

**West Cumbria MRWS Discussion Pack
Summary Report**

May 2011

**A Report to MRWS Partnership
Prepared by Dialogue by Design**

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and may not reflect those of MRWS Partnership

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Executive Summary

As part of its second round of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE2), the West Cumbria MRWS (Managing Radioactive Waste Safely) Partnership (the Partnership) developed a standardised pack of information with a film that set out the background and all the topics, suitable for 14+ year olds. The pack contains a discussion guide that led participants through nine questions. Community groups, individuals and organisations were encouraged to take part online, at self-managing sessions and by attending facilitated meetings. The Partnership sent out nearly 1000 packs in total and received 77 completed packs back, with at least 660 individuals taking part.

In terms of participation, there is an almost equal split between the numbers of men and women taking part. However, while each age group is well represented, there is a heavy bias towards the 17 and under age group who account for almost half of the total number of respondents. This is due to the high number of school groups who took part.

To help the Partnership assess the views of the public and stakeholders they have devised four draft indicators:

1. **Net support** from the West Cumbrian public.
2. **Broad support** from the key organisations engaged by the Partnership, such as local councils, community interest groups, parish councils, and so on.
3. Evidence that **concerns raised have been or will be addressed**, including providing an explanation if specific concerns have not been addressed.
4. Evidence that **reasons for opposing or supporting the recommendation have been identified, understood and taken into account** in reaching our conclusions.

Comments about the indicators

The majority of respondent groups give no explicit indication of whether they support the proposed indicators or not. However, for each indicator a number of differing issues emerge. In regards to the Net Support indicator there is debate as to whether it is acceptable for 'do not know' responses to not be counted.

A major concern of respondent groups is that if a significant proportion of responses to any future survey on whether to go ahead with plans for a geological disposal facility are 'do not know' then this may be because respondents do not feel informed enough to make an opinion rather than that they have no strong opinion either way. In relation to the Broad Support indicator some respondent groups are concerned that this will lack clarity and accountability and that the organisations chosen to be included in this aspect of the process might not be fully representative of the population. Indicators 3 and 4 are generally seen as vague and potentially difficult to demonstrate that they have been met.

Comments about impacts

Groups of respondents felt strongly about a number of issues. Amongst these, the major concerns are about **safety, the impact on tourism,** and the **environment** (both generally as well as the visual impact of a repository specifically) and about how a repository might impact on existing infrastructure in the county, particularly the **transport network**. There are concerns about the impacts of the construction phase such as an influx of construction workers, **noise** and **disruption**.

An impact which is broadly perceived more positively is the potential effect on the **local economy**. Many hope that a repository would create new jobs and bring with it increased investment and spending.

Comments on community benefits

The majority of respondents are supportive of the concept of community benefits. However, there are some who perceive this largely as a ploy to win over public opinion. It is worth noting that some of those who oppose a repository still support the idea of community benefits if the proposal goes ahead as way of giving back something to the host community. There are some people who specifically talk about the need for mechanisms to be put in place so that the community could be certain that promised community benefits will be delivered.

The most popular ideas for community benefits are investment in the area's infrastructure such as **transport, schools, hospitals and affordable housing**. In addition some would also like to see improved facilities for sports, recreation and entertainment. Also popular is the idea to use the money to develop the **local economy** through support for local businesses, providing new jobs and enabling improvements in education and training provision. Alternatively, some would like community benefits to take the form of **direct financial payments**, either as a lump sum to each household or more popularly, in the form of discounted (or free) utility and / or council tax bills.

Involving the community

Many groups of respondents feel that the process has not been publicised widely enough and suggest methods that could be used to **raise awareness**. There is a belief that engagement with the community is vital and must continue throughout any process. Some state that while awareness and involvement might be low at the present time they expect it to increase if the process continues, especially if it gets to the stage of potential sites being identified.

Many respondent groups suggest a referendum as a more desirable method of **judging the level of public support** for a repository rather than surveys as suggested by the Partnership. Some state this is because they think that everybody should have the chance to express their views. In terms of specific groups that it is felt should be included, **children and young people** is the most singled out.

Other considerations when looking for potential sites

In addition to geological suitability, other factors that groups of respondents think should be considered when looking for a site for a repository include **safety, proximity to housing and areas of population, environmental and visual impacts, transport and traffic** implications, the **economic impacts**, the potential increase in **terrorism risk** and to what extent the proposal has **public support**.

Chapter 1 Introduction

In 2008, the UK Government launched a search for an engineered, underground site that will be the final home for the UK's higher activity radioactive wastes. The Government is inviting communities across the country to talk to them about potentially hosting this site that will ultimately be called a 'Geological Disposal Facility'. This approach was set out in the White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)'. About seventy percent of the country's radioactive waste is already at Sellafield, and because of this, Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council have started talking to the Government about the search for a site. To ensure that a wide range of community interests are involved in discussions, a joint partnership has been set up by the councils. This is called the 'West Cumbria MRWS Partnership' (the Partnership), and it aims to make recommendations to the councils on whether they should move to the next stage of the process with the Government.

Chapter 2 About the West Cumbria MRWS Discussion Pack and online response form

2.1 The discussion pack

As part of its second round of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE2), The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership ('The Partnership') developed a standardised pack of information with a film that sets out the background and all the topics, suitable for 14+ year olds. Participants could choose which topics they discussed and which they skipped, and in turn which topics they fed views back on via the questionnaire. Several of the discussion sessions were delivered by local 'intermediaries' that already worked in the community such as Connexions and Cumbria CVS.

The Partnership sent out nearly 1000 packs in total. With the use of intermediaries, certain groups such as young people, the farming community, BME groups and so on, were particularly targeted with the aim of including less-frequently heard voices. In terms of marketing the pack, a combination of existing networks (e.g. Women's Institute and various other groups circulated information on the pack through their distribution list), targeted contact (e.g. to schools and parish councils) and a number of Partnership communications (monthly e-bulletin, leaflet to all households in West Cumbria, media coverage, etc.) were used.

