

**DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE***current as of 11 October 2023*

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**NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy**

A draft of the new NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy is nearing completion and will be shared with Dounreay in mid-October. The Dounreay Stakeholder Group will have the opportunity to review the draft before it is published at the end of the calendar year.

**Dounreay Socio Economic Strategy**

Dounreay has now completed the first draft of a new Socio Economic Strategic Plan. The plan is currently being reviewed internally before consultation with the Dounreay Stakeholder Group.

**Grant funding**

An annual socio economic review for FY 2022/23 is nearing completion and will be out this coming quarter. There has been a delay in the process due to new formatting and information being used.

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, and increasingly 2024/2025.

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

- Wick Development Trust – £80,000 for development of a new toilet and facilities block at Wick Campsite.
- John O’Groats Mill – £100,000 for the restoration of the mill and development of the heritage attraction.
- Ormlie Community Association – £60,000 total over three years for core funding.
- Farr North Development Trust – £10,000 to undertake due diligence needed for potential community purchase of Bettyhill Shop

**Other socio economic activities**

- Dounreay Socio Economics team have been advising on the project - More than a Half-Life: Communities, Heritage and Decommissioning which is funded through the NDA Bursary scheme.
- As part of the NDA Sustainability Week, Dounreay undertook guided walks for the workforce exploring Dounreay’s role in development of Thurso through socio economics, social value, and public value.

## **Procurement**

- Contracts were awarded to 11 Caithness registered suppliers in Q2 23/24
- There were 48 respective contracts to a value of £5.57M
- One of these was a reserved procurement.

In addition:

- Contracts were awarded to 4 National companies, with bases in Caithness, performing work from Caithness in Q2 23/24
- There were 5 respective contracts to a value of £3.67M
- One of these was a reserved procurement.

There has been significant work this quarter by the socio economics and commercial team at implementation of Public Procurement Note 06/20 on Social Value. This has largely centred on working across a number of frameworks with framework partners to target social value commitments to local needs and requirements.

## **Staffing**

Recruitment continues to be carefully managed. Dounreay shares full details of all internal and external recruitment with the DSG business group to ensure transparency. In the last quarter there has been little recruitment activity, with only a small number of agency posts advertised.

Recruitment of the 2024 annual intake of Health Physics Surveyor Trainees is currently ongoing.

## **STEM**

As highlighted previously, there will be increasing elements of social value delivered through Dounreay contracts. A programme is currently being developed with secondary schools to roll out PA Consulting's Speaker for School's programme during term 2 as part of a social value commitment. The programme will be aimed at S2 or S3 pupils with the first sessions being an interactive strength based workshop.

As part of Dounreay related work, SPOT the dog robot is visiting primary schools in Caithness and North Sutherland during week beginning 6 November. A weeklong programme has been arranged for P1 to P7 pupils.

Key STEM Ambassador's are now also in place for academic year 2023/24.

In addition, the following activity has been supported or is planned by Dounreay STEM:

- Dounreay’s STEM Ambassadors are supporting S4 mock interviews at Thurso and Wick High Schools in late November
- Eight teams have registered for the First Lego League MASTERPIECE Challenge 2023/34. Lego kits have been delivered to the teams who will work on the challenge until they compete in the North Highland Tournament in early March 2024
- Planning has commenced for the 2023 Engineering Industry Day. This event, being held in early December is aimed at senior phase pupils to prepare them for engineering apprenticeship applications and interviews
- A North Highland STEM Network/Partnership meeting is being held on 18 October. The meeting organised by UHI’s Head of STEM Development will bring together key partners who are engaged in the delivery of STEM in the North Highland area to discuss how they can collaborate and align more in activities and how best to add value to the whole STEM agenda. Representatives from UHI, Highland Council, DYW North Highland, Skills Development Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, ESP Scotland and Dounreay will be attending
- Crest Awards are being delivered to Noss Primary School’s P2/3 commencing in term 2
- Energy activities and sessions on electronic circuits are being delivered to Noss Primary School’s P4 pupils during term 2
- Miller Academy and Dunbeath/Lybster Primary School’s P7 pupils are participating in the Goblin Car Challenge. The pupils will commence in late October to build a car from the kit provided and then race their car at Alford in June 2024. The pupils will be supported by STEM Ambassadors.

**Visits to Dounreay**

- Tokyo Electric Power Company (**Tepco**) representatives visited Dounreay on 28 September 2023. The visit was for Tepco to learn from Dounreay’s Decommissioning processes.

**Magnus Davidson,**  
**Dounreay, a division of Magnox Ltd**  
**11 October 2023**

**Appendix 1**

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
FR-000001122 CNSRP (Focus North) support hub	30 March 2025		Funding commitment: 3 years Total cost: £487,000 Yr 2(23/24): £154K  Underspend due to not having staff in place which has now been rectified by the appointment

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
			of a business manager. Spend going forward has been reprofiled with on target plan to utilise underspend on new projects which are actively being undertaken or scoped out.
FR-00000224: Caithness Transport Forum	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 3 (23/24): £10K  £30K paid to date.
FR-00000225: Chamber of Commerce business mentoring	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £100,000 Yr 3 (23/24): £35K  £100k paid to date.
FR-00000272: North Coast Visitors Attraction (former Caithness Horizons)	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £225K Yr 3(23/24):: £75K  £150k paid to date.
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  £78,919 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  £97,040 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-00001071: Transport for Tongue	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 3 (23/24): £10K  £30K 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  £45,000 paid to date.

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
STEM activities	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £75K Yr 3 (23/24): £25K  £20,507 paid to date. STEM spend has historically been under budget year on year and school activity has not yet returned to pre-covid levels. Greater utilisation of the STEM budget will be included in new strategy.
Dounreay Community Fund	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £75K Yr 3: £25K  £75K paid to date.
FR-000001413: Royal British Legion Hall	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total costs: £27k Yr 1: £27k  £27k paid to date.
FR-00000161: Home Start Caithness	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total costs: £58k Yr 1: £58k  £58k paid to date.
FR-000001619: Friends of North Baths	31-Jul-2023		Funding commitment: 1 year Total costs: £4,760 Yr 1: £4,760  £4,760 paid to date. Works completed awaiting final report.
FR-000001642: Forss Road Signs	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total costs: £18,655 Yr 1: £18,655  £18,655 paid to date. Delay in works completion. Wider study deadline on target.
FR-000001595: STEM Lego Kits – Thurso High School	29-May-2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total costs: £4,739 Yr 1: £4,739  £4,739 paid to date.  Kits bought read for new term. Report on activity due next year after full year's use.