

## **DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE**

*current as of 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2023*

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### **Introduction**

DSRL and Magnox Ltd will merge on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023. There are no changes envisaged for Dounreay socio economic activity due to the merger in 2023/24.

### **Socio Economics Manager**

Magnus Davidson is now in post as the Dounreay Socio Economics Manager as of 25 November 2022.

### **Dounreay Socio Economic Plan**

An updated Dounreay Socio Economic Plan was planned for year 2022/23, however due to structural and staffing changes, the new plan was postponed to 2023/24.

The NDA will be developing a new socioeconomic strategy in 2023 and early in the year there will be discussion on the alignment of the new Dounreay Socio Economic Plan with the NDA Socio Economic Plan.

### **Focus North**

Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP) have now rebranded as Focus North with a relaunch event scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> of February at the Weigh Inn Thurso. Two representatives of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group have been invited.

### **Grant funding**

The continued governance of socio economic grant funding activities is recorded below. The decision making process and governance arrangements is the responsibility of the DSRL Socio Economic Funding Group. The information below has been updated to reflect the commitments for grant funding for 2022/23. Further updates will reflect progress on the impacts of these projects.

| <b>CNSRP funded activities</b>    | <b>Completion date</b> | <b>Progress</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| FR-000001122<br>CNSRP support hub | 30 March<br>2025       |                 | <p>Funding commitment: 3 years<br/>Total cost: £487,000<br/>Yr 1: £179K   Yr 2: £154K   Yr 3: £154K</p> <p>Following the successful pilot project funding to support two new recruits to CNSRP to programme manage and accelerate development of further opportunities agreement was reached to continue to fund this activity for the next 3 years.</p> <p>The rationale for providing additional support resources to CNSRP was to develop additional capacity in light of the impacts of BREXIT and COVID-19 to: -</p> |

| CNSRP funded activities  | Completion date | Progress | Comments  |
|--|-----------------|----------|---|
|  |                 |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase project development and implementation</li> <li>• Intensify the attraction of inward investment</li> <li>• Seek alternative sources of funding</li> <li>• Develop sustainable business practices and revised business models</li> <li>• Reporting on progress is provided via CNSRP Programme Manager update reports.</li> </ul> <p>These two posts are vacant at present. The Business Development post is currently being progressed and will be advertised in the following weeks. The CNSRP revisioning exercise has supported the identification of the type of resource required for 2<sup>nd</sup> post.</p> <p>Some of the funding has gone to support the CNSRP revisioning workshops held with a facilitator and will support the CNSRP/Focus North relaunch conference on 8 February 2023</p> <p>Discussion has been had with Focus North to discuss underspend due to vacant posts.</p> |
| FR-000000133:<br>Strathnaver museum development                              | 30-Mar-2022     |          | <p>£80K one off payment made in 2020/21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final report is expected shortly.</li> </ul>  |
| FR-000000224:<br>Caithness Transport Forum                                   | 31-Mar-2024     |          | <p>Funding commitment: 3 years<br/>Total costs: £30K<br/>Yr 2: £10K   Yr 3: £10K</p> <p>Supported by DSRL and The Highland Council the Caithness Transport Forum continues to progress connectivity in all transport routes.</p>  |
| FR-000000225:<br>Chamber of Commerce business mentoring                      | 31-Mar-2024     |          | <p>Funding commitment: 3 years<br/>Total costs: £100,000<br/>Yr 2: £25K   Yr 3: £35K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly reporting of activities</li> <li>• Q3 reporting is being organised from CCoC</li> </ul>   |
| FR-000000272:<br>North Coast Visitors Attraction (former Caithness Horizons) | 31-Mar-2024     |          | <p>Funding commitment: 3 years<br/>Total costs: £225K<br/>Yr 2: £75K   Yr 3: £75K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding commitments for 2021/22 are still outstanding but this is due to the late opening due to Covid.</li> <li>• Second tranche of funding released in October</li> </ul>  |
| FR-000000279<br>CNSRP Programme Manager                                      | 31-Mar-2024     |          | <p>Funding commitment: 3 years<br/>Total costs: £120K<br/>Yr 2: £40K   Yr 3: £40K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNSRP Programme Manager has been focussed on event relaunch and rebranding.</li> </ul>   |