The objectives of the Public and Stakeholder Engagement Round 2 were to:

1. Demonstrate that public input from the previous six months has led to real changes.

2. Build understanding of the MRWS programme and the Partnership's activity, including the implications of the BGS study results.
3. Seek input from stakeholder organisations and the public on key topics in order to inform the Partnership's judgements against criteria for recommending whether to participate. The key topics are:
 - a. How public and stakeholder views will inform the work of the Partnership;
 - b. Impacts and community benefits;
 - c. Community involvement in the siting process.
4. Understand stakeholder and public issues and information needs.
5. Provide a response to issues and adapt activity accordingly.

The Discussion Pack focused primarily on objective 3, by seeking direct feedback on the three topics outlined above.

2.2 Responding to the discussion pack

The online form to receive the responses to the discussion pack was open from 5th November 2010 until 18th February 2011 (initially 11th February 2011).

People who received the discussion pack could respond on the paper form and post it to the Partnership or submit the responses directly via the online form hosted by Dialogue by Design (<http://wcmrwsdiscussionpack.dialoguebydesign.net>).

Submissions received by post were entered into the database by 3KQ (the Partnership's independent facilitator and programme manager).

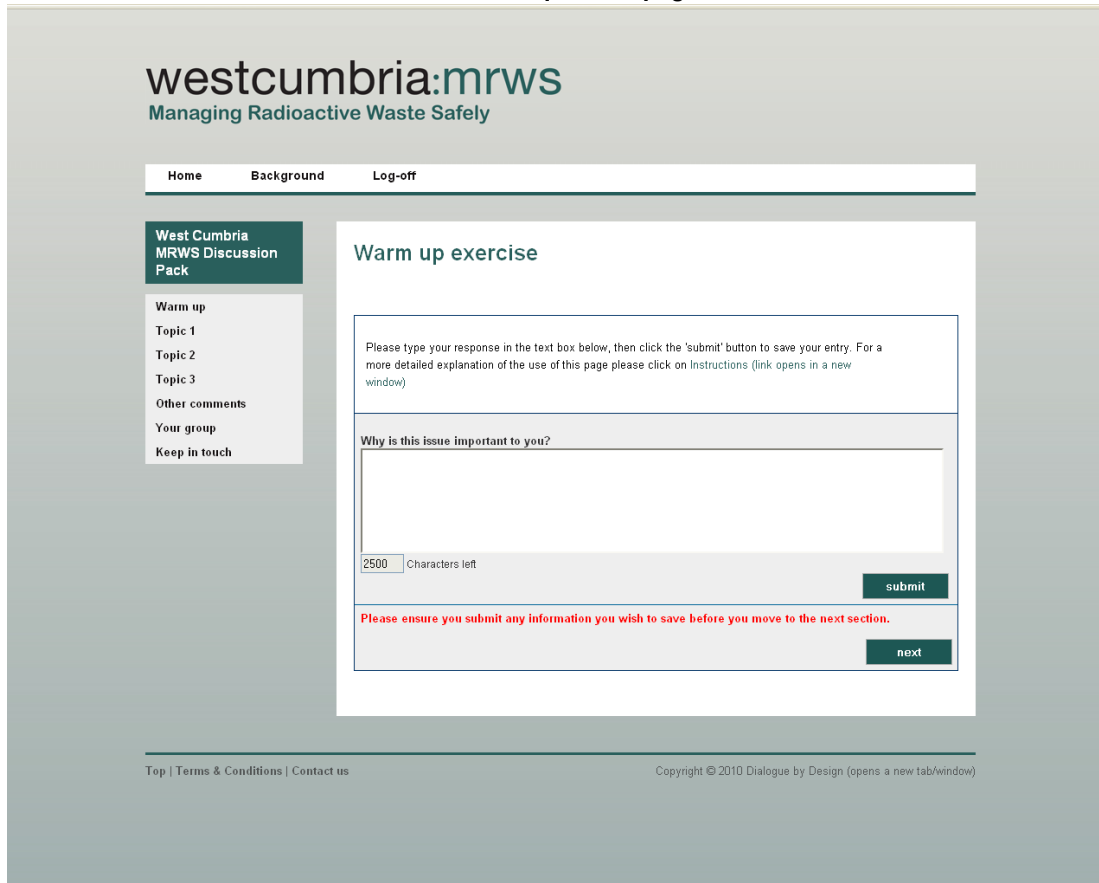
People were directed to an online registration form they had to complete for each individual pack, respondents were logged on to the online form website with a username and password generated at the time of registration.

The website was designed to be easy to use and to enable participants to understand the purpose and ground rules for participating in the survey and how the comments would be used. Participants could easily navigate through the website, and respond to the discussion pack's questions. They could choose to answer all, some or just one of the questions. Submissions were recorded in boxes limited to 2500 characters.

The question pages replicated the structure of the discussion pack: a page for each discussion topic, each including one or several questions, as well as an initial Warm Up question.

Participants could enter their responses in corresponding textboxes. The system enabled respondents to return to the survey website to edit, print or amend their submissions at any time while the online form was open.

Screenshot 2-1: Screenshot of one of website question pages



2.3 Analysis of findings

Working closely with 3KQ, the analysts prepared an initial list of anticipated themes. Codes were allocated to each theme and as the analysts reviewed the responses, every point, issue or concern was identified, recorded and coded.

The overview below explains the meaning of the 15 overarching themes used to analyse the responses to the discussion pack.

