

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic Sub Group held on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 1330 hrs In the Pentland Hotel, Thurso / via Teams.

Present:

Peter Faccenda	CNSRP Programme Manager (Deputy Chair)
Roger Saxon	DSG Honorary member
David Swanson	Caithness Chamber of Commerce (Virtual)
Sandy Mackie	Scrabster Harbour Trust
Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair (Virtual)
Ron Gunn	CHAT
Eann Sinclair	HIE Area Manager, C&S

In addition:

June Love	Dounreay Socio Economic Manager
Jamie Reed	NDA Director of Socio Economics
Neil Smith	NDA Business Development
Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary, Dounreay

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Peter Faccenda welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that David Alexander, DSG Socio Economic sub group chair had tendered his apologies and therefore he would be chairing the meeting. He welcomed Jamie Reed and Neil Smith, NDA to the meeting.

Before moving on, June Love noted that the DSG officials had been re-elected at the March AGM. As was the norm, the deputy sub group chairs were then nominated and agreed at this sub group. She asked whether anyone wished to be nominated for the role of deputy chair, noting that Peter Faccenda had indicated a willingness to continue in the role unless anyone else wished to be considered. It was agreed that Peter Faccenda would continue as deputy chair.

2. APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies had been received from the following:

- Davie Alexander Chair (Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council)
- Trudy Morris Chamber of Commerce (David Swanson deputy)
- Murray Lamont North Highland Tourism
- Gillian Coghill Buldoo Residents Group
- Cllr Willie Mackay The Highland Council

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Peter Faccenda noted that the minutes of the previous meeting – DSG/SESG(2021)M04 – had been endorsed at the public meeting held in March 2022. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. No issues were raised.

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Peter Faccenda noted that the majority of actions had been completed and there was no current outstanding

actions from the socio economic sub group. He invited members to raise any questions or clarifications on the status of actions. No issues were raised.

5. COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

Peter Faccenda noted that the Community Fund report had been circulated in advance. He reminded members to declare any conflicts prior to discussion on any of the applications. No conflicts were raised.

Funding applications were reviewed and following discussions decisions were made on each funding application.

6. DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

June Love noted she had provided a final draft of the NDA/DSRL Socio Economic Review for 2021/22. She noted there was some minor edits to be done prior to this document being finalised. She added that she would not go through the document in detail but invited comments.

- Sandy Mackie noted the benefits identified from the Decommissioning Services Framework contracts noting that the comparison between contracts awards and the benefits that were flowing to the local area were relatively small. June Love responded that Covid had resulted in a number of activities being postponed and in addition she was also aware of other activities that some of the consortiums were involved in but were not at a stage to be published. Peter Faccenda noted he sat on the DFS socio economic sub group alongside Trudy Morris and June Love and the companies involved had been holding discussions with CNSRP to identify areas where they could support. As an example, Jacobs had been involved in supporting the development of the Space Cluster strategy and also some work that was being undertaken for the hydrogen project.

June Love also noted that this years' socio economic plan was under development but would be delayed due to the ongoing recruitment of a new Head of Sustainability and Socio Economics as well as waiting for details of the Life Time Plan so that site activities could be mapped out that could have a potential benefit outside of Dounreay. While, the drafting of the plan was underway, she asked members to consider what key principles they would like to see explored within the plan. She added that the funding process was a given but she was keen to understand what would be key in relation to site activities.

June Love also noted that CNSRP would be undertaking a review shortly and the plan would also align to the vision identified once the review was complete.

Of note, the following was identified as activities that site could consider:

- Skills
 - Any Dounreay jobs created should ensure their skills are transferable.
 - Identification of the workforce transition plan – medium to long term
 - Talent attraction
 - Pipeline of young talent
 - How to support North Highland College
- Sustainability
 - Demonstrate that sustainability fits into all site activities
- Community group capacity

- Building capacity for groups and charities
- Supply chain
 - What can site do to support and strengthen supply chain?

