



CNSRP ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

4th December 2015

T3UK, Janetstown, Thurso

Attendees: Stuart Black (THC - chair), Simon Middlemas (Cavendish Dounreay Partnership), Derrick Milnes (T&WTC), Ian Mitchell (SNH), Trudy Morris (CCoC), Ken Nicol (DSRL), John Robertson (Crown Estate), Cllr Gail Ross, Eann Sinclair (CNSRP), William Sutherland (HIAL), Tom Pottinger (SHT), Neil Smith (CVG), Donald MacBeath (NHC-UHI), Anna MacConnell (NDA), Gill MacVicar (NHS Highland), Billy Manson (ACCC) Frances Gunn (CVS North).

Apologies: Bill Baxter (CCoC), Cllr Margaret Davidson, Rob Gibson MSP, Roy Kirk (HIE), , Dr Paul Monaghan MP, Kristin Scott (SNH), David Sutherland (THC), Stephen Sutherland (CCoC), Willie Watt (WHA), Cllr Alasdair Rhind, Cllr Matthew Reiss, Cllr Roger Saxon, Roddy Bailey (SDS), Cllr George Farlow, David Flear (DSG), June Love (HIE), Sandy Mackie (SHT)

In attendance: John Scott, Gavin Steel (both SSE)

1. WELCOME

As Cllr Rhind had been unable to attend it was agreed that S. Black would chair the meeting. Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions round the table.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Two amendment requests: K. Nicol requested “**local** graduates” (page 4); S. Middlemas requested “Cavendish **Nuclear**” (page 5). Otherwise, minutes approved.

Outstanding actions complete, except:

- Roddy Bailey, SDS will present at the next meeting, as he was unable to attend this meeting. **Continued – Action 1**
- Poster distribution delayed pending review of usability. **Continued – Action 2**
- Meeting of contacts from partner communications teams delayed until January 2016. **Continued – Action 3**

2b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Advisory Board members.

3. PRESENTATION – John Scott, Lead Project Manager, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission

The Chairman welcomed John Scott and Gavin Steel from SSE to give an update presentation on the Caithness-Moray electricity Transmission upgrades.

Key Points:

- Scope of work consists of 1200MW Converter at Blackhillock, 800MW Converter at Spittal, 275kv/132kv AC Substation at Spittal, 28km 800MW land cable Spittal to Noss Head, 113km 1200MW subsea cable Noss Head to Port Gordon, 20km 1200MW cable Port Gordon to Blackhillock.
 - Completion by July 2018
 - HVDC Contractor – ABB
 - AC Contractor - ABB BBES
- SSE Power Distribution recruits apprentices, trainee engineers and graduates every year
- New BEng in Electrical Power Engineering from next year (2016)
- 6 sponsored degree places will be offered via University of the Highlands and Islands
- Open to engagement with schools, colleges and universities
- Local contractors employed – Edward Mackay (Brora) and DFL are employing a number of Caithness workers.
- Local haulage companies, quarries, cleaners, office facilities, concrete, material suppliers also benefitting
- Local accommodation being used across Caithness
- Approximate Temporary Jobs:
 - Dounreay, Mybster and Thurso Substations - 310
 - Dounreay Mybster OHL – 130
 - Spittal – AC/DC and Cable route – 250
- Permanent Jobs – A lower number of additional permanent operational positions will be required to operate the new assets

Questions:

- S Black asked what the total project cost was in Caithness. J Scott confirmed that this was approx £417 million.
- D Macbeath asked if there was an opportunity for NH College to discuss ways in which students could benefit from these employment opportunities. J Scott agreed that a formal relationship with North Highland College could help students to access job opportunities arising from the work. **ACTION 4 – D Macbeath to arrange follow up meeting with SSE.**

4. PROGRAMME MANAGER UPDATE – PROGRESS REPORT

ES quarterly update report was distributed to everyone in advance of the meeting, and some verbal updates were discussed.

Key Points:

- All outstanding tenders under Inward Investment and Talent Attraction had now been issued for proposals.
- The Berriedale Braes scheme has now moved to a Public Local Enquiry (PLI). The pre-Inquiry Hearing took place on 2nd December.
- Completion on scheme design for the B876 (Killimster Moss) project has been delayed. Now due before March 2016.
- NDA Nuclear Archive construction is now well underway, and on course for completion by end 2016.

4b. COMMUNICATIONS – PROGRESS REPORT

ES referred the group to the distributed list of CNSRP media coverage. 'Milestones' being extracted from project plans and reported upon in media is ongoing. E Sinclair also agreed to produce a summary of today's meeting to be posted on the CNSRP website. **ACTION 5 - E Sinclair to draft and circulate a press summary**

The contract to produce the CNSRP Annual Review document has been awarded to North Design from Thurso. The proposed publication date for the Annual Review is January. E Sinclair will circulate final text to members. **ACTION 6 – E Sinclair to circulate final text.**

DSRL had previously prepared several posters, designed to encapsulate some of the key messages under the headings of General, Skills, Energy, and Infrastructure. The plan is for these to be displayed in certain key, public areas which have been identified. There will also be electronic versions for ES to use in public presentations. Some aspects of the poster design are being discussed with the designer working on the CNSRP Annual Review, with a view to making them more user-friendly for general public. A list of proposed places/times for display is yet to be finalised; once it is complete J Love will circulate to members. **ACTION 7 - J Love to distribute list.**

6. MEMBER UPDATES

Written updates were distributed to members in advance of the meeting. The following additional points were also discussed at the meeting:

Dounreay Stakeholder Group

Thurso & Wick Trades Council

Members had been disappointed by the actions of the GMB Union in making public statements about Dounreay management, which were also interpreted as critical of Scottish Government. A joint letter from Trades Council and DSG to Fergus Ewing MSP inviting the Minister north. This meeting will now take place in January, with CNSRP participation. GMB Union has also been invited to be present.

Scrabster Harbour

T Pottinger outlined a good year for the harbour, particularly in terms of oil & gas traffic. The port received 71 oil & gas vessels during the year (38% up) with a total tonnage of 396,707 (81% up). Fish landings were slightly down, but shellfish landings were up. The impact of the introduction of new fish discards obligations in January 2016 are yet to be felt.

Caithness Voluntary Group

N. Smith outlined current activities with community groups and social enterprises, particularly current work with Third Sector Interface, and work on an innovative project to trial electric vehicle technology.

7. AOB

Cllr G. Ross asked whether, considering the general difficulty being experienced in accessing funding (particularly for projects with proven benefits to the area's communities).

Date of Next Meeting: late February or early March 2016 (date to be confirmed, ES will issue an Outlook invitation)

Summary of actions:

	Action	Lead	Due	Status
1	Present on SDS at next meeting	RB	Next Meeting	ongoing
2	Circulate list of post distribution sites	JL	Next Meeting	Ongoing
3	Increase of press activity to be discussed (column, Chair meeting press, sub-meeting, etc.)	ES	Next meeting	Ongoing
4	Arrange follow-up meeting with SSE	D Macbeath	Next Meeting	Ongoing
5	Draft & circulate a press summary of meeting	ES	07/12/15	Complete
6	Circulate final Annual Review Text	ES	17/12/15	Ongoing
7	Distribute list of likely poster distribution sites	JL	08/01/16	Ongoing