Table 2-1: List of themes

Theme	Acronym	Short description
Overall process	OP	Comments about the consultation process
Information	Info	Comments containing or requesting information, follow up needed
Geological disposal	GD	Comments about the idea of geological disposal
Stakeholder views	SHV	Comments about how public and stakeholder views will be taken into account: indicators
General involvement	GI	Comments relating to how the community could be involved
Siting process	SP	Comments about the process to find a potential site
Community benefits	CB	Comments about the idea of community benefits as compensation
Impacts	I	Comments relating to the impacts of the proposed nuclear waste repository

Theme	Acronym	Short description
Design and construction	DC	Comments relating to the design and construction of the proposed nuclear waste repository
Finance / Funding	F	Comments relating to the funding of the proposed infrastructure
Waste inventory	WI	Comments relating to higher activity waste to put into the nuclear waste repository
Location issues	L	Comments about other locations which could host the proposed infrastructure
Geology	Geo	Comments relating to the geological suitability of the area
Related issues	RI	Comments about issues relating to nuclear activity in general
No theme		Other comments

2.4 Reading this report

Throughout Chapter 4 we provide indications of how many respondents hold certain views through the use of words like ‘many’, ‘some’ and ‘a few’. These notions are indicative only and do not express clearly defined ranges of numbers or percentages. The numbers of comments under each heading should be interpreted with caution. For two reasons:

Firstly, it must be emphasised that this was a self-selecting process that anyone could choose to participate in. The outcomes of the feedback will help inform discussions as the Partnership is moving towards making its recommendations to Allerdale, Copeland and Cumbria Councils. It was not an opinion poll (i.e. not a recruited representative sample of people in the County) and the numbers of responses arguing in one direction or another on any issue cannot be seen as generally representative of the population. They indicate only the opinions of those who chose to respond.

Secondly, responses supporting a particular point often include *caveats* to it; similarly, those who challenge a particular point may in fact agree with the central thrust of the question but would like something different in some areas. To get a full and balanced picture of participants’ views it is essential to read their actual responses, given in full in a separate appendix.

Chapter 3 Participation

77 discussion pack responses have been analysed although not all discussions addressed every question. Over 660 people took part.

3.1 Responses to discussion pack issues (Questions 0 to 8)

Table 3-1: Total number of responses to questions 0 to 8

Question	Responses	Question	Responses
Warm up	73	5	72
1	74	6	70
2	69	7	71
3	73	8	62
4	72		

All questions have been evenly responded to by the groups: between 69 and 74 responses received for the “issue” section. It is a good indication that time for each question was well managed by the organisers to allow participants to discuss all questions.

3.2 Responses to “Your Group” questions

The details of the responses by question to “Your Group” chapter are in appendix A1.

Table 3-2: Total number of responses to each question of the section “Your Group”

Question	Responses submitted	Total number of person represented when indicated
Name of organiser (who got this group together for the discussion):	70	N/A
Name of organisation (if relevant):	65	N/A
Number of men who took part in your discussion:	69	340
Number of women who took part in your discussion:	69	321
Number of people aged 17 and under taking part in your discussion:	51	305
Number of people aged 18-25 taking part in your discussion:	56	76
Number of people aged 26-39 taking part in your discussion:	58	54
Number of people aged 40-64 taking part in your discussion:	63	135
Number of people aged 65 and over taking part in your discussion:	53	75
Postcode:	70	N/A
First line of address:	70	N/A

Summing up the number of male and female responses according to the responses of these questions, it can be estimated that more than 660 persons participated in the group discussions.

Participant gender

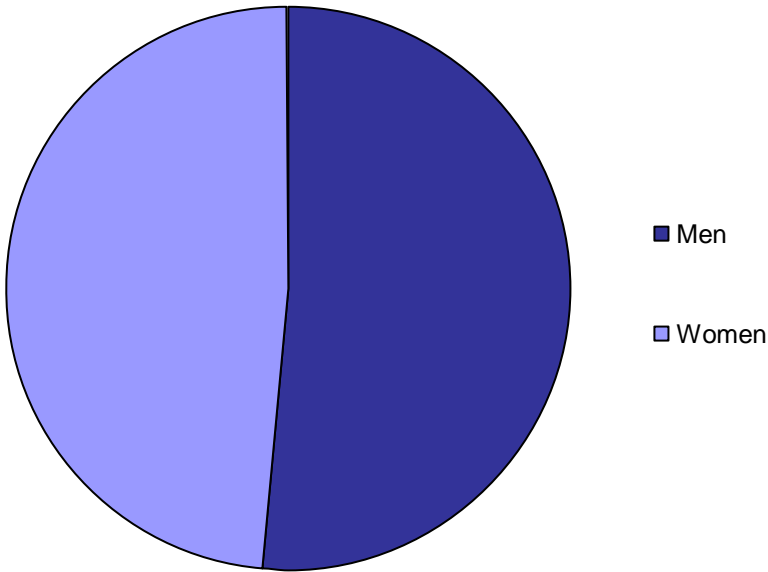


Figure 3-1: Number of men and women participating in the discussion pack. Total number who gave a response to this question: 661

Participant age (years)