There was also a brief discussion around sustainability, social value and socio economics and it was recognised that a short explanation of how these all worked together would be forthcoming.

7. UPDATES ON SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Moving on to the CNSRP update, Peter Faccenda noted that he had provided a written update prior to the meeting – DSG(2022)P008 refers.

Peter Faccenda picked up key highlights from the paper and invited questions. Of note:

- Space Hub Sutherland continued to progress. HIE had signed off the final business case and this was now with Scottish Government to consider. Work continued to discharge a number of planning conditions required to be closed out prior to any construction commencing.
- Scotwind announcement on 13 April re leasing for offshore wind. All 17 leases were now signed up to. North Highland College were working on training courses that would be available from 2022. A C&NS offshore wind cluster was being progressed to develop a regional collaboration to maximised positive local impacts.
- Hydrogen economy: A consultation event was attended for a hydrogen production facility at Gordonbush (Brora). Discussions with SSE had also been taking place for over a year.

There was an ongoing discussion on the opportunities around these projects and the timeline required to ensure the area was well positioned to capture some of these benefits.

8. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

Peter Faccenda noted that Maree Todd, MSP had now responded to DSG's letter concerning her comments on nuclear in the local press (DSG(2022)C009 refers). The business meeting had discussed the response and agreed to go back and request dates that Maree Todd would be available to have a discussion. He noted it had been agreed this would not be a public meeting but would be a meeting with all available DSG members in attendance.

David Swanson noted that the Chamber had written in similar vein and had also received a response offering to meet. It had been agreed that Trudy Morris would represent the Chamber at the DSG meeting.

Peter Faccenda also noted that in the response Maree Todd had offered to involve other Ministerial colleagues to attend. The business meeting had decided it would be helpful to have an initial discussion with Maree Todd initially and then identify ongoing dialogue which would include other Scottish Government ministers as appropriate.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Prior to opening up to members, Peter Faccenda noted the following:

- **DSG Review:** The final report had been received and this had been circulated to all members for information and comment. A meeting was scheduled for 28th April but a significant numbers of members had not been available and therefore it had been agreed to relook at dates where the

maximum attendance could be identified. A number of dates would be circulated to all members for their availability in ensure a good turn out to discuss and agree how to take forward the recommendations.

- The business meeting has agreed the membership and a draft remit for the working group to look at the joining of Dounreay/Magnox and the way forward for Vulcan decommissioning. For now, the membership of this group would be kept small with the chair, vice-chair, sub group chair along with the CNSRP, Chamber and Dounreay unions. Jamie Stone, MP had also been invited to participate and he had responded positively and would attend meetings as and when available. Further DSG representation may be identified as this working group progressed. The first meeting was due to be held on 13 April and the remit would be agreed. All DSG members would receive updates at the appropriate time.
- The next public meeting was due to be held in June and this would be in a similar format as the March meeting to allow a flexibility of attendance. He added it would be useful if all members could provide a response, when issued, to indicate whether attendance would be in person or virtual. This would allow flexibility of layout if numbers of those attending in person were identified. Peter Faccenda noted that Jamie Reed would be providing a presentation on the sustainability and how social value and economics fit into the overall sustainability agenda.

Peter Faccenda invited members to raise any further topics. Of note:

- June Love noted she had seen a recent HIE video showcasing one of the HIE areas and thought it had been a very good video. She asked if there were plans to do this for Caithness & Sutherland. Eann Sinclair responded that this was in progress.
- Neil Smith noted that the social impact reports for the sites across the NDA estate was nearing completion. These would be published shortly.
- David Swanson noted that the uptake for air flights had been positive since the start of the PSO route to Aberdeen. There had been some teething issues with a couple of the flights but it was noted that recruitment was underway for the PSO contract manager to work with airport and airline to ensure a robust service.

There being no further business, Peter Faccenda thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

Peter Faccenda
DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Deputy Chair
30 April 2022