



CNSRP ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

22nd March 2016
Norseman Hotel, Wick

Attendees: Cllr Alasdair Rhind (Chair) Derrick Milnes (T&WTC), Kristin Scott (SNH), Fiona Levack (CCoC), June Love (DSRL), John Robertson (Crown Estate), , Eann Sinclair (CNSRP), William Sutherland (HIAL), Mark Stuart (HIAL), Tom Pottinger (SHT), Sandy Mackie (SHT), Anna MacConnell (NDA), Frances Gunn (CVS North), David Flear (DSG), Cllr Matthew Reiss, Cllr Roger Saxon, Roddy Bailey (SDS), Kenny MacInnes (THC), Michael O'Donnell (THC).

Apologies: Bill Baxter (CCoC), Cllr Margaret Davidson, Rob Gibson MSP, Roy Kirk (HIE), , Dr Paul Monaghan MP, Stephen Sutherland (CCoC), Willie Watt (WHA), , Cllr George Farlow, Stuart Black (THC), Simon Middlemas (Cavendish Dounreay Partnership), Trudy Morris (CCoC), Cllr Gail Ross, Donald MacBeath (NHC-UHI), Gill MacVicar (NHS Highland), Billy Manson (ACCC)

1. WELCOME

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Previous minutes were agreed as submitted.

Actions arising:

NH College discussions with SSE – D. Macbeath was not available to attend the meeting, but a written update was received as follows:

“College senior staff met recently with Bob Kelman and his colleague Kenny Miara from SSE. The meeting itself went well - SSE are currently looking at their options for training a selection of their staff (transmission) on a craft skills course. We worked through the type of training required to be able to identify that the various staff they have are “competent” to undertake their roles. They are looking at various course and site options as the training school in Perth does not seem to suit their needs. We have provided an outline for a course which could either be a short course or a longer programme with VQ accreditation. The latter seemed more appealing to SSE. At this point we are waiting for them to make a decision on the various options they are considering.”

2b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Advisory Board members.

3. PRESENTATION – Roddy Bailey, Area Manager Highland, Skills Development Scotland

The Chairman welcomed Roddy Bailey to give an update presentation on current Skills Development Scotland (SDS) activities. A copy of the presentation was issued separately to all members.

Key Points:

- Regional Skills Investment Plan takes evidence-based approach to skills planning, and gives employers a voice in the skills system (SDS is involved in the Caithness Chamber-led “Developing the Young Workforce” initiative)
- New service offers for 2016/17 include work with P7-S3 pupils, one-to-ones and in-depth group sessions with S3, new modules for teachers and offer to parents.
- Oil & gas Transition Training Fund launched to support workers affected by industry downturn.

Questions:

- Cllr M. Reiss asked about risk assessments for school pupils seeking work placements, as he had heard that placements were not taking place due to lack of capacity to carry out assessments. R. Bailey suggested that this was a Highland Council issue, but K Macinnes agreed to discuss with Highland Council colleagues. **ACTION – K Macinnes** to check with colleagues and report.
- J Love asked if in addition to engagement with parents whether SDS engaged with careers/ guidance teachers. R Bailey said that local SDs staff did work closely with teaching staff in schools.

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:

- Offshore wind – discussions still progressing well between SSE and Wick Harbour Authority. Final Investment Decision expected very soon.
- Roads 1 – Berriedale Braes Public Local Inquiry due to take place early April in Helmsdale, but decision not due til later 2016 or early 2017.
- Business & Industrial Land – options appraisal has now taken place, and recommendations being prepared.
- Inward Investment – one notable visit from a potential inward investor took place in February, with potential for further development over the next few months. CNSRP-sponsored SCDI Influencers’ Dinner took place in Aberdeen last night (21st March).

4b. COMMUNICATIONS

ES referred the group to the distributed list of CNSRP media coverage.

The CNSRP Annual Review was distributed to all households in early February. Good local and regional coverage achieved in the press and on radio. Copies are also available in key partner offices.

S. Middlemas has worked with ES to produce a presentation based on projected employment opportunities and likely trends over the coming years. They will present it to Dounreay Trades Union safety reps in early April.

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

Continuing disappointment/ concern at arrangements for maternity services.

Scrabster Harbour Trust

Continuing good levels of activity. Watching Berriedale Inquiry with interest, as the hairpin continues to be a concern in terms of road connectivity. Around 30,000 tonnes of perishable cargoes are moved to and from Scrabster by road. SHT has now purchased land to support access arrangements for the Scrabster Farm business/ industrial site.

Highland Council

K Macinnes reported that Business Gateway had supported 32 Business Start-ups in Caithness and 16 in Sutherland this financial year. From April 2016 the Business Gateway service will be delivered “in-house” by Highland Council.

Scottish Natural Heritage

K Scott outlined progress with the Flow to the Future project. The observatory is now established and attracting visitors, and the research

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

A MacConnell outlined continuing progress with the NDA Archive.

7. AOB

Date of Next Meeting: 21st June 2016 (Outlook invitation already issued)

Summary of actions:

	Action	Lead	Due	Status
1	Check for any issues with risk assessments for school work placements	K. Macinnes	ASAP	Ongoing