

**DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE**  
*current as of 17 January 2024***Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review 2022/23**

Dounreay published the Socio Economic Annual Review for 2022/23 in December. Highlights include:

- Dounreay's impact as a major local employer and buyer of goods and services. There was a total spend at the site of £202.4m, with £113.5m being spent with the supply chain. Almost £1 in every £3 spent with the supply chain went to an SME, with 12 of the top 20 suppliers having a local base in the area.
- On 2022 staffing, Dounreay had 1,283 employees, of which 96% lived local to the site. In addition, there were around 700 supply chain workers at the site. Dounreay had an estimated labour only GVA impact of £77.4m locally and £167.2m in the UK.
- As a grant funder in the area, Dounreay spent £487,807 in socio economic grant funding across a range of local community skills, wellbeing, and infrastructure initiatives. The total funding committed during the year, on a multi-year basis, was £1.4m. This funding leveraged in an additional £1.4m of public and private sector contributions.
- The annual review also reports on Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) investment in the area with a three year, £3m commitment to Sutherland Spaceport, an ongoing commitment of around £4m into Nucleus in Wick, supporting 68 jobs in Caithness, and a three year, £487k funding package for the Focus North Partnership aimed at economic development enabling activity.
- In total, targeted NDA and Dounreay socio economic activity in Caithness and north Sutherland committed around £8.4m in socio economic funding which leveraged £29.9m in additional private and public sector investment.

**NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy**

In November, the NDA opened its updated social impact and communities strategy for consultation, which will run for a period of 12 weeks until Wednesday 21 February 2024. The strategy sets out the NDA's obligations and strategic approach to supporting our communities and maximising the beneficial social impact of our work.

The DSG and Focus North have inputted into the draft consultation through stakeholder meetings in the summer of 2023, and have been asked to formally respond in this current time period.

## **Dounreay Socio Economic Strategy**

Dounreay has completed a draft socio economic strategy. This draft has been deferred to align with Group Key Target requirements for 2024/25. The DSG will be consulted as part of this process with input from the NDA consultation also included.

## **Grant funding**

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 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:

- Taste North - £1,956 match funding to support the Venture North organised Taste North event in Wick.
- The Laurandy Centre - £5,000 for fencing for the development of a wellbeing garden.
- Dunbeath and District Centre - £74,815 for 3 year core funding for an operational growth manager.
- Caithness Seal Rehab - £5,000 for the refurbishment of a building to provide a food preparation room with a lab station.

## **Other socio economic activities**

The Dounreay Socio Economic team joined the OneNDA Socio Economic team visit to north Wales. The combined quarterly meeting is part of NDA strategy development and cross learning from other areas. Focus North have now been invited to north Wales to also learn from the area.

## **Procurement**

In regard to local supply chain:

- Contracts were awarded to 11 Caithness registered suppliers in Q3 23/24.
- There were 27 respective contracts to a value of £925k.
- One of these was a reserved procurement.

In addition:

- Contracts were awarded to 2 National companies performing work from Caithness in Q3 23/24
- There were 4 respective contracts to a value of £2.0M

In total 31 contracts were awarded to 13 suppliers registered in Caithness or performing work from Caithness with a total value of £2.92M.

The socio economics team, working with the commercial team, continue to set, assess, and monitor social value across in scope procurements. Work is underway to further identify local need for social value commitments in Caithness and north Sutherland.

### **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. The most recent report went to the DSG in November. Recruitment of the 2024 annual intake of Health Physics Surveyor Trainees has completed, with graduate roles and summer students recently closing.