| CNSRP funded activities  | Completion date | Progress | Comments   |
|--|-----------------|----------|--|
| FR-000000280:<br>CNSRP Independent chair                                 | 31-Mar-2024     |          | Funding commitment: 3 years<br>Total costs: £21.3K<br>Yr 2: £6K   Yr 3: £6K<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simon Middlemas, chair of Focus North, has been involved in revisioning and relaunch event.</li> </ul>                         |
| FR-000000327:<br>Venture North<br>Destination Management<br>Organisation | 31-Mar-2024     |          | Funding commitment: 3 years<br>Total costs: £97,040<br>Yr 2: £72,921   Yr 3: £16,4061<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting received</li> </ul>  |
| FR-000001071:<br>Transport for Tongue                                    | 31-Mar-2024     |          | Funding commitment: 3 years<br>Total costs: £30K<br>Yr 2: £10K   Yr 3: £10K<br><br>To support students with connectivity for further education at North Highland College, UHI.   |
| FR-000000159:<br>NHI Covid recovery<br>funding                           | 31-Mar-2024     |          | Funding commitment: 3 years<br>Total costs: £30K<br>Yr 2: £10K   Yr 3: £10K<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting received.</li> </ul>   |
| FR-0000001170:<br>PSO Contract Manager                                   | 31-Mar-2025     |          | Funding commitment: 3 years<br>Total costs: £90K<br>Yr 1: £30K   Yr 2: £30K   Yr 3: £30K<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting received on target</li> <li>Three Qs (£22,500) of funding paid to HC in December</li> </ul>             |
| Space Hub Sutherland<br>Secondment via CNSRP                             | 23-Oct-2022     |          | Commitment: 0.5% FTE secondment<br><br>Secondment to support SHS stakeholder engagement ended in October 2022 with HIE local office taking over this role.   |
| STEM activities  | 31-Mar-2024     |          | Funding commitment: 3 years<br>Total costs: £75K<br>Yr 2: £25K   Yr 3: £25K<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STEM activity continues with local stakeholders including UHINH and schools although underspend expected this year.</li> </ul> |
| Dounreay Community<br>Fund   | 31-Mar-2024     |          | Funding commitment: 3 years<br>Total costs: £75K<br>Yr 2: £25K   Yr 3: £25K<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSRL provide admin support</li> <li>DSG socio economic subgroup consider and approve applications.</li> </ul>                  |
| North Highlands Women's<br>Wellness Hub                                  | July 2022       |          | Funding commitment: 1 year<br>Total cost: £6.8K  |

| CNSRP funded activities | Completion date | Progress | Comments   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|--|
|                         |                 |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity based on funding application has now commenced with funds paid.</li> </ul> |

**Other socio economic activities**

- NDA has now received the final application for potential support for Space Hub Sutherland. This application is now going through internal NDA due process. The One NDA Socio Economic Panel endorsed the application in early January 2023 with the application going to the NDA executive later in the month.
- NDA, along with HIE, continue discussions with Wick Harbour Authority in relation to funding to support harbour developments and business growth.

**Procurement**

- A contract for 40 solid waste drums is currently being awarded to a Caithness company, this is as a result of a Reserved for Caithness procurement.
- Over the past quarter, 16 contracts were awarded to 8 Caithness suppliers value £1.045M.

**STEM**

- Dounreay’s apprentices supported the Hydrogen Challenge workshops and Highland Final in Inverness. Pupils from Thurso, Wick and Farr High Schools participated in the challenge with Farr High School taking one of the winning places and will now participate in the Grand Final.
- Dounreay hosted the annual Engineering Industry Day on 6 December for students from UHI North Highland and senior phase pupils from Thurso, Wick and Farr High Schools. Representatives from Dounreay, Rolls Royce, JGC Engineering, Nuvia and UHI North Highland provided advice to 51 students/pupils in preparation for engineering apprenticeship recruitment. Advice was provided on application forms/CVs, interview technique, current apprentices from Dounreay and Rolls Royce spoke about their experiences during the recruitment phase and what they do as part of their apprenticeship and UHI North Highland provided advice on other routes into engineering.