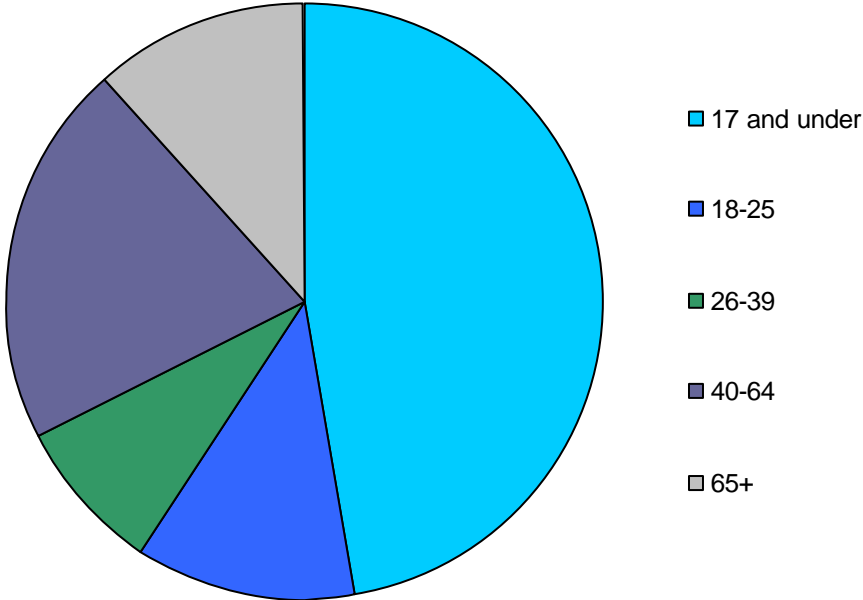


Figure 3-2: Number representing each age group in the discussion packs. Total number who gave a response to this question: 645

All age groups are well represented. However, as can be seen from Figure 3-2, there was a very high proportion of young people aged 17 and under. This is due to the number of school groups who took part in the project.

3.3 Responses to “Keep in touch” questions

40 people stated that they would be happy to be contacted again by the Partnership. The full responses to the “Keep in touch” section will be provided separately to the Partnership to update the stakeholder database.

Chapter 4 Summary of responses question by question

4.1 Warm up: Why is this issue important to you?

73 groups of respondents answered this question.

Groups of respondents provide a wide range of responses to this question. The key issues for wanting to be involved in the process are:

Intergenerational issues / ethics

A repository would be present for thousands of years. Groups of respondents feel it would directly affect the lives of themselves, their children and future generations for the foreseeable future.

Safety

Groups of respondents are concerned that any accident would have the potential to place the local community in danger of death, injury or illness.

Jobs / skills

Groups of respondents anticipate that a disposal facility would bring new jobs to the community and this prospect is welcomed.

Impacts on specific communities / local area

Groups of respondents are interested in the process because they live in Cumbria and they anticipate that a geological disposal facility would affect everyone living in the county.

Environment

Groups of respondents are concerned about any negative effects on the area’s environment

Local business / economy / investment

Groups of respondents are interested in what the potential positive and negative effects on their economy and local businesses might be.

Security / terrorism

Groups of respondents are concerned that a geological disposal facility would make the area more of a target for terrorists and want to ensure that the risk could be adequately dealt with.

Table 4-1: Groups applied to question 0 – warm up question

Group	Count
CB - Comment on decision making power / process	1
CB - Comment on who benefits	2
CB - Necessary / expected	1
CB - Other comment	1
CB - Safeguarding delivery	1
DC - End point / future of facility	1
DC - Monitoring	2
DC - Retrievability / reversibility	2
DC - Size / capacity of facility	2
DC - Transport distance	1
DC - Transport type / infrastructure	1
Editorial note	1
F - General	2
F - Who pays	2
GD - Alternatives / other options	1
GD - May be the best current option	1
GD - Mixed views in the group	1
General / other comment	4
Geo - Comment / question about BGS survey	2
Geo - Geological stability	2
Geo - Mining / extraction	1
Geo - Water table / movement	3
GI - Community need / want to be involved	9
GI - Motivation / apathy	8
GI - Other comment	1
GI - Public information needs	5
GI - Suggestions	1
GI - Uncertain that public views will make a difference	1
I - During construction	3
I - Environment	23
I - General comment	3
I - Health	11
I - Infrastructure	3
I - Intergenerational issues / ethics	35
I - Jobs / skills	26
I - Leisure / tourism	9
I - Local business / economy / investment	16
I - National Park / AONB	2
I - On specific communities / local area	24
I - Other specific impact	2

I - Perception issues	3
I - Property value / insurance	2
I - Safety	29
I - Security / terrorism	11
I - Transport impacts	1
I - Visual impact	3
Info - Area of uncertainty	5
Info - Other comment	9
Info - Reference document / external source	1
Info - Requested	2
L - Location specific	3
L - National / rest of UK	7
No comment	1
OP - Consultation - challenge	2
OP - Consultation - comment on materials	2
OP - Decision is inevitable	9
OP - Final decision making power	2
OP - General challenge	2
OP - General support	2
OP - Government - challenge MRWS process	2
OP - Partnership - other comment	1
OP - Partnership - timescales / decision time	1
RI - Current waste storage situation	4
RI - History of nuclear industry locally	8
RI - National energy mix / policy	2
RI - New build	1
RI - Nirex / previous process	3
RI - Reprocessing	1
SHV - Accountability / evidence / transparency	1
SHV - Don't know - should count	1
SHV - Net support - challenge	1
SHV - Net support - comment	1
SHV - Process suggestions / concerns	1
SP - Definition of community	1
SP - Other comment	1
WI - Definition of higher activity waste	1
WI - What should / might go in	5

4.2 Question 1: What do you think about the indicators we have suggested? Please explain if you particularly agree or disagree with any of them

74 groups of respondents answered this question.

The Partnership proposed four draft indicators to help them use public and stakeholder views.

1. **Net support** from the West Cumbrian public

2. **Broad support** from the key organisations engaged by the Partnership, such as local councils, community interest groups, parish councils, and so on.
3. Evidence that **concerns raised have been or will be addressed**, including providing an explanation if specific concerns have not been addressed.
4. Evidence that **reasons for opposing or supporting the recommendation have been identified, understood and taken into account** in reaching our conclusions.

A minority of groups of respondents offer either general support for the four indicators, support them with caveats, challenge them or make comments.

