

**CAITHNESS & NORTH SUTHERLAND REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP
(CNSRP) – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11th NOVEMBER 2011 AT MARKET
SQUARE, HIGHLAND COUNCIL, WICK**

Present: Sir Anthony Cleaver (Chair)
Anthony Standing, SDS (AS)
Nigel Lowe, NDA (NL)
Alex Paterson (AP) by video-conference
Alistair Dodds (AD)

In Attendance: Eann Sinclair, CNSRP (ES)
Eilidh Gunn, CNSRP (minutes)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Karen Jackson, Scottish Government. The Chairman welcomed Anthony Standing and Nigel Lowe to their first Executive Board meetings.

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- Draft report “The Socio economics of Dounreay decommissioning” has been commented on and is back with the consultants. Timescale has lapsed, new timeline will be available shortly. **ACTION (1) ES** check on updated timescale.
- Meeting with Fergus Ewing – Chairman reported that he highlighted various achievements. Current issues raised: Marine Energy Park; Enterprise Zones; Connectivity. Mr Ewing indicated he might be able to visit the area in early spring 2012.
- It was agreed that it would be useful for HIE, Highland Council and NDA to share “lessons learned” from complex funding packages, and to share this in turn with Scottish Govt colleagues **ACTION (2) ES**
- Berriedale Braes – Recent Ministerial responses to the potential scheme at Berriedale have yet to provide a way ahead. **ACTION (3) AD** offered that Highland Council discuss again with Ministers with a message that the proposed lower-cost improvements are feasible.
- PBO update: NL outlined the timetable between announcement of preferred bidder and share transfer to new PBO. There will be a series of introductory meetings which will include the Partnership. It was agreed that it would be useful to invite representatives of the preferred bidder to the first Executive Board meeting in 2012. **ACTION (4) – ES** to discuss with NDA
- Delivery plan has been circulated for comment. A designed version is also being worked up.
- Marine Energy Park – Sir Anthony has spoken to John Thurso who will meet Ministers in the next two or three weeks. Sir Anthony will carry on talks on 20th December. Highland Council and Orkney Islands council met yesterday along with Ian Couper and Graham Harrison and will be publishing a

statement of intent. The area is in a strong position to become designated as a Marine Energy Park.

4. Issues from Advisory Board 8th November

A presentation had been given by representatives from Scottish Power Renewables on their Duncansby tidal site. SPR are one of the furthest ahead in terms of planning, consenting and socio economic plans. They have also completed a supply chain study. They have had discussion with North Highland College and are keen to stress that there is not a requirement for new renewable qualifications, traditional skills such as welding will be in higher demand, “**brown jobs with a green twist**” is the aim. SPR also agreed to create a working group with the Advisory Board.

News that the Olympic torch would be coming to John O’Groats was well received. The Chairman expressed thanks to Highland Council for their work on this. Visit Scotland seemed to be unaware of the development so communication will be important.

5. Programme Manager Update

- Written report has been circulated and there are no comments to action.
- Project level priorities are in a list which will change as progress and new projects are brought forward.
- Progress with Scrabster Farm industrial site was discussed. Masterplanning for Scrabster/ West Thurso is one of the points on the Highland Council 10 point plan, which Council officials will work with Scrabster Harbour Trust to progress. **ACTION (5) ES** to coordinate with HIE, Highland Council and NDA.
- Wick Harbour - NDA is supporting current feasibility work with a view to commercial operations such as offshore wind.
- Apprenticeships - SDS are piloting shared apprenticeships in the Western Isles which could be rolled out into this area. **ACTION (6) AS & ES** discuss. The plans for an Energy Academy at Nigg may be able to tie in with this.
- Super Fast Broadband - Once the procurement exercise is complete – Spring/Summer 2012 – a more accurate timeline can be created. Highland Council and HIE are working very closely together.
- Marine Energy Road Map - The C&NS Road Map has been drafted with comment from the PF Delivery Group, HIE Area Team, HIE Energy Team.
- Press Coverage – ES circulated press coverage from start of 2011 to date. The CNSRP Newsletter will go out for comment shortly.
- DSRL now has a socio-economic information room on site providing information on future opportunities. A display stand will also be moved around the county, to secondary schools, village halls etc.

6. Any other business

- David Whiteford of North Highland Initiative to be invited to present at next meeting **ACTION (7) AC**
- The board will remain in close contact with the Scottish Government regarding the Vulcan announcement.
- Next meeting February, then late April/early May **ACTION (8) ES**

CNSRP Executive Board – November 2011 meeting

Summary of Actions:

Ref:	Action:	Due Date:	Responsible Person:
1	Check on timeline for next draft report “The Socio economics of Dounreay decommissioning”	01/12/11	Eann Sinclair
2	Prepare letter to Scottish Government offering comment on Scrabster funding packages.	01/12/11	Eann Sinclair
3	Discuss Berriedale issue with Ministers.	20/12/11	Alistair Dodds
4	Discuss invitation to representative of preferred bidder for Dounreay competition to Board meeting in early 2012.	20/12/11	Eann Sinclair
5	Coordinate discussions between HIE, THC and NDA on ways to support Scrabster Harbour Trust’s plans for the Scrabster Farm site.	01/12/11	Eann Sinclair
6	Discuss pilot in shared apprenticeships in the Western Isles.	01/12/11	Anthony Standing Eann Sinclair
7	David Whiteford of North Highland Tourism to be invited to present at next meeting	01/12/11	Sir Anthony Cleaver
8	Schedule next meeting February, then late April/early May	01/12/11	Eann Sinclair