



DSG(2024)P022

## **DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE**

*current as of 09 October 2024*

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### **Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review**

The 2023/2024 Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review is in the latter stages of preparation and will be published shortly.

### **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. Work has now commenced with a consultant to develop an NRS approach, of which the draft Dounreay strategy will be aligned where appropriate.

### **Socio Economic Benefits Realisation**

Work has recommenced on socio economic benefits realisation of the new lifetime plan. The social impact consultant and socio economic team have been finalising the socio economic logic models and developing indicator metrics for the benefits register. Dounreay are aiming to present the results of the work to the DSG Socio Economic Sub Group early in the new year.

### **Grant funding**

Dounreay continues to provide pre-application support for socio economic funding. Several groups and organisations are in active discussion on potential funding for 2024/2025 and 2025/26.

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

- FR-000002360 Industrial Caithness (Sidh Chailleann Art)
  - £12,010, <1yr
- FR-000002497 North Coast Visitor Centre (Highlife Highland)
  - £265,000 3 yr
- FR-000002433 Melness Church Purchase (Melness Crofters Estate)
  - £1,000 <1yr
- FR-000002438 Cala Sona Business Plan (Melness Crofters Estate)
  - £1,250 <1yr
- FR-000002420 Scottish Surfing Championships (Scottish Surfing Federation)
  - £10,000 <1yr
- FR-000002434 Taste North Food and Drink Festival (Venture North)
  - £10,000 <1yr

- FR-000002499 Community Plan and Delivery (Thurso Community Development Trust)
  - £200,000 3yr

### **Other socio economic activities**

- UK Subsidy Control Regime remains a risk to Dounreay's socio economic programme with existing and future implications using significant team resources.

### **Procurement**

The following financial figures are for Q2 2024/2025, with the number of companies cumulative for Q1 and Q2. It should be noted that they do not sum to any total.

- Total Spend £26.7M, including mandatory spend.
- £18.6M is non mandatory and non-utility.
- £2.7M is with 49 (YTD) companies that are Caithness owned.
- £11.5M is with 13 (YTD) companies with Caithness resource\*.
- £14.2M of the £26.7M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers.
- £6.4M is with 308 (YTD) SME suppliers (including Caithness SME).

\*Includes some mandatory spend. (YTD = year to date)

The socio economics team, working with the commercial team, continue to improve how Dounreay sets, assesses, and monitors social value across in scope procurements. Dounreay continues to manage social value commitments from procurement.

### **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. Updates were provided in June, July and August during this quarter.

Notification of a range of roles to be supplied by agency workers in the quarter were made as a result of resignation or retirement, with no successful applications or no applications received. Of note:

- Recruitment of two construction roles related to reactors construction work where no suitable capability could be found within the existing workforce without severe detriment to other areas. In addition, a fixed term Technical Records Officer was advertised related to a specific project.
- The 2025 intake of 9 Health Physics Surveyor trainees was advertised along with 3 Health Physics Surveyors as backfill due to retirement and internal transfer.

In addition, the new cohort of early career staff started in this quarter with the following totals as of September 2024:

- 23 current graduates (2-year programme of which 11 were recruited this year)
- 40 current engineering apprentices (4-year programme of which 11 were recruited this year)
- 7 current business apprentices (2-year programme of which 2 were recruited this year)

Emily Kearl, Dounreay Sustainability Manager working in the Dounreay Sustainability and Socio Economics Team has left her position to take up employment with the environmental regulator SEPA. Anna Turlewicz, an internal hire, will replace her in the role of Sustainability Manager.

## **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 quarter:

- 9 teams from Reay Primary, Noss Primary, Newton Park Primary, Thurso and Wick High Schools have registered for the First Lego League Challenge 2024/25. NRS Dounreay is sponsoring their registration fees with the IET which covers their entry to the challenge and the challenge kit. NRS Dounreay are also supplying all teams with new Spike Prime kits.
- Miller Academy Primary School's P7 pupils are again participating in the Greenpower Goblin Car Project and discussions are taking place with other another primary school. The project is expected to kick off in November 2024 with pupils being supported by NRS Dounreay engineers and apprentices cumulating in the race day at Alford in June 2025
- NRS Dounreay's STEM Ambassadors are supporting the delivery of the Science Skills Academy's 'up in the air with numbers' module to Wick High School pupils during week beginning 4 November
- The next North Highland STEM meeting takes place on Thursday 7 November. The aim of this meeting is to discuss STEM outreach in the North Highlands and how we can work in partnership drawing on each other's strengths

## **Visits to Dounreay**

- NDA Sustainability Site Visit
- Homestart Caithness Information Session
- NDA Sustainability Week activity
- TEPCO Visit

- Janet Ashdown – Non Executive Director of the NDA Board



*The NDA Sustainability Team with the Dounreay Sustainability and Socio Economic Team on a Site Visit*

**Magnus Davidson,**  
**NRS Dounreay Socio Economics Manager**  
**09 October 2024**

**Appendix 1**

<b>Funded Project</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Comments</b>
FR-000001122 CNSRP (Focus North) support hub	30 March 2025		Funding commitment: 3 years Total cost: £487,000 Yr 3 (24/25): £154K with a carry over of £26.6K from the previous year.  A total of £96.9K has been committed with the finalisation of plans for the remaining balance. Talks are due to commence on a follow up tranche of support hub funding.
FR-000000: Caithness Transport Forum	31-Mar-2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 1 (24/25): £10K  £10K paid to date.

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
FR-000002305 Focus North Programme Manager	31-Mar-2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: Up to £124,830K Yr 1 (24/25): Up to £40K  £0 paid to date.
FR-000001071: Transport for Tongue	31-Mar-2025		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 3 (24/25): £10K  £30K paid to date.
FR-0000001170: PSO Contract Manager	31-Mar-2025		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £90K Yr 3 (24/25): £30K  £75K paid to date.
STEM activities	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual cost £25k  £12K paid to date
Dounreay Community Fund	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual cost £25k  £25k paid for 2024/25
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 2: £50k  £100k paid to date.
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 into 2024/2025 with ongoing communication with applicant.
Dunbeath and District Centre	31/12/2026		Funding commitment: 3 year Total Cost: £ 149,630 Yr 1: £24,938

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
			£24,938 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
Rumster Outdoor Centre	31/07/2025		Funding commitment: 1 year Total Cost: £43,000 Yr 1: £43,000  £43,000 paid to date
Science Skills Academy Newton Room Thurso	01/06/2027		Funding commitment: 3 year Total Cost: £128,000 Yr 1: £42,666.67  £0 paid to date – HIE and NRS Dounreay are in further discussions regarding the terms and conditions set out in the grant agreement.