

## **DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE**

*current as of 12 July 2024*

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

The 2023/2024 Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review is currently being drafted with an expected publication date in Q2 2024/2025.

### **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 2024/2025 and 2025/26. A number of projects came to the end of a three year funding cycle on 31 March 2024. A number have been refunded on similar terms (Focus North Programme Manager and Caithness Transport Forum), whilst ongoing discussion remains on others.

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

- Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Focus North Programme Manager, £124,830
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise – Science Skills Academy Thurso Newton Room, £128,000

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**

- Work is ongoing on collating and analysing Census 2022 data, of which the first tranche of sub-regional data was released in May and will continue throughout the year. Census data, in conjunction with other sources, is used to help inform socio economic strategy.
- UK Subsidy Control Regime has been identified as a risk to Dounreay's socio economic grant funding capability and significant work has been ongoing over the last quarter to confirm compliance and update processes and procedures.

Wider public sector collaboration, with additional private sector contributions, will be required to ensure continued compliance with this relatively new subsidy legislation.

- Work on developing socio economic benefits realisation related to the new lifetime plan has recommenced after a contract related hiatus. It is expected that the work will be finalised by the end of the calendar year.

## **Procurement**

*Year total 2023/24:*

- Total Spend £113.5M, including mandatory spend.
- £79.5M is non mandatory and non-utility.
- £10.7M is with 53 companies (SME) that are Caithness owned.
- £47.5M is with 17 companies with Caithness resource\*.
- £58.2M of the £113M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers.
- £26.4M is with 361 SME suppliers (including Caithness SME).

*Q1 2024/2025:*

- Total Spend £24.4M, including mandatory spend.
- £16M is non mandatory and non-utility.
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- £2.8M is with 44 companies that are Caithness owned.
- £11M is with 16 companies with Caithness resource\*.
- £13.8M of the £24.4M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers.
- £5.6M is with 218 SME suppliers (including Caithness SME).

\*Includes some mandatory spend.

The socio economics team, working with the commercial team, continue to improve how Dounreay sets, assesses, and monitors social value across in scope procurements. 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. Updates were provided in May and June during this quarter.

In partnership with Focus North, Dounreay is engaging with key energy sector stakeholders within Caithness and north Sutherland on skills development and workforce planning to mitigate the risk of skills gaps and shortages.

## **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 will be updated verbally and recorded in the minutes.

## **Heritage**

- No objects were collected in the period. The old DSRL site entrance signs are due to be donated to the National Museum of Scotland in July 2024 and the other entrance sign to the North Coast Visitor Centre. The two signs were replaced by two NRS Dounreay signs in December 2023.
- One recording of memories forms was collected in the quarter.
- Keele University gained a grant from the NDA in 2023 to undertake a one-year post-doctoral research study covering nuclear heritage. The research title is, "More than a Half-Life: Communities, Heritage and Decommissioning." The project is due to be completed in August 2024. The project held a conference in the Pentland hotel on 22 May 2024, and saw presentations from James Gunn and Magnus Davidson
- The project also arranged an artist in residence at Lyth Arts Centre and Lindsey Gallacher from Thurso held her exhibition at Thurso Gallery in early June 2024. Around 650 people attended.
- The NuSPACES research project held an on-line workshop and one of the presentations was about the history of the Dounreay Visitor Centre which opened in 1960 and closed in 2006.

Lindsey Gallacher's exhibition at Thurso gallery



## **Visits to Dounreay**

- There were no socio economic related visits during this quarter.

**Magnus Davidson,**  
**NRS Dounreay Socio Economics Manager**  
**12 July 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 2(23/24): £154K  Work is being undertaken to forecast the remaining funding for 2024/2025.
FR-000000: Caithness Transport Forum	31-Mar-2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £30K Yr 1 (24/25): £10K  £10K paid to date.
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 (23/24): £10K  £30K paid to date.  Please note there was an erroneous end date and year 3 payment date in previous reports. This has been corrected for this report.
FR-0000001170: PSO Contract Manager	31-Mar-2025		Funding commitment: 3 years Total costs: £90K Yr 3 (24/25): £30K  £67,500 paid to date.
STEM activities	31-Mar-2024		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual cost £25k
Dounreay Community Fund	31-Mar-2024		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

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
			£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  £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