raise questions. Of note:

- Simon Middlemas noted that if the NDA option for Vulcan was approved it would mean more than simply opening up the gate. At this point in time the sites had different authorisations, policing, workforces, and regulatory interfaces. He asked if there was a programme to take all these different elements to ensure these were amalgamated into one programme. Cllr Mackie responded that he believed everyone on the DSG understood the fundamental differences of the site and it would be appropriate once the preferred option was approved a timeline to get to the point of site handover would be requested to allow DSG to maintain an overview of progress being made.
- Cllr Mackie added that DSG had previously expressed their views on the market engagement when MOD were considering procuring a decommissioning contractor. This was something they would continue to monitor as the new option developed. Due to the number of changes made in recent years to the Dounreay site and this new evolving (potential) addition he felt it would be useful for the DSG to consider setting up an additional working group that would focus on the Options for Vulcan and the joining of Dounreay and Magnox. He felt this would allow the existing sub groups to focus on routine site activities and the additional working group could focus on these topics which would see a rapidly changing landscape.
- Tor Justad noted that ONR had recently changed its structure and asked whether the new appointments were settling in. Vik Winspear Roberts acknowledged there had been quite a few changes and everyone had now bedded in. Internally it was working well with the Senior Leadership teams.

Cllr Mackie thanked everyone for their input.

## 8. DOUNREAY UPDATES

As before, Cllr Mackie asked that updates be kept to a high level. He would take all the updates and then open up to members for questions. Of note:

**NDA:** Dave Wallace reported:

- Congratulated the DSG officials on their re-election.



- In terms of Covid, it was good to see some people starting to return to the workplace.
- The majority of SSGs were now conducting their business via hybrid meetings.
- NDA would be holding their supply chain event on 21 July 2022 and it was hoped that this would see a contingent of the Caithness and North Sutherland supply chain in attendance.
- The NDA business plan had been finalised and was now available on the internet. There was also an overview of the feedback received from the consultation.
- The NDA Stakeholder summit would take place in Edinburgh on 7/8<sup>th</sup> September (starting lunchtime on 7<sup>th</sup> and ending lunchtime on 8<sup>th</sup>). The agenda was currently being developed and it was hoped that this would include some stakeholder panels. More detail will follow.

**Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd:** Mark Rouse reported:

- **Covid:** Like the county, there had been a significant rise in Covid cases. It has been predicted that in the short term these numbers are likely to increase given most of the restrictions are being lifted. However, it was hoped that numbers would stabilise within the next 3 months but no-one could be sure. The site continues to keep measures in place and to continually review the evolving situation.
- At the end of February, the site said goodbye to Phil Cartwright (Head of Reactors). Phil had been on site for many years and had extensive knowledge of all areas of site. He would be missed but it was pleasing to see that Graeme Dunnett had been appointed to take over this role.
- The site has continued with its' apprentice/graduate recruitment for the coming year. Currently these were in various stages of the recruitment process and in total there would be 29 new recruits coming on board in various disciplines.
- The apprentice indentures would be held on 29 April. This was always a great event and it was pleasing to see young people come out their training with qualifications that would stand them in good stead for the Dounreay mission and beyond. Jamie Reed, NDA Director of Socio Economics would be the guest speaker at this event.
- The Chamber of Commerce had organised a Meet the Executive so that members of the local supply chain could meet in person with the Dounreay Executive Team. The event had been positive and it had been good to be back in a room networking.
- In terms of safety, environment and security:
  - the site remains secure while recognising the unfolding events in Ukraine. While there was always the potential for a cyber-attack the site remained prepared and protections were robust.
  - SEPA had requested the site review its environmental permit and a team was being set up to look at this.
  - ONR had a regular presence on site. Two near misses, reported at previous meetings, had resulted in two Enforcement Letters suggesting a number of improvements that could be

made.