### **STEM**

Suzanne Ferguson, a STEM ambassador, presented Dounreay STEM activity to the full Dounreay Stakeholder Group in December 2023. In addition, ongoing STEM activity in Q3 is summarised as:

- The second North Highland STEM Network/Partnership meeting took place on 6 December to continue discussion on how key partners can collaborate and align more in activities and how best to add value to the whole STEM agenda in Caithness and north Sutherland.
- PA Consulting, a supply chain partner, delivered strengths workshops to S2 or S3 pupils at Thurso, Wick and Farr High Schools during November as part of their social value commitments through Dounreay procurement.
- SPOT the robot visited primary schools in Caithness and North Sutherland during weeks beginning 6 & 13 November. All P1 to P7 pupils attended and following the visit were asked to submit drawings of SPOT as part of a competition. Prizes to the winners and runner ups will be presented in January.
- The 2023 Engineering Industry Day was held on 6 December with 69 senior phase pupils and UHI students attending the event to prepare them for engineering apprenticeship applications and interviews.
- Dounreay representatives participated in mock interviews at Thurso, Wick and Farr High Schools
- Crest Awards continue to be delivered to Noss Primary School's P2/3.
- Energy activities and sessions on electronic circuits were delivered to Noss Primary School's P4 pupils in November.
- Dounreay's STEM Ambassadors supported S4 mock interviews at Thurso and Wick High Schools in late November.
- Miller Academy and Dunbeath/Lybster Primary School's P7 pupils are participating in the Goblin Car Challenge. The cars will be delivered and an introduction to the pupils is scheduled for 18 January. With the support of STEM Ambassadors, the pupils will build a car from the kit provided and then race their car at Alford in June 2024.
- Dounreay staff, representing employee support networks, attended Farr High School for an EDI and health and wellbeing awareness session in December.

## Heritage

- Linda Ross, an NDA Bursary funded post-doctoral researcher presented “More than a Half-Life: Communities, Heritage and Decommissioning” to Dounreay staff in December and has been corresponding with the DSG. The project investigates the current position of communities in decommissioning: their perceived and actual roles; constituents; exclusions; operation; and limitations, from both institutional and community perspectives. Utilising a combination of oral histories, artistic engagement (via Lyth Arts Centre), and historical research including a case study of Dounreay’s progressive stakeholder engagement and heritage programmes.
- The Dounreay Reminiscence Group now has a Wick branch as well as a Thurso branch. Sessions were held in Nucleus, the North Coast Visitor Centre, and Castlehill Heritage Centre in Castletown. James Gunn chaired the sessions and the topics included PFR and the Dounreay airfield. More sessions will be held throughout the Winter.
- In order to enhance the Dounreay exhibition at NCVV a short video about the Materials Testing Reactor control room will be produced. Initial filming at the control room desk took place and the content covered a brief explanation of the controls, and dials and other information.
- Three historic objects were added to the heritage collection and an additional three questionnaires collected from leavers.



## Visits to Dounreay

- Dr Linda Ross, Keele University, and Dr Dominic Hinde visited Dounreay in December to learn about stakeholder engagement and energy transitions for respective academic projects.

**Magnus Davidson,**  
**Dounreay, a division of Magnox Ltd**  
**17 January 2024**

**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 in previous year which has now been rectified by the appointment of a business manager. Spend going forward is being reprofiled in conjunction with Focus North delivery.
FR-000000224: Caithness Transport Forum	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 3 (23/24): £10K  £30K paid to date.
FR-000000225: 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-000000272: 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  £70,476.78 paid to date.
FR-000000280: 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-000000327: 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  £30K paid to date.

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
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  £52,500 paid to date.
STEM activities	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £75K Yr 3 (23/24): £25K  £19,418.58 paid to date. STEM spend has historically been under budget year on year and school activity has not yet returned to pre-covid levels. Underspend in this budget is currently being reassessed.
Dounreay Community Fund	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £75K Yr 3: £25K  £50K 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-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.
FR-000001945 Wick Development Trust	01/05/2024		Funding commitment: 2 years Total Cost £80k Yr 1: £40k  Payment of yr 1 due shortly.

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
FR-000001935 John O'Groats Mill	30/04/2025		Funding commitment: 2 years Total Cost: £100k Yr 1: £50k  Payment of yr 1 due upon completion of UK subsidy regime review.
FR-000001933 Ormlie Community Association	30/09/2026		Funding commitment: 3 years Total Cost: £60k Yr 1: £20k  £20k paid to date.
FR-000001922 Farr North Development Trust	01/04/2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total Cost: £10k Yr 1: £10k  No funding paid to date. A change in circumstances of the project has suggested it may not go ahead, awaiting confirmation.