Net Support indicator

The majority of respondent groups do not express clear opinions on the Net Support indicator. Of the small proportion that do, slightly more challenge the suggested method of applying it than support it. These groups of respondents are most concerned about the idea of judging the indicator by a sample. There is unease over how representative it would be and how the sample group could be fairly selected. A number advocate a system where everyone would get a vote, such as a referendum.

Nine groups of respondents think that it is okay to discount 'do not knows' from the process while five state that 'do not knows' should be counted. A further 16 groups of respondents make comments. A number of these feel that not counting 'don't knows' could become particularly controversial if a significant proportion of those surveyed were to give a 'do not know' response. Many are worried that a high proportion of 'do not knows' would possibly indicate that the public had not had enough information given to them in order to comment, rather than that they simply had no strong opinion either way.

Comments include the suggestion that a survey should be undertaken for the whole of Cumbria, not just West Cumbria, and that there is some lack of clarity between the terms 'Net Support and 'Broad Support'. One group suggest that the terms are contradictory.

Broad Support indicator

The majority of respondent groups do not express clear opinions on the Broad Support indicator. Of the small proportion that do, more challenge the indicator than support it with or without caveat. Those that challenge this indicator broadly do so on the grounds that there needs to be more transparency, so that the public understand how the Partnership will analyse and interpret comments they receive from these organisations using the 'quality and strength of evidence and argument' criteria they have set out; and that these organisations are not representative of all members of the community. Some suggest that responses should be made available for public access. Those that support it with a caveat state that they have some concerns about the potential impartiality of key organisations, as it is felt that they may have a vested interest in supporting the proposals.

Indicators 3 and 4

As with the Net Support and Broad Support indicators, a very small proportion of respondent groups clearly express their opinion on indicators 3 and 4. Similar numbers support and challenge these proposed indicators. Challenges are based on the feeling that the indicators are vague, and that it will be difficult for the Partnership to show that they have been met properly. Some say that there needs to

be more transparency on information about these indicators, as currently it is hard to fully understand them and their meaning. However, it is also stated that they are clearly very necessary.

Table 4-2: Groups applied to question 1

Group	Count
Editorial note	1
F - Engagement	2
GD - Alternatives / other options	3
GD - Challenge the idea	1
Geo - Comment / question about BGS survey	1
GI - Involvement in specific decision	1
GI - Involvement of specific groups	21
GI - Public information needs	29
GI - Timing of involvement	3
GI - Uncertain that public views will make a difference	5
I - Environment	1
I - General comment	2
I - Safety	4
I - Security / terrorism	1
I - Sustainability / long term impacts / future proofing	1
Info - Area of uncertainty	4
Info - Other comment	1
Info - Requested	7
L - International	1
L - National / rest of UK	1
No response	1
OP - Consultation - challenge	1
OP - Consultation - comment on materials	3
OP - Consultation - comment on process	9
OP - Consultation - comment on specific strand	1
OP - Decision is inevitable	2
OP - Final decision making power	2
OP - General challenge	1
OP - Overall timescales	3
OP - Partnership - other comment	1
OP - What happens if no one volunteers	2
Refer to other question	1
RI - Current waste storage situation	1
RI - History of nuclear industry locally	1
RI - National energy mix / policy	1
RI - Nirex / previous process	3
SHV - 3 and 4 - challenge	5
SHV - 3 and 4 - comment	9
SHV - 3 and 4 - support	3
SHV - 3 and 4 - support with caveat	1
SHV - Accountability / evidence / transparency	35
SHV - Broad support - challenge	12

SHV - Broad support - comment	14
SHV - Broad support - support	7
SHV - Broad support - support with caveat	2
SHV - Don't knows - comment	16
SHV - Don't knows - ok to discount	9
SHV - Don't knows - should count	5
SHV - Indic - challenge	5
SHV - Indic - comment	3
SHV - Indic - support / look fine	8
SHV - Indic - support with caveat	7
SHV - Net support - challenge	10
SHV - Net support - comment	19
SHV - Net support - support	7
SHV - Other comment	1
SHV - Other indicator suggestions	6
SHV - Process suggestions / concerns	28
SHV - Validity / representativeness	27
WI - What should / might go in	1

4.3 Question 2: Are there any other indicators that you think should be considered to judge how well we have used public views in making our final recommendations?

69 groups of respondents answered this question.

In response to this question only a small number of groups of respondents state that they have no further indicators to suggest, but equally, only a similarly small number put forward alternative or additional indicators for consideration. The majority of responses deal with the process and the consultation more generally.

Suggested other indicators

Of the additional indicators put forward there is a suggestion to analyse the number of questionnaire responses received against the total population of the West Cumbria area. Another suggestion is that indicator 1 'Net support from the West Cumbrian public' should be widened to cover the whole of Cumbria, not just West Cumbria, on the basis that this area would also be impacted by a facility. There is a demand for the indicators themselves to be independently reviewed. One respondent challenges the indicators proposed, claiming that the guidance of the Government White Paper that 'Credible Local Support' be used as an indicator has been forgotten, and that consequently the process is not in line with the White Paper's requirements.

"One indicator is obviously the number of questionnaires that are returned to you, compared with the size of the population."

Engagement process

Groups of respondents who make more general comments regarding the engagement process mainly suggest a variety of different ways that it could be publicised and who should be encouraged to take part. These issues will be tackled in greater depth in question 6 ‘What needs to happen to involve the community if the process to find a potential site in West Cumbria continues?’ Others suggest different methods that could be used to monitor and compare both response rates and differences in level of support across different parts of the county.

A number of groups of respondents discuss how the process can be made representative and valid, and how the Partnership can ensure accountability and transparency of the engagement process. One suggested way that the Partnership could demonstrate this is by commissioning separate research to assess the extent to which people were informed and able to respond, and how effective the communication methods used by the Partnership have been. Another approach would be to have evidence examined in public.