- With regards to socio economic activity:
  - Support to CNSRP had been provided on a number of fronts with Mark Rouse and Jamie Reed (NDA) now sitting on the CNSRP Executive Board.
  - DSRL working with NDA, had recently approved funding for the continued CNSRP resource to provide additional bandwidth to identify opportunities and progress these at pace with focussed resource.
  - A funding application to support the part funding of a PSO (Wick/JOG airport) contract manager had also been approved. The postholder would be tasked with ensuring that by working with the airline, the airport, passengers and a number of other stakeholders there was continued development at the airport.

Mark Rouse then congratulated CNSRP for securing the PSO for the airport. He believed that this had demonstrated a good example of partnership working where all the organisations and agencies had pulled together to ensure that this had resulted in flights beginning to take off again from Wick. He congratulated the Chamber of Commerce who had been instrumental in developing a robust business case.

Cllr Struan Mackie stated it was good to hear there was yet another cohort of young people getting the opportunity to undertake apprenticeships at the site. On the PSO for the airport, he stated that he too wished to add his congratulations to all those involved noting that DSRL had funded the initial piece of work to develop the business case that the Chamber of Commerce had taken forward. It was good to note further support to recruit an individual who would be tasked to ensure the sustainability of the airport.

**Scottish Government:** Diane Hamilton reported:

- A written update had been provided for the meeting – DSG(2022)C007refers.
- The next Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting would be held around the end of August. A date would be identified soon and it was hoped that the Environment Minister may be available to attend that meeting.

**SEPA:** Stewart Ballantine noted

- In February SEPA issued DSRL with an Information Notice requiring a report detailing the options assessment undertaken for the non-active drainage system by the end of May 2022.

**ONR:** Ian Rogers reported:

- Two enforcement letters had been issued. One letter was directed at DSRL concerning issues around contractor management and organisational learning. The other letter had been issued to Graham Construction Ltd concerning their management of construction on site and conduct of lifting operations. There had already been positive engagement with both duty holders and on the proposed improvement activities that were currently being undertaken. More detail would be provided in the next written update to the sub group.

**CNC:** SI Ian Davies reported:

- There had been a lot of changes within the leadership of the site's CNC. He had been pleased to have been appointed to take over the role.
- There had been some recruitment and retention issues and a plan was now in place looking to undertake some local recruitment.
- New armoured vehicles would be arriving on site in around 6 months' time.
- CNC continued to work with Police Scotland. This was in relation to Project Servator which was based around a relationship with the community.
- CNC continued to meet its objectives in terms of the protection of the site.

Cllr Mackie noted that the opportunity for continuity was always welcome and voiced his support for Project Servator. He then invited questions from members. Of note:

- Gillian Coghill echoed the comment on continuity which she felt was extremely important. She felt that Project Servator was a good initiative and while she was not asserting any references to Caithness people being 'nosey' the project could not succeed without the intelligence of the local community. The presence of both CNC and MOD police has seen the safety of fuel around the Buldoo area where other areas (that did not have such a police presence) were experiencing fuel thefts on the increase. SI Walker responded that while their core mission was the protection of the site having a presence in the wider area did provide a degree of safety.
- Fiona Bruce noted the ongoing recruitment of both DSRL and CNC and asked what both were doing in terms of diversity. Mark Rouse responded that the site had some targets and had recently celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women in Nuclear (WiN) group. He did note that the site was not where it wanted to be but was looking hard at our criteria for recruitment in terms of fairness across the board. SI Walker also stated that CNC was proactive in this area. At the moment representation of women, as a police officer was low, however it was higher for armed officers. The local recruitment campaign would target all groups and it was hoped that there would be interest from local people as well as being gender fair.

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed the local recruitment and that gender balance was something that was only right and fair. The WiN Highland had been fantastic and was one of the most active and high profile groups.

- Cllr Matthew Reiss also commented that he was pleased to hear about local recruitment and was also very supportive of Project Servator adding that Caithness was one large community area and do look out for each other. He also welcomed the support provided by CNC to Police Scotland noting that CNC officers, along with police dogs, can be mobilised very quickly if required.
- Cllr Matthew Reiss drew attention to the road safety campaigns on the Forss straight in terms of speeding drivers. He stated it was a matter of public concern and CNC had supported in the past. At times just having a presence of police cars close to the area can be a good deterrent. SI Davies responded that they had supported this in the past and that they were recently discussing with Police Scotland to ensure support would continue.