- Six Dounreay STEM Ambassadors supported mock interviews at Thurso, Wick and Farr High Schools during November and December.
- Representatives from Dounreay have attended senior phase parent evenings during November and December to promote the early career opportunities available at Dounreay. This has been well received and will continue through to March.
- STAR Crest Award is being delivered by a Dounreay STEM Ambassador to P1-P4 at Thrumster Primary School. The pupils complete 8 different activities to complete their award.
- Apprentices are supporting Lybster/Dunbeath Primary with their Goblin Car. It is proposed the team will attend the final in Alford in June.
- Support to the 12 primary and secondary schools participating in the First Lego League Challenge has been provided on a weekly basis; each team has a STEM Ambassador or two apprentices supporting them. The weekly support will continue until the end of January and then reducing to monthly until the North Highland Tournament on 3 May.

## Staffing

- Applications for the Dounreay 2-year graduate development programme closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. The 2-year structured programme helps ten graduates to take their first step towards a challenging and rewarding career in the nuclear decommissioning industry. Graduates work alongside experienced professionals in a range of disciplines and are given the opportunity to develop a breadth of practical skills and experience.
- Liam Gordon has been shortlisted for the Graduate of the Year Award by the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN). Liam is currently working with the Fuels team. Liam will be interviewed by the judging panel in early January with the winner announced at the UK Nuclear Skills Awards Ceremony and Dinner in March.
- Vacation Student placements are currently being advertised for the Summer of 2023. Placements are designed to offer candidates the opportunity to gain frontline practical experience and develop the skills necessary for careers in engineering, science, and business.
- Dounreay apprenticeship advertisement continues with an annual intake of 11 apprentices across engineering, business and administration, built environment, and carpentry and joinery.
- The latest group of project control trainees' has passed their Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) Level 3 qualification in Project Controls. The training was delivered over 9 months by 20/20 Project Management and was aimed at giving a practical introduction into project controls. The delegates gave their final presentations last month and received excellent feedback.



## **Dounreay Heritage**

### **Collection of objects**

Six objects were collected:

1. Dounreay telephone directory from early 1990s
2. Sheet of blank UKAEA asset number stickers for maintenance items
3. Metal disc ID tag for D1201 change room locker
4. Snow globe with photo of the sphere. For sale in the Dounreay information office in Thurso.
5. Rubik's cube puzzle featuring images of Dounreay and logo. For sale in the Thurso information office
6. Pair of Dounreay cuff links showing modern logo of sphere

### **Recording of memories**

- A process to capture the memories of those leaving the site is in place. A form with 5 questions is sent to leavers, but not everyone completes it. Four forms were returned in the quarter.

### **Community engagement**

- The Dounreay heritage community project continued with two more gatherings of former employees and some spouses. They were held in the North Coast Visitor Centre and covered chats about old times and a review of photos. The topics were recreation and VIP visits. It is a joint initiative between DSRL, Highlife Highland, NDA, and Nucleus.
- The BBC picked up the story about the project and posted an article about atomic housing on their website. This resulted in James Gunn and former employee David Lord being interviewed on the BBC's Good Morning Scotland radio programme.
- The next gathering is due on 20 January 2023 and the topic is donations and help to the local community.

### **NDA heritage**

- James Gunn has been acting as the NDA's Heritage Officer since 2020. This part-time role has progressed into a full-time one and a new NDA Heritage Officer was appointed in November 2022. The person does not work for the NDA directly, but is an employee of Restore Digital, who manage the Nucleus Archives.

### **Dounreay history**

- James Gunn gave a talk on Dounreay's history to the Thurso branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A). He also acted as a tour guide for a site visit of Japanese university students and their tutors.
- Dounreay's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary is due in 2025 and James Gunn has been given the Director's approval to write and publish a book to celebrate this milestone.

## Visits

- A group of Japanese students and lecturers, led by Professor Okamoto, and Dr Tanaka, visited for a tour of PFR and a series of meetings with our teams and stakeholders.



## Other Site Activities

- Dounreay staff donated £4,527 during December for the benefit of three local charities at Christmas:
  - Caithness FM Children's Toy Appeal
  - Caithness foodbanks
  - Listening Ear Thanks

DSRL provided £3,000 match funding, resulting in each charity receiving approximately £2,500 (subject to JustGiving admin costs).

Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd  
*16 January 2023*