

DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE*current as of 19 April 2023*

Introduction

DSRL joined Magnox Ltd on 1 April 2023. There are no changes envisaged for Dounreay socio economic activity in 2023/24 due to joining. A consultancy and Magnox communications colleagues visited site as part of a Magnox and Dounreay rebranding discussion and session on 2 of March with work ongoing on the branding development.

Dounreay Socio Economic Strategy

The NDA are currently developing a new socio economic strategy. Dounreay and other operating companies' socio socioeconomic teams are involved in the process. A new Dounreay Socio Economic Strategy will be developed in parallel, with both expected early in 2024. The Dounreay Stakeholder Group will be consulted throughout the process for both strategies.

Focus North

Magnus Davidson, Socio Economics Manager, presented an overview of Dounreay socio economic activity in the context of sustainability at the Focus North relaunch event in February. Wider Focus North activity is captured in separate update from the Programme Manager.

Grant funding

At the end of the financial year 2022/2023 Dounreay had utilised 98% of the annual socio economic budget in grant funding and support. An annual review will be published in the following months.

Dounreay continues to provide pre-application support for socio economic funding with several groups and organisations are in active discussion on potential funding for 2023/2024.

The continued governance of socio economic grant funding activities is recorded in Appendix 1, with new projects funded in the previous quarter found below:

- RBLs Thurso Club Refurbishment - £27,000. Part-funding for refurbishment of the main hall.
- Home-Start Caithness - £58,000. Part-funding for supporting volunteer recruitment and development of space for Home-Start Caithness activity 2023/2024.

- Forss Straight Gateway Signs and Study - £18,655. Funding for gateway signs and associated study in speed reduction on the Forss straight. [Publicity](#).
- Friends of the Far North Baths - £4,650. Funding for repair of the walkway to allow access, repairs, and maintenance.
- Thurso High School STEM Kits - £4,739. Funding for purchase of 15 Lego Spike Prime kits for S2 pupils to develop modelling and programming skills.

Other socio economic activities

- Magnus Davidson and Iain Darby represented Dounreay at a workshop in February on a prospective UKRI funded Nuclear Decommissioning Research Centre. A part focus of the workshop was on prospective socio economic impact.
- The Dounreay Sustainability and Socio Economics Team and representatives from Dounreay Commercial Team have been working with counterparts from Magnox on developing a toolkit from Public Procurement Note 06/20 (Social Value). This aims to deliver better socio economic benefit from public procurement at Dounreay.

Procurement

- In Quarter 4 (Jan – Mar 2023), contracts were awarded to 6 Caithness suppliers with a value of £1.33M.
- Three of the contracts placed in Quarter 4 are as a result of the using the Reserved Procurement for Caithness route to market.

STEM

- Representatives from Dounreay have continued to attend senior phase parent evenings during January and February to promote the early career opportunities available at Dounreay.
- STAR Crest Award is being delivered by Dounreay STEM Ambassadors at Noss Primary School and 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.
- Planning continues for the First Lego League Challenge – North Highland Tournament on 3 May 2023. First Lego League is a global competition hosted by The Institute of Engineering and Technology. Circa 70 pupils from Caithness will compete during the tournament. Support from Dounreay's STEM Ambassadors has been provided to the teams since late October.

Staffing

Recruitment continues to be carefully managed, with all vacancies going through a rigorous internal process to ensure that the position must be filled.

The business is tasked with finding the applicant internally, only where the role cannot be filled internally and is also essential for Dounreay, would posts be advertised externally.

Use of short term contract workers are also used to defer any longer term recruitment whilst the Lifetime Plan is being developed. A meeting was held with DSG members, Josh George, Operational Excellence Directorate Director and Heather Hannam, Head of People in March to discuss the situation in more detail.

Dounreay now shares full details of all internal and external recruitment with the DSG business group to ensure transparency.

An update on recruitment of early careers can be found below:

- **Graduates:**
The assessment centre took place on 22 and 23 of February where 22 applicants were interviewed. In total, 12 positions were offered and 11 have accepted to date.
- **Engineering Apprentices:**
Interviews took place during 20 to 25 of March, with 28 interviewed. In total 11 positions were offered (3 Mechanical, 4 Electrical, 3 Instrument, 1 Design) and all have accepted.
- **Business Apprentices:**
Interviews took place on 18 and 19 of April, with 12 applicants being interviewed.
- **Construction Apprentices (joiner/scaffolder):**
Interviews will be taking place on 26 and 27 April, with 12 applicants being interviewed.
- **Summer Students:**
In total, 15 students have been selected and offered positions.
- **Quantity Surveying Apprentices:**
One applicant met testing requirements but did not complete within given timeframe, the role is therefore unfilled.

