

Endorsed on 11 February 2025

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP BUSINESS MEETING**

### **Minutes of DSG Business Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 0930 at Dounreay public Information office, Hoy meeting room and via MS Teams**

<b>Present:</b> Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair
David Alexander	DSG Vice-chair & Socio Economic sub group chair
Gillian Coghill	DSG Site Restoration sub group chair
Peter Faccenda	DSG Socio Economic sub group deputy chair
Roger Saxon	DSG Site Restoration sub group deputy chair
Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary

### **1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting, he thanked members for their attendance and their contributions throughout the year.

Apologies have been received by Tina Wrighton, Stakeholder & External Relations Manager, NRS Dounreay.

### **2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/BM(2024)M016, 17 December 2024 – were endorsed by members. Members agreed this was a true reflection of the meeting. These would now be circulated to all DSG members for their information.

### **3. ACTION STATUS**

Dawn Clasper noted there were a number of ongoing actions. Discussion focused on:

- DSG/BM(2024)M016/A02: DSG BM to write to the Highland Council Public Transport Team expressing their concerns.
- DSG/BM(2024)M010/A01: David Alexander to write to David Calder, Head of Sustainability and Socio Economics, NRS Dounreay regarding the use of the Viewfirth land owned by NDA. **Closed:** David Calder provided a response. Following our recent conversation, I can confirm that NDA/NDAPL (NDA Property Limited) are happy for NRS Dounreay to explore opportunities with the community for the land at Viewfirth (circa half the area of the field) including the foundations of the former Sports and Social Club as this land has no current express use. I look forward to working with you and the relevant stakeholders to progress the exploration of opportunities.

There was further discussion around what this could look like, and several organisations were reviewing their property and estates.

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**ACTION: DSG/BM(2025)M01/A01: Arrange a formal meeting to discuss the Veiwfirth land with relevant stakeholders.**

All other actions have been completed.

#### **4. DSG SUBGROUP MEETINGS**

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the subgroups were being held on 22 January. Dawn Clasper noted that the paperwork has been distributed in a timely manner. Cllr Struan Mackie asked the DSG subgroup chairs if there were any issues for interrogation of the papers. There was a discussion on the issues that would be raised at the subgroup meeting.

There was a further discussion, and concerns were raised of the number of people being recruited considering the current financial situation, and a question raised how new post are being recruited are vetted to see if they are essential.

**ACTION: DSG/BM(2025)M01/A02: Dawn Clasper to ask HR how new post are recruited and vetted to see if they are essential.**

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following was raised:

- Cllr Struan Mackie, David Alexander, Gillian Coghill, and Peter Faccenda had a dinner with Jayne Scott Non-Executive Director (NED) and Alison Hammond NRS Dounreay Finance Director. He noted that Jayne Scott is also a Scottish Government NED. While her influence will be limited, it may lead to more interaction with the DSG and governance.
- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that he spoke with Rob Fletcher yesterday morning and they discussed funding.
- Dawn Clasper noted that Magnus Davidson and David Calder would like to present the Socio Economic Strategy at the next business meeting. This was agreed by members
- Dawn Clasper noted that the next business meeting was on the 18 February, the same date as the site visit. It was agreed by members to move this to the 11 February.
- Peter Faccenda noted regarding the Spaceport that Phillip Chambers CEO of Orbex, discussed the decisions made, and as a result of a shortfall in fundraising efforts during 2024 have had to concentrate investment in the development of the Prome launch vehicle, pause the build in Sutherland and seek an alternative launch location. The current plan is to launch first prime vehicles from Shetland on an available pad. Once they achieve a cadence of 10 successful launches, they will require additional launch pad capacity and will re-instigate activity in Sutherland, anticipated to be in 2027. Discussions are underway between HIE and Orbex to seek alternative opportunities.

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Cllr Struan Mackie asked if there was an acknowledgement they experienced project difficulties. Peter Faccenda responded that they acknowledged that their communications albeit in challenging circumstances might have been handled differently.

## **6. CLOSE**

There being no further business, Cllr Struan Mackie thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

**Cllr Struan Mackie**  
**DSG Chair**  
**21 January 2025**

## **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

**DSG(2025)BM01/A01: Arrange a formal meeting to discuss the Veiwirth land with relevant stakeholders.**

**DSG/BM(2025)M01/A02: Dawn Clasper to ask HR how new post are recruited and vetted to see if they are essential.**