- Tor Justad noted the tragic situation in Ukraine. He had been at a ONR stakeholder meeting recently where Mark Foye CEO was in attendance. Part of the discussions was around Ukraine and the concerns around Chernobyl with further concerns voiced over nuclear plants in Europe. He asked if there was additional precautions being taken around the site as it would appear that nuclear sites are not prepared for instances like this to happen. Mark Rouse responded that any such incidents would be in defence of the Realm and that was a responsibility of the armed forces. As a site, there was continued reviews to ensure the security of the site.

There being no further questions from DSG members, members of the public were invited to raise any questions. Of note:

- Simon Middlemas noted the presentation by Professor Ray Kemp, saying it was an excellent report. He stated that if you look at the two sites and think about how others look at the site. A Just Transition committee was established around 3 years ago and this group had produced a report. The report covers environment, economics and social (sustainability) and he commended the report to DSG members for consideration. Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Simon Middlemas adding it was food for thought. He had read the report and one element that was required was to ensure that all departments of Governments were collectively responsible. The community was quick to go to NDA/DSRL for funding but this was part of the wider mix and it was important that CNSRP actively considered its approach to ensure that as many of the boxes were ticked to various potential funders. It was agreed that the Just Transition report would be circulated to members.

**Action: DSG(2022)M01/A016: June Love to circulate Just Transition report to DSG members**

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before handing over to members, Cllr Mackie noted the following:

- A draft response to the SEPA consultation had now been finalised and this had been circulated to members for final comments prior to finalising and submitting to SEPA before the closing date of 25 March.
- Cllr Mackie and Davie Alexander had met with Lawrie Haynes (DSRL Board Chair) and Paul Vallance (DSRL Board Non-Executive Director). There had been a number of discussions primarily on the potential option for Vulcan. From a community perspective DSG should ensure they have as much engagement as they can to influence some of these decisions. Skills and graduate recruitment was also discussed and it was agreed that there would be regular dialogue going forward. This was important to ensure that DSG kept abreast as the Vulcan option and the joining of Dounreay/Magnox move through the transitioning period.
- Cllr Mackie noted he had mentioned the potential need to set up a new DSG working group to look at the developing issues. He proposed that a working group be set up to focus on these subjects. Davie Alexander seconded the proposal stating this was important topics and it was the responsibility of everyone to ensure the right decisions are made.

**Action: DSG(2022)M01/A017: DSG business group to consider membership of a new working group to focus on Vulcan decommissioning options and the joining of Dounreay/Magnox.**

Cllr Mackie invited members to raise any other business. Of note:

- Davie Alexander stated that members were aware that a letter had been written to Maree Todd, MSP voicing disappointment that no effort appeared to have been taken to reach out to the

community before making comments in the local press regarding nuclear. The letter had emphasised that disappointment suggesting that there could have been some recognition that nuclear services could still be provided from here alongside renewable jobs. While it was understood that one member had fundamentally disagreed with the letter the overwhelming response received from members was one of support. The letter had invited Maree Todd to attend a future DSG public meeting. A response had just been received and it would be considered shortly.