Some suggest that feedback needs to come from a full representative cross-section of society that adequately captures the different demographic categories, as well as the geographical spread of the population. Others disagree on whether everybody in the region should, or needs to, respond. Some think they should, but others point out that some areas would be less affected, or that potential respondents might perceive that they would be less affected. There is a suggestion that residents of areas that have already been ruled out of contention, due to factors such as unsuitable geology, should not have their comments treated with as much attention as those from areas that could still potentially be chosen as a proposed location for a repository.

“Area/post code assessments of where the consultations have been held, this would evidence that a cross section of West Cumbria people had expressed their opinions.”

Others are interested in knowing the number of respondents who work at the Sellafield site, and some suggest that there should be a voting process, as this would have more credibility than a representative survey.

Lack of information

A considerable number of groups of respondents make it clear that they do not think that they have been given enough information with which to make a full decision, or that they think that not enough people were made aware of the process. Some suggest methods of publicising it.

“Some more promotion of the activity to tell people what is going on; not many people seem to know about it. Do work in schools; advertise; get the most interesting points in front of people.”

Table 4-3: Groups applied to question 2

Group	Count
Geo - Geological stability	3
GI - Awareness / knowledge	10
GI - Community need / want to be involved	1
GI - Involvement of specific groups	11
GI - Motivation / apathy	2
GI - Public information needs	23
GI - Referenda	5

GI - Timing of involvement	1
GI - Uncertain that public views will make a difference	3
I - On specific communities / local area	1
I - Visual impact	1
Info - Reference document / external source	1
L - International	1
No response	1
OP - Consultation - challenge	3
OP - Consultation - comment on materials	1
OP - Consultation - comment on process	4
OP - Decision is inevitable	1
OP - Final decision making power	1
OP - Government - challenge MRWS process	2
Refer to other question	2
RI - New build	1
RI - Nirex / previous process	1
RI - Other consultations	1
SHV - Accountability / evidence / transparency	8
SHV - Broad support - comment	4
SHV - Don't knows - comment	2
SHV - Don't knows - should count	1
SHV - Indic - comment	2
SHV - Net support - comment	3
SHV - No other indicators to suggest	6
SHV - Other indicator suggestions	7
SHV - Process suggestions / concerns	29
SHV - Suggest indicator not related to public views	2
SHV - Validity / representativeness	14
SP - Definition of community	1
SP - Suggestions	2
WI - What should / might go in	1

4.4 Question 3: Are there any impacts that you feel strongly about or that you think we have missed? Please explain.

73 groups of respondents answered this question.

Groups of respondents outline a range of impacts that are important to them or that they feel have been missed.

Safety and security

The primary concern is safety. This relates to both the safety of a geological disposal facility itself in terms of ensuring that no hazardous waste could leak out of the facility as a result of the design, and also to the potential risk of human error from staff running the facility. Some feel that it is difficult to assure that a facility would be suitably managed and maintained in the very distant future. Others are

concerned about the safety impacts on the wider area. This includes the ability of surrounding infrastructure, such as roads and hospitals, to cope should a radioactive accident occur, as well as on a day-to-day level with the transportation of waste through the local area.

“Missed out the overall safety of the site. Not just about Health & Safety, and not just about geological positioning, but do we have the expertise to manage this safely for 1000’s of years.”

A number of groups of respondents are concerned by the potential health and safety impacts for the general public and those working at a facility. Some suggest that the health impacts to the local population in close proximity to radioactive materials needs to be considered more carefully. A significant number of groups of respondents are concerned that the presence of a repository would make the area an increased target for terrorist activity, and therefore suggest that appropriate security arrangements should be considered.

Impact on tourism

Leisure and tourism is seen as an important alternative industry within the local area, especially the Lake District region, and it is felt that the impact on it needs to be fully considered. Most groups of respondents who forecast the impact on tourism expect a repository to lead to a reduction in the number of people visiting the area.

“Impact on tourism and the perception of the area being a nuclear dump future tourism needs - need to mitigate those future impacts on tourism. Working in partnership with tourism.”

A number of groups of respondents raise the issue of how a facility might impact on perceptions of West Cumbria. There is a concern that it might give the area a negative image and again this could damage industries such as tourism or make it seem a less attractive place for existing and prospective new residents.

Environment

The impact of geological disposal on the environment is something that many groups of respondents address. While many simply state ‘environment’ without providing further detail, others provide specific aspects that they are concerned about. Some are concerned about the impact on wildlife, particularly during the construction phase, while others are concerned about issues such as where the large amount of spoil extracted from the ground would go. A few mention watercourses, while others wonder about the carbon footprint of the construction.

“Threat to local wildlife was also raised as a concern - how could it be protected”

Groups of respondents also think that the visual impact of a facility is an important issue. Some are interested in how a facility itself would look while others are interested in its impact on the wider area, particularly how it might negatively impact on the area’s ability to attract tourists.

“They saw mainly negative impacts on the environment: the site during construction and when in operation was a potential eyesore”

Infrastructure and traffic impacts

Some groups of respondents mention impacts on infrastructure. Many think that there should be improvements to local infrastructure in order to accommodate a facility, as existing provision is seen to be insufficient. This includes roads and rail lines that would be used to transport materials and staff to the site, as well as infrastructure capable of handling emergency situations, such as hospitals.

Transport impacts are addressed by a significant number of groups of respondents. Many are concerned by the likely increase in traffic on roads. Groups of respondents identify three key aspects: construction traffic while a facility is built, workers travelling to the site to work, and waste material being transferred to the facility. Some are worried about congestion whilst others feel that many roads are too narrow to adequately support the types, and volumes, of vehicles that would use them. Some state that the road network must be upgraded before construction of a repository could begin.

