

## DSG CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/19

This year sees my second year as DSG Chairman come to an end. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone involved with DSG for their input, commitment and open and honest discussions that have taken place throughout the year.

Again I would like to stress that DSG is not just about four public meetings per year with a number of sub groups meeting. There is a huge contribution from many DSG members in between meetings to ensure we respond timeously to consultations, we pick up issues and continue to progress these throughout, provide responses to press comments and generally try to get on top of a massive agenda for the local community– from the site's decommissioning activities, to safety and environment, the neighbouring Vulcan site and to the future of the area when the decommissioning is complete. Not only that, but as a DSG we are represented on a number of other local groups which is outlined below.

This year has seen us starting to think about the focus of DSG going forward into financial year 2019/20. As decommissioning progress it will be equally important to ensure the DSG continues to oversee and scrutinise the safety and environmental aspects of both Dounreay and Vulcan site alongside progress of decommissioning activities allied to value for the taxpayer.

In addition, DSG continues to support socio economics which are aligned to CNSRP priority projects to allow us to get behind those projects that require substantial funding which will support the creation of jobs in the area.

As I reflect over another busy year, the focus for 2019/20 for DSG will be:

- **NDA:**
  - strategy for its' nuclear sites, in context of impact of Dounreay target cost contract.
  - Socio economic funding requests over next 4-5 years.
- **Cavendish Dounreay Partnership/Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd**
  - Value for money of CDP contract
  - Key milestones for delivering decommissioning programme
  - Resource planning for decommissioning programme
  - Supply chain activity including socio economic benefits
  - CDP engineering hub project
  - Dounreay recruitment/supply chain
- **Vulcan**
  - Future site options
  - Decommissioning programme
  - Socio economic activities from decommissioning.

Throughout this current year (2018/19) our membership has continued to evolve and we have said goodbye to some and welcomed new members/observers to DSG. I am sure this will continue to be the case as we move into 2019/20. For this year, we have been involved many activities out with normal meetings, which include:

### RESPONDING TO CONSULTATIONS/ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Dounreay Socio Economic Plan, 2018/2019
- NDA Draft business Plan, 2019 onwards
- SEPA's nuclear sector plan

### SUPPORT TO OTHER PROJECTS

- Scrabster Harbour Trust, redevelopment of the St Ola Pier
- Transport topics, in partnership with Caithness Transport Forum
- North Highland College, redevelopment of campus project.

## **DSG PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations to the public DSG meeting during this financial year include:

- CNC: Project Servator
- CNSRP update
- Dounreay: Waste presentation/ site end state review update

## **EXTERNAL VISITS/MEETINGS**

- Meeting with Margaret Davidson, Leader of The Highland Council
- Mr Niizumi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister MEXT (NDA hosted dinner)
- NDA Stakeholder Summit
- NDA SSG Chair's Forum, London
- Meeting with Paul Vallance, NDA Director of Communications
- Socio economic discussions with STUC representatives
- Meeting with Bill Hamilton, NDA Stakeholder Relations
- Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear Sites Meeting, Edinburgh

Of note, it was good to see DSG member, David Flear being invited to Japan to take part in "The Tsuruga International Symposium 2018 on Future Prospects of the Nuclear Facilities; Lessons Learned from Precedent International Case. David flew the flag for Caithness and DSG by providing a presentation on community engagement in the progress of site decommissioning and highlighting the areas where DSG influenced or supported the wider socio economic agenda for the area.

## **DSG REPRESENTATION AT OTHER MEETINGS**

- CNSRP Advisory Board
- Caithness Transport Forum
- North Highland Regeneration Fund
- LEADER (Highland)
- Nucleus Advisory Panel
- Caithness Community Planning Partnership

Before I conclude, it was with disappointment that I was informed that the Caithness Horizons Board took the decision to close the visitor attraction for a number of valid reasons. It is with credit to Dounreay (and The Highland Council) that they continued to work and commit funding to this valuable community asset. Looking to the future, it is apparent that funding will become more difficult for similar community projects and it will be more important for the community to look at alternative ways of supporting such projects. DSG will play our part where it is appropriate to do so.

As the AGM takes place, it would be remiss of me not to thank those who held office in an official capacity over the year. To those who are leaving these roles, I would like to place on record my thanks for your continued support and input over the year.

Another year has passed and it is inevitable that as the decommissioning programme of Dounreay (and plans for Vulcan) progresses working together for the one aim to ensure that the community has a future after Dounreay will become more and more important. I believe DSG has a continued role to ensure that as we move steadily towards closure of the sites our community is not detrimentally impacted on for a future beyond nuclear.

**Roger Saxon**

Chairman, DSG

25<sup>th</sup> February 2019