Dounreay Heritage

Four objects related to Dounreay heritage were collected the memories of six people were captured and recorded during research for the forthcoming book to celebrate Dounreay's 70th anniversary.

Community engagement

- The Dounreay heritage community initiative continued with two more gatherings of former employees (6 attended). They were held in the North Coast Visitor Centre and covered chats about old times and a review of photos to improve the information held about them. The topics were, donations and help to the community and the Dounreay airfield. It is a joint initiative between Dounreay, High Life Highland, NDA, and Nucleus.

Dounreay history

- Dounreay's 70th anniversary is due in 2025 and James Gunn has been undertaking research for a book to celebrate this milestone.
- The training lounge at Dounreay now has an expanded heritage display. It consists of 6 large canvas prints, a glass display case of small objects and a montage of photos of the former Dounreay Directors.
- James Gunn gave a talk to the pupils and teachers at Tongue Primary School. It was arranged through the STEM Ambassador programme and was for the school's project about energy.

Heritage panel

- Dounreay's Heritage Advisory Panel met for the 11th time in late March 2023. It was held on-line, and the attendees were representatives from Historic Environment Scotland, National Museums Scotland, High Life Highland and the NuSPACES international nuclear heritage research project. The main outcome was an action to review the heritage strategy, which was published in 2010.

Visits to Dounreay

- The DSG visited site on 19 of January for a face to face business meeting with Exco.
- The DSG and supply chain representatives (organised by Caithness Chamber of Commerce) met and presented to Exco on site on 22 of February.

- Jonathan Ford and Michael Collins visited site on 6 and 7 of March as part of an NDA sponsored visit to capture photographs and recording staff for the publication of a book.
- Roz Foyer, Scottish Trades Unions Congress General Secretary, visited site to meet with senior trade union reps, and Exco and the Sustainability and Socio Economics Team on 16 of March.

Magnus Davidson,
Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd
19 April 2023

Appendix 1

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
FR-000001122 CNSRP (Focus North) support hub	30 March 2025		<p>Funding commitment: 3 years Total cost: £487,000 Yr 2(23/24): £154K Yr 3 (25/26): £154K</p> <p>£73,545 spent in Yr 1 with a balance of £105,455 carried over.</p> <p>Underspend due to not having staff in place which has now been rectified by the appointment of a business manager. Spend going forward is in the process of being reprofiled by programme manager for approval from NDA.</p>
FR-000000224: Caithness Transport Forum	31-Mar-2024		<p>Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 3 (23/24): £10K</p> <p>£20K paid to date.</p>
FR-000000225: Chamber of Commerce business mentoring	31-Mar-2024		<p>Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £100,000 Yr 3 (23/24): £35K</p> <p>£65k paid to date.</p>
FR-000000272: North Coast Visitors Attraction (former Caithness Horizons)	31-Mar-2024		<p>Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £225K Yr 3(23/24):: £75K</p> <p>£150k paid to date.</p> <p>Funding commitments for 2021/22 are still outstanding but this is due to the late opening due to Covid.</p>

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
FR-00000279 CNSRP (Focus North) Programme Manager	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: Up to £120K Yr 3 (23/24): Up to £40K £62,660 paid to date.
FR-00000280: CNSRP (Focus North) Independent chair	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £27,900 Yr 3 (23/24): £9,300 £18,300 paid to date.
FR-00000327: Venture North Destination Management Organisation	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £97,040 Yr 3 (23/24): £34,595 £62,445 paid to date. Early discussions have taken place around the funding profile of the year 3 payment to enhance the sustainability of project outcomes.
FR-000001071: Transport for Tongue	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 3 (23/24): £10K £20K paid to date.
FR-000001170: PSO Contract Manager	31-Mar-2025		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £90K Yr 2 (23/24): £30K Yr 3 (24/25): £30K £30K paid to date.
STEM activities	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £75K Yr 3 (23/24): £25K £11,684 paid to date. STEM spend has historically been under budget year on year and school activity has not yet returned to pre-covid levels.
Dounreay Community Fund	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £75K Yr 3: £25K £50K paid to date.
North Highlands Women's Wellness Hub	July 2022		Funding commitment: 1 year Total cost: £6.8K £6.8K paid to date.