“Traffic problems: narrow roads can they cope with construction traffic and lorries carrying dangerous materials. Create new roads, could be more disruption but better long term infrastructure.”

Impact of construction period

Concerns about the impact of the construction period centre on various disturbances that groups of respondents anticipate for communities, especially those living within close proximity to the site itself. These include noise, mess, dust, disturbance and construction traffic. Others are concerned about how the influx of large numbers of temporary workers and how the impacts of this would be managed. Some note that any chosen location would be quiet and lightly populated, and therefore the arrival of such a facility cannot help but radically alter the nature of its surrounding area. Again, a number of groups of respondents query where spoil and waste arising from the construction process would go.

Population

The impact of the population is raised by a number of groups of respondents. They suggest that there are likely to be huge fluctuations in the population as workers come and go as a site is developed, and that this needs to be managed effectively to ensure local services could cope, as well as to limit the chance of social and cultural tensions developing. There are some concerns that the local community might lose its identity.

“Some discussion around changes to the local population - would this be long term or short term, and what might the cultural implications of this be? The group could once again see positive and negative effects - problems with demands for housing, effect on house prices, 'new' cultures coming into West Cumbria?”

Impacts on local economy

Groups of respondents discuss the likely impacts of a repository for the local economy but do not agree on whether it would have a positive or negative impact. Many are keen to see an influx of new workers who would spend money in local shops and services. It is hoped that this in turn could attract new businesses to invest in the area. However, some think that economic growth would be short-term, rather than sustainable. Others fear that the impact on the tourism sector would reinforce the local economy's dependence on the nuclear industry.

“Most thought there would be a beneficial impact on the local economy and strongly welcomed this. They saw benefits both from the massive construction level of construction and the ongoing operation of the site in terms of employment development. However, there were some who-making a link to their

environmental concerns- felt that there would be a reduction in tourism brought about by the site construction and then its very presence which would damage the local economy overall.”

Jobs and skills

Many groups of respondents discuss the impact of a repository on jobs and skills. Most expect it to create new jobs and this is strongly welcomed. However, a significant proportion of groups of respondents are unsure how many of these would go to local people. Some feel that local people should get first preference in recruitment.

Housing

Groups of respondents think that the potential impact of a geological disposal facility on the cost and availability of housing is an important impact that needs to be considered. While some think that house prices would fall because a facility would make the area a less desirable place to live, others think that the influx of workers would push prices up.

Table 4-4: Groups applied to question 3

Group	Count
CB - Challenge idea	2
CB - Comment on delivery	3
CB - Comment on who benefits	3
CB - Community benefits are necessary / expected	1
CB - Safeguarding delivery	2
DC - Co-location of specific facilities	1
DC - Other	1
DC - Retrievability / reversibility	1
DC - Size / capacity of facility	2
DC - Timing of build / elements	1
DC - Transport distance	1
DC - Transport type / infrastructure	1
F - General	1
F - Who pays	1
GD - Challenge the idea	1
Geo - Climate change impacts	8
Geo - Comment / question about BGS survey	1
Geo - Geological stability	13
Geo - Mining / extraction	5
Geo - Undersea build	1
Geo - Water table / movement	1
GI - Motivation / apathy	1
GI - Public information needs	2
I - Assessing impacts	3
I - During construction	19
I - Environment	29
I - General comment	3
I - Health	11
I - Infrastructure changes / implications	15
I - Interactions with other developments	2

I - Intergenerational issues / ethics	6
I - Jobs / skills	26
I - Leisure / tourism	29
I - Local business / economy / investment	18
I - National Park / AONB	3
I - Noise	5
I - On specific communities / local area	11
I - Other socioeconomic concerns	5
I - Other specific impact	4
I - Perception issues	14
I - Population	15
I - Property value / insurance	17
I - Safety	36
I - Schools	1
I - Security / terrorism	18
I - Sustainability / long term impacts	5
I - Transport impacts	26
I - Visual impact	17
Info - More research needed	1
Info - Other comment	2
Info - Requested	4
L - National / rest of UK	3
No comment	2
OP - Consultation - comment on materials	1
OP - Consultation - comment on process	1
OP - Consultation - comment on specific strand	1
OP - Final decision making power	1
OP - Government - challenge MRWS process	1
OP - Overall timescales	1
OP - Partnership - other comment	1
Refer to other question	1
RI - History of nuclear industry locally	7
RI - National energy mix / policy	3
RI - Nirex / previous process	2
SP - Challenge proposed approach	1
SP - Comment on proposed approach	1
SP - Timescales	1

4.5 Question 4: What do you think about the idea of receiving community benefits for having this kind of facility in West Cumbria?

72 groups of respondents answered this question.

Support

Approximately two-thirds of groups of respondents support the idea of receiving community benefits or support it with a caveat. Some groups of respondents state that they consider community benefits to be absolutely necessary as a condition of a facility being built. Around a third of groups of respondents challenge the concept.

“The group as a whole felt this was reasonable - 'We're taking the risk in having this facility so we should be compensated for it'.”

Challenge

The majority of those who challenge the idea use the words 'bribe' and make clear that they feel that it is simply a method to get people to support a project that they might otherwise not want. Those that supported the idea with caveats feel that the benefits must be in addition to other improvements such as infrastructure development that would also be needed, and that they must outweigh any negative impacts caused by a facility. Some suggest that while they don't necessarily want a facility to be constructed, they would rather take the benefits than not.

Approach

It is suggested that the benefits must be ring-fenced so that the local population could have the security that promises would be kept, that community benefits cannot be stopped or renege upon once construction of a facility has begun, or if there is a change of government.

Groups of respondents broadly feel that the area eligible to receive community benefits should be wide, covering the whole county rather than being limited to the area directly around the chosen site. A couple suggest that the directly adjacent area could perhaps have a claim to a higher level of benefits than the wider area generally. Alternatively it is suggested that there could be a separate, additional fund specifically for the directly affected community.

“It was also discussed that this needs to extend beyond the immediate vicinity. Comparisons were made to Drigg and the small number of beneficiaries and it was felt to be wrong to focus benefit on such a small population.”

It is felt that funding should be distributed fairly so that everyone benefits, and that it should not be swallowed up by local authorities or lost in bureaucracy.

Many groups of respondents state that community benefits either need to begin, or be announced, before the construction process gets underway. Others discuss how long into the future these benefits could be expected for. A number feel that benefits should continue over a very long term period, perhaps for the life of the facility, or for the life of the current population.

Desired community benefits

Groups of respondents suggest improvement to the area's general infrastructure as a suitable use of investment from the community benefits. Specific examples include the transport network, particularly roads, as well as facilities such as hospitals that would improve the lives of local residents.

“Strengthening the infrastructure will/could enable the community to do stuff with the infrastructure.”

It is hoped that people would be able to take advantage of improvements in local infrastructure to benefit themselves socio-economically. Some groups of respondents hope that a facility would create new employment opportunities in the area, and it is suggested that a desirable community benefit would be an increase in training and apprenticeship schemes that would enable local people to access these new jobs and therefore lower local unemployment.

Some groups of respondents would prefer that local people are given financial benefits instead. Many feel that this should be allocated directly to individuals or household and consist of either a lump sum of cash or remuneration in the form of free or reduced price electricity and council tax.

“It was suggested that each household in West Cumbria gets £1,000.”

Table 4-5: Groups applied to question 4

Group	Count
CB - Challenge idea	25
CB - Comment on decision making power	6
CB - Comment on delivery	2
CB - Comment on funding	5
CB - Comment on timescales	11
CB - Comment on who benefits	16
CB - Community benefits are necessary / expected	7
CB - Other comment	10
CB - Safeguarding delivery	12
CB - Suggestions - community services	1
CB - Suggestions - financial	7
CB - Suggestions - health and fitness	1
CB - Suggestions - infrastructure	10
CB - Suggestions - other	2
CB - Suggestions - socioeconomic	8
CB - Suggestions - youth	1
CB - Support idea	24
CB - Support idea with caveat	20
I - Intergenerational issues / ethics	1
I - Jobs / skills	2
I - Leisure / tourism	4
I - National Park / AONB	1
I - Perception issues	1
I - Property value	2
I - Socioeconomics	2
Info - Area of uncertainty	16
Info - Requested	2
No comment	2
Refer to other question	2

4.6 Question 5: What kinds of benefits would you want us to have in mind in our discussions with the Government?

72 groups of respondents answered this question.

Infrastructure

Improvements to West Cumbria's infrastructure is the most desired community benefit. Groups of respondents give details of a range of different specific developments they would like to see.

The most popular within these is improvements to the region's transport system. There is a desire for the improvement and upgrading of roads in the area, including the construction of dual carriageways and bypasses, as well as simply improving the condition of existing routes. Many people also see public transport as an area ripe for investment. There is a desire for faster, more regular, and cheaper transport around the county, especially in relation to bus travel, but also the rail network. Such improvements are seen as particularly benefiting those living in more rural areas. A number of groups of respondents stress the need to make sure that these improvements link effectively with others provided outside of the county. Other transport infrastructure suggested includes an airport, and a port.

"Transport infrastructure as ours is so weak. Both road and rail. This would encourage other industry to the area. It takes a long time to get to West Cumbria from the motorway and main train stations. It makes it difficult and can be a disincentive for people visiting and moving to the area. It's also makes it costly to travel around the county."

Groups of respondents are also keen to see new and improved schools and hospitals as well as better-funded emergency services. Many would also like to see a significant investment in new, affordable housing and public sector housing stock. This is seen as a way to specifically aid the least well-off and young people priced out of the housing market.

Economy, jobs and training

Some would like to see the investment used to encourage both existing businesses to move to the county, as well as investing in new business start-ups. Groups of respondents hope that this would lead to a more diverse economy. Another key suggestion that could help achieve this objective is to improve broadband internet access for West Cumbrians.

Many groups of respondents think that the local area needs more jobs and a number suggest that the community benefit money should be used to create new employment opportunities, both high and low skilled. Many also state that it is important that the positions at a facility would be accessible to local people. In order to do this the need for investment in training the workforce is highlighted. Groups of respondents suggest investment in apprenticeships, new specialist training facilities and an increased range of courses, particularly vocational ones, available to those attending local schools and colleges.

"Training to be in place to ensure skills there to get people jobs which are developed;"

Other groups of respondents think that investment should also go into broadening the economy of West Cumbria by investing in training not related to the nuclear industry. Some suggest that particular industries could be focussed on, in order to develop new specialisms within the local economy. A

number of groups of respondents suggest that investment should not be limited to people and that there should also be funding made available to help new, expanding and struggling local businesses. It is also suggested that there be a campaign to encourage people to support local businesses and produce.

“Higher Education - more courses & sites within Cumbria. Not all courses linked to nuclear industry - look to develop other areas of expertise. Also make bursaries for HE available to local students - especially in view of recently announced higher tuition fees.”

Some groups of respondents advocate the giving of grants to local students who attend higher education.

Amenities

Other changes that groups of respondents would like to see in their communities include improved entertainment and retail facilities. Some simply say they would like a broader range of shops, while some suggest constructing new facilities such as shopping centres. Suggested entertainment facilities include cinemas and youth clubs. Another idea is the building of facilities that might attract tourists and visitors as well as locals, such as water parks. Some groups of respondents are particularly interested in making the area more attractive to young people and it is hoped that such developments might encourage more to remain in the area, rather than moving away.

“Local amenities: local playpark for children, 'better range of shops' (eg Primark). Money