- Davie Alexander also noted that the post for CNSRP Independent Chair had been advertised following the decision of Ian Ross to stand down later this year. He stressed that this was a very important role for the area to ensure that the CNSRP – through its partners – were working together collaboratively to ensure the opportunities for the area were being pursued at pace. Cllr Mackie agreed with the importance of this role noting that an independent chair should have the ability to wield some influence to open doors to ensure all partners were working in collaboration. This had worked well with Ian Ross in post. Cllr Matthew Reiss also concurred with the comments made noting that it was important that this role continued to be independent. As everyone looks to the future with continuing issues of rising energy bills a large part of the community was just about coping with the darker clouds looming.
- Thelma MacKenzie noted the road safety initiatives for the Forss straight and thanked Cllr Matthew Reiss for supporting this. She asked if any progress had been made via Highland Council who were going to look into some measures. Cllr Matthew Reiss responded that he had just received some information. There had been a meeting with the Highland Council road safety officer and plans were being drawn up. These plans were currently awaited and at this time the timeline for concluding this piece of work was unknown. Cllr Mackie added that it was hoped for swift resolution of this. The topic had also been raised at the most recent Caithness West Community Council meeting. Cllr Reiss added that he had been informed that there was progress in getting the speed camera vans deployed in the area and there had been a cast iron agreement that these vehicles would be deployed around the whole county.
- Gillian Coghill stated that she wanted to put on record her thanks to DSRL for helping the site restoration sub group with explanations on the somewhat technical detail of the New LLW Facility permit variation. An ad hoc meeting had been held and it had been helpful to have DSRL in the room to help explain certain aspects of the variation to allow DSG to respond. She made special mention of Graeme Morgan who had taken a lot of time and trouble to patiently respond to questions from the DSG and had provided a brief presentation that had simplified the information required to allow DSG to make an informed submission. She was aware that some members had more technical input to the SEPA consultation and they had been encouraged to submit their own submission. Cllr Mackie agreed and asked that DSG's thanks be passed to Graeme Morgan for his support on this subject.
- Member of the public, Iain Gregory wished to re-enforce the comments made regarding the issues that the community were facing in terms of rising bills. He had recently attended a meeting of the Caithness Poverty Action Group and there was acknowledgement that this could become a major problem throughout the county. He wanted to stress that action was being taken by local groups and he would welcome any input from DSG and other organisations where appropriate. With DSG's remit to be the interface between sites and community he also recognised the problems community-wide in relation to rising prices. People were just about managing and it was evidence that more and more people were beginning to struggle and he

urged everyone to look out for their neighbours.

**9. CLOSE**

In summing up, Cllr Mackie noted that it looked like it would be another busy year but was quite excited about the group getting their teeth into some of these topics.

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

**Cllr Struan Mackie**

**DSG Chair**

26 March 2022

**ACTIONS ARISING (CURRENT)**

DSG(2022)M01/A001: June Love to a draft agenda for an ad hoc meeting in February to discuss the DSG review and Vulcan MOD principles.

DSG(2022)M01/A002: Dawn Clasper to email DSG member to find a suitable date in for February meeting.

DSG(2022)M01/A003: June Love to confirm that Debbie Murray is attending the Socio Economic sub group meeting on Janu 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the NHC merger.

DSG(2022)M01/A004: Business Meeting to provide comments (on NHC merger) to June Love to collate by Friday 18 February.

DSG(2022)M01/A005: Dawn Clasper to email DSG member to find a suitable date in for March /April meeting.

DSG(2022)M01/A006: June Love to liaise with Caithness Chamber of Commerce regarding company hosting there meet the executive event. .

DSG(2022)M01/A007: June Love to email DSG member to advise of hybrid AGM and public meeting and ask if anyone requires copies of the paperwork.

DSG(2022)M01/A008: June Love to arrange a meeting with Mark Rouse and to enquire about the direct employees.

DSG(2022)M01/A009: June Love to distribute the DSG Review Report to the wider DSG members.

DSG(2022)M01/A010: June Love to arrange a Teams meeting to discuss the Permit Variation for Dounreay Low Level Waste Facility once SEPA open up the consultation.

DSG(2022)M01/A011: Frederic Stalin to provide an update on the Breeder Fuel removal.

DSG(2022)M01/A012: June Love to include a list of glossary of the acronyms used in future reports.

DSG(2022)M01/A013: June Love to request questionnaire for North Highland College proposed merger to allow a combined DSG response to be submitted.

DSG(2022)M01/A014: Dawn Clasper to co-ordinate a date in February with all DSG members to discuss DSG review and key principles for engaging with contractors for Vulcan contract.

DSG(2022)M01/A015: June Love to circulate Just Transition report to DSG members for information.

DSG(2022)M01/A016: DSG business group to consider membership of a new working group to focus on Vulcan decommissioning options and the joining of Dounreay/Magnox.

**ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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. **Further update at DSG meeting held on 8 December:** See discussion within DSG(2021)M03 for update. **Expected to be available in March/April 2022.**

DSG(2021)M04/A001: DSRL to provide an update on the FIDLER (related to particle monitoring) at the next site restoration sub group. **Action ongoing:** Information provided as part of DSG site restoration paper update (DSG(2021)P003). Will continue to be updated via site restoration sub group.

DSG(2021)M04/A016: : Business Meeting member to write down key principles that we would like to see any bidders meet for MOD contract. **Action ongoing:** will be subject to meeting once organised outside regular DSG meetings.

### **ACTIONS COMPLETED**

DSG(2021)M04/A002: Dave Wallace, NDA to identify a date for Jamie Reed, NDA Director of Socio Economics to provide a presentation to DSG on NDA's social impact policy. **Action complete:** scheduled for June public meeting.

DSG(2021)M04/A003: DSRL to provide a project update on the shaft and silo at next Site Restoration sub group meeting. **Action complete:** Presentation to be held at public meeting on 23 March 2022.

DSG(2021)M04/A004: Diane Hamilton to clarify why Northern Ireland was part of the 4 nations to take part in National Framework. **Action complete:** Common framework paper: [Radioactive Substances: Provisional Common Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

DSG(2021)M04/A005: June Love to provide an update on the PhD particles study and circulate to members. **Action complete:** Circulated on 16 November 2021.

DSG(2021)M04/A006: June Love to seek comments and collate the information DSG members would like to see from the DSRL report. **Action complete:** DSG paper distributed to members on 16<sup>th</sup> November for feedback as to format of paper. Feedback requested by 13 December.

DSG(2021)M04/A007: Davie Alexander to write to Dave Wallace to progress action (M02/A007) re diagram of NDA Boards. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)C048

DSG(2021)M04/A008: June Love to send a prompt to Maree Todd re response to DSG letter on PSO for Wick/JOG Airport. **Action complete:** response received – see DSG(2021)C054

DSG(2021)M04/A009: Davie Alexander to write to Dave Wallace requesting that written updates be provided to the socio economic sub group for each meeting. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)C048

DSG(2021)M04/A010: June Love to speak to Eann Sinclair regarding DSG involvement in Caithness Planning Partnership. **Action complete:** DSG representative is no longer required at this meeting. Agreement that paperwork will be sent to secretariat and HIE Area Manager can table anything that may be of interest to DSG members at DSG Socio economic sub group that come out of Caithness Community Planning Partnership.



DSG(2021)M04/A011: June Love to circulate the response from M Todd re PSO for airport to the wider distribution list. **Action complete:** Circulated to copy correspondents of DSG letter on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

DSG(2021)M04/A012: June Love to email members advising the December public meeting will be on Teams. **Action complete:** Email out on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

DSG(2021)M04/A013: June Love to look reschedule the Business Meeting currently in the diary for 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. **Action complete:** Meeting rescheduled from 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov to 30<sup>th</sup> November.

DSG(2021)M04/A014: June Love to provide Marie Mackay with the Note for the Record to circulate to Buldoo residents. **Action complete:** Send on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

DSG(2021)M04/A015: June Love to invite David Broughton and David Craig to DSG Business meeting. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)M03/A026.

DSG(2021)M04/A017: June Love to write to DSG members requesting any additional questions of the Dounreay transition into Magnox. **Action complete:** All questions collated were discussed at DSG public meeting held on 8 December (DSG(2021)M003 refer).

DSG(2021)M04/A018: June Love to speak with DSRL Board Company Secretary to organise a discussion with DSRL Board Chair and DSG Chair and Vice-chair..

**Action complete:** Meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

DSG(2021)M04/A019: Dave Wallace to make contact with Cllr Stephen Clackson on NDA engagement. **Action complete.**

DSG(2021)M04/A020: DSRL to take forward discussions on the information in terms of project progress, against schedule and cost at the next site restoration sub group meeting. **Action complete:** paper reformatted taking on board comments received – see DSG(2021)P003.

DSG(2021)M04/A021: June Love to circulate DSG review survey to all members of DSG and members of the public in attendance. **Action complete:** survey circulated on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and also published on website.