

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic sub group meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 1330 hours in the Pentland Hotel and Microsoft Teams.

Present:	Davie Alexander	Thurso and Wick Trades Council (chair)
	Roger Saxon	DSG Site Restoration sub group deputy chair
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Cllr Struan Mackie	Highland Council (DSG Chair)
	Nicola Sinclair	Focus North Business Development Manager
	Gillian Coghill	Buldoo Residents Group
	Ron Gunn	CHAT
	Allan Farquhar	Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council
In addition:	Magnus Davidson	Socio Economics Manager, Dounreay
	Jeremy Gilmour	Head of Community & Economic Development, NDA
	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary, Dounreay
	Donna Stewart	Commercial Manager, Dounreay
	Jay Adams	Graduate, Dounreay
	Linda Ross	University of Keel

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

David Alexander welcomed Donna Stewart, Commercial Manager at Dounreay, invited to help give a presentation on social value, and Jay Adams, a graduate at Dounreay who has been seconded to the Socio Economic and Sustainability team. In addition, Nicola Sinclair, Business Development Manager at Focus North, and Allan Farquhar, Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council. Also welcomed was Linda Ross, from the University of Keel who is undertaking a project - More than a Half-Life: Communities, Heritage and decommissioning which is funded through the NDA bursary scheme.

Introductions were made round the table and MS Teams.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Peter Faccenda, Focus North – Nicola Sinclair acting as deputy
- Eann Sinclair, HIE
- Sandy Mackie, Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Tina Wrighton, Stakeholder & External Relations Manager
- Michael Baird, Highland Council

3. PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL VALUE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Donna Stewart Commercial Manager and Magnus Davidson Socio Economic Manager, Dounreay presented on social value at Dounreay. See Correspondence DSG(2023)C035.

The presenters were thanked by the chair and then the floor was opened up to questions. Davie Alexander asked Nicola Sinclair if Focus North had seen any positive impacts from social value.

Nicola Sinclair noted the presentation highlighted the signposting of potential suppliers to Focus North, although there wasn't a great deal of evidence as of yet of outputs, suggesting a dedicated social value landing page on the website.

Magnus Davidson noted that Dounreay are at the end of the second quarter of signposting to Focus North and due to the length of the procurement process it would not be expected for impacts to be seen to date. He suggested it could be end of the financial year before Focus North see the first signs of social value commitments flowing through.

Trudy Morris raised a question on how social value is managed at Dounreay, and if penalties could be levied for non-compliance with the commitments, with Roger Saxon calling attention to KPIs.

Donna Stewart responded with an overview of the process, discussion on KPIs, and reputation risk for companies. Magnus Davidson noted that social value will be reported back through Dounreay socio economic annual reviews going forward.

Gillian Coghill noted that social value commitments were derived out of the purchase of goods and services from the supply chain, highlighting previous discussions from the subgroup on the volume of work going to the supply chain, and asked for assurances that the supply chain would be receiving work, otherwise there is a risk that the impact of the work by the team on social value would be minimal.

Magnus Davidson responded that Dounreay recognise that social value pipeline and impact is connected to the volume of work with the supply chain. He highlighted that there is a greater risk to the community if Dounreay does not undertake work to innovate in social value as it offers a large lever for positive impact, when work flows through the supply chain.

Trudy Morris noted that social value hadn't been as forthcoming with the lack of work coming through the Decommissioning Services Framework, asking if the framework extension is resulting in the provision of new social value plans with plans now being a number of years old.

Magnus Davidson responded that framework partners have not submitted new plans however KPIs have been updated to become more efficient, with suppliers agreeing the new KPI's and recommitting to collaboration with the community and stakeholders.

David Alexander thanked Donna Stewart and Magnus Davidson for their presentation.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

David Alexander noted that the minutes of the last meeting - DSG/SESG(2020)M002, July 2023 – had been endorsed at the public meeting held in September 2023. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. No issues were raised.

5. STATUS OF ACTIONS

David Alexander noted that the status of actions had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Of note and relating to the socio economic sub group the following actions were discussed.

- DSG/BM(2023)M016/A001: Business Meeting to review the subgroup membership.
Ongoing.

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Endorsed on 6 December 2023

- DSG/BM(2023)M016/A002: Cllr Struan Mackie to write to Andrew Bowie MP to invite him to the area. **Ongoing**
- DSG/BM(2023)M016/A003: Cllr Struan Mackie to write to John McNamarra asking for a stakeholder brief on GB Nuclear.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted he received a response that there will be a briefing sent to all SSGs.

