

DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

current as of 17 April 2024

NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy

The NDA published their Social Impact and Communities Strategy on 5 April. The strategy sets out the NDA's obligations and strategic approach to supporting communities and to maximising the social impact of NDA work.

The appendix of the strategy highlights NDA commitments to NRS Dounreay with commitments aligned to the consultation undertaken with the DSG in June of 2023.

Dounreay Socio Economic Strategy

As previously reported, NRS Dounreay has developed 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, before being finalised.

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:

- Wick Harbour Authority – Harbour Improvement Works Phase 1, £150,000
- Rumster Outdoor Centre – Outdoor Classroom, £43,000
- Pentland Yacht Club – Training Fleet, £21,224
- Scottish Surfing Championships – National Competition, £10,000
- Caithness Business Fund – Future Skills Apprenticeship Programme £100,000, (50% NDA, 50% Dounreay)
- North Highland Initiative – Community Resilience Fund £30,000, (50% NDA, 50% Dounreay).

In 2023/24 Dounreay supported a total of 25 projects or programmes (Focus North Support, Dounreay Communities Fund, and STEM resources) with a total spend of £1.03m, leveraging an additional £7.07m of private and public sector investment into Caithness and north Sutherland.

Other socio economic activities

The Dounreay Socio Economic team joined the OneNDA Socio Economic team visit to Sellafield from 6 to 7 February. The combined quarterly meeting is part of NDA strategy development and cross learning from other areas.

Magnus Davidson presented on opportunities of the Caithness and north Sutherland area at the annual Focus North Conference and AGM on 19 March.

David Calder, Head of Sustainability and Socio Economics at NRS Dounreay, attended the first Cross Party Group on Civil Nuclear Industry on March 27 at the Scottish Parliament. The forum is for Members of the Scottish Parliament stakeholders and interested parties to engage directly with each other in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing nuclear decommissioning and the existing associated civil nuclear footprint, workforce, and supply chain in Scotland and to better inform the development of policy in this important area.

Procurement

In regard to local supply chain:

- Contracts were awarded to 15 Caithness registered suppliers in Q4 23/24
- There were 52 respective contracts to a value of £2.14M
- Two of these were reserved procurements.

In addition:

- Contracts were awarded to 5 National companies performing work from Caithness in Q4 23/24
- There were 7 respective contracts to a value of £219k.

In total 59 contracts were awarded to 20 suppliers registered in Caithness or performing work from Caithness with a total value of £2.36m

The socio economics team, working with the commercial team, continue to improve how Dounreay sets, assesses, and monitors social value across in scope procurements, with further training undertaken in the last quarter. 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 February with a small number of external recruitments taking place due to promotion and resignations.

Successful recruitment of the 2024 annual intake of graduates (13 total), and engineering apprentices in electrical, mechanical, and control and instrumentation (10 total) were also completed in the last quarter.

STEM

Dounreay has an ongoing review of how STEM provision is supported, with the aim of improving and enhancing support, building on existing initiatives in the area.

Activity in the last quarter includes:

- STEM – First Lego League North Highland Tournament held on 13 March 2024. 8 teams participated with positive feedback from teachers, pupils and volunteers. First Lego League Challenge North Highland Tournament winner from Newton Park Primary is competing in the UK Final in Harrogate on 20 April. NRS Dounreay is funding the transport costs
- STEM – Dounreay STEM Ambassadors supported the roll out of SSA's up in the air with numbers module at Wick High School in March. Roll out of the module continues during April to pupils from Thurso, Farr, and Golspie High Schools
- STEM – Caithness Science Festival Family Fun Day on 23 March. NRS Dounreay had a stand with STEM activities and demonstrations by SPOT.
- STEM – Goblin Cars project progressing at Miller Academy and Dunbeath/Lybster primaries. Miller is supported by 2 STEM Ambassadors and 4 apprentices. NRS Dounreay is sponsoring Miller Academy pupils attending the Goblin competition in Alford in June
- STEM – CREST Award is being delivered by Dounreay STEM Ambassadors to 2 x P5 classes at Noss Primary School through April to June.

Heritage

- Linda Ross, an NDA Bursary funded post-doctoral researcher presented "More than a Half-Life: Communities, Heritage and Decommissioning" visited Caithness in March 2024 to undertake the recording of memories of former staff and DSG members. A conference featuring numerous speakers, including James Gunn, and Magnus Davidson, is due to be held in the Pentland Hotel on 22 May 2024 and invites will be sent in April. The invites will include DSG members.
- The Dounreay Reminiscence Group had sessions in Nucleus and Castlehill Heritage Centre in the last quarter with attendance growing.
- National Museums Scotland are designing an exhibition about Scotland and the Cold War, and it will mention Dounreay and Vulcan. The exhibition is due to open in July 2024 and will feature three historic objects from Dounreay.
- Dounreay have supported North Coast Visitor Centre with the installation of two new timeline panels in the Dounreay area of the museum. These new panels update previous timelines displayed, updating activity to date. Dounreay continues to support NCVV with socio economic grant funding.

- No historic objects were added to the heritage collection in this period.

Visits to Dounreay

- The BBC attended site to film for the technology programme Click on 29 February. The clip can be made available to DSG
- Fiona Rayment and Emma Feguson-Gould attended site and took part in Dounreay’s Gender Balance Network’s seventh annual event, 6 March
- Group Wide Energy Programme, 27 March - the group's work is looking at investment of NDA funds on NDA land for projects aimed at lowering the cost of energy and carbon emissions across the NDA group as a whole.

Magnus Davidson,
NRS Dounreay Socio Economics Manager
17 April 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 of previous years has now been spent.
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:	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £27,900

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
CNSRP (Focus North) Independent chair			Yr 3 (23/24): £9,300 £23,100 paid to date. Final year costs came in under expected spend.
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.
FR-0000001170: PSO Contract Manager	31-Mar-2025		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £90K Yr 2 (23/24): £30K Yr 3 (24/25): £30K £60,000 paid to date.
STEM activities	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £75K Yr 3 (23/24): £25K £31,824.01 paid to date. STEM spend has historically been under budget year on year and school activity has not yet returned to pre-covid levels. Plan in development to increase activity.
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-000001642: Forss Road Signs	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total costs: £18,655 Yr 1: £18,655

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
			£18,655 paid to date. Works completed.
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 £80K paid to in Yr 1 due to requirement for funding.
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, has been deferred/held to following FY.
Dunbeath and District Centre	31/12/2026		Funding commitment: 3 year Total Cost: £ 149,630 Yr 1: £24,938 £24,938 paid to date
Pentland Firth Yacht Club	10/03/2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total Cost: £43,224 Yr 1: £43,224 £43,224 paid to date
Caithness Business Fund	31/03/2025		Funding commitment: 1 year Total Cost: £100k (£50k NDA, £50k Dounreay) Yr 1: £100k £100k paid to date
North Highland Initiative	31/12/2024		Funding commitment: 1 year Total Cost: £30k (£15k NDA, £15k Dounreay) Yr 1: £30k £30k paid to date

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Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
Rumster Outdoor Centre	31/07/2025		Funding commitment: 1 year Total Cost: £43,000 Yr 1: £43,000 £43,000 paid to date