- DSG/BM(2023)M015/A01: DSG to respond to Cllr Clackson regarding the Dounreay Travel to Work area. **Ongoing**
- DSG/PM(2023)M03/A001: Cllr Struan Mackie requested that a written response to his questions about spend be discussed in the restoration subgroup. **Ongoing:** A face to face meeting has been arranged for 1 November. The business meeting will meet with Mark Rouse, Frederic Stalin and Fiona Bruce to discuss finances, LTP and the PBO contract closure.
- DSG/BM(2023)M007/A001: Peter Faccenda to explore with Jacobs how to progress the apprenticeship issue. **Ongoing**

Nicola Sinclair noted she would take this under her paper DSG(2023)P028

- DSG/SESG(2023)M01/A001: Magnus Davidson and Dawn Clasper to look at the Community Fund application form. **Update:** Magnus Davidson updated that the application form will not be changing, due to audit requirements, however there will be an amendment to the guidance stating that applicants can make an appointment with the socio economics team if further assistance is required. This will be updated on the website guidance.

6. DOUNREAY COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

David Alexander noted that the Community Fund report has been circulated in advance. He reminded members to declare an interest if there was any involvement from members in these projects.

Funding applications were reviewed, decisions and further clarifications were agreed on each application.

7. DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

David Alexander stated that a written update had been provided – DSG/SESG(2023)P034. Magnus Davidson Socio Economic Manager was invited to provide key highlights from the paper.

The following update was provided by Magnus Davidson. Of note:

- Grant funding at the end of quarter 2 we are somewhere between 70-80% committed this year on funding, however this is dependent on some live applications.
- Dounreay has assisted Scrabster Harbour with apprentices and graduates in a project aimed to help meet and guide cruise ship visitors benefiting from NDA funded Ola pier redevelopment. Dounreay encourages and supports those on our early careers programmes to participate in community projects with this delivering positive impact to the

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local community, learning for the company, and learning and development opportunity for the early careers employees.

- There is currently no agreement between Dounreay and the unions on the 2023/24 pay deal. Members will be updated through the business group on any progress.
- An update on an operating key target related to social value. There are a number of elements related to signposting suppliers to Focus North, reserved procurement, and procurement through SMEs. Dounreay is currently on target.
- Early careers staff recruitment has not yet been finalised for the following year, with an update on confirmed numbers hopefully being made available in the January meeting.
- Dounreay is also currently looking in detail at our STEM provision and planning. This has come as a result of a number of different moving parts, including work of Focus North, review of strategic plan, internal resource, and potential grant applicants.

David Alexander thanked Magnus Davidson for his update and invited questions from members. Of note:

Gillian Coghill noted that there may be issues funding some projects in the fourth quarter she asked if there could be funded in a phased approach. Magnus Davidson noted that this is something that Dounreay is currently doing with some new high value projects being funded over multiple financial years. He also highlighted that the high level of committed funding was due to a number of large applications being funded this quarter, of which Dounreay had been working with for much of the year, and that Dounreay was expecting to be this committed at this stage of the year. The remaining pipeline of known potential applications was small.

Jeremy Gilmour noted that with helpful input from stakeholders they are developing the new NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy and aiming to start the consultation on this shortly, with an extended time period provided for responses from the DSG.

8. FOCUS NORTH UPDATE

David Alexander noted that a written updated had been provided – DSG(2023)P028. He invited Nicola Sinclair to provide key highlights from the paper.

The following update was provided by Nicola Sinclair. Of note:

Following on from the previous action, Focus North have received a draft Skills Strategy Report from Jacobs which provides a roadmap of skills and talent attraction actions. The Focus North delivery group have now met to discuss the report and will put together an agreed action plan to act on the recommendations of the report.

There was discussion on recommendations made on apprenticeships, with questions asked on how to avoid shortcomings from previous initiatives, with wind farm funds being suggested for funding shortfalls in certain proposed schemes. Gillian Coghill suggested that it may be more beneficial to asking new funds coming online that existing schemes.

Focus North currently have an application in to the Green Skills Fund though Highland Council, funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The application is in partnership with NatureScot, UHI and three local small businesses for a peatland restoration course.

In addition, there is an ongoing sustainable transport project that is modelling transport demand and developing sustainable transport solutions appropriate to the area. Development has been seen in the digital work strand with a workshop held and engagement with digital stakeholders. The business development plan has also now gone to Scottish Government for the PSO for Wick John O'Groats Airport.

David Alexander thanked Nicola Sinclair for her update and invited questions from members. There were no questions from members.

9. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

David Alexander noted there was no correspondence at this time.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Alexander opened to members.

- Magnus Davidson noted off the back of discussion in the meeting, that Dounreay and Focus North have been in the early stages of exploring data sources and modelling which may better support the better understanding of social sustainability in the area. Dounreay is increasingly using data to drive socio economic strategy and implementation, and new census data due out in the spring of 2024 will help to inform work, however some additional modelling capability may be needed.

11. CLOSE

There being no further business David Alexander thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

David Alexander
DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Chair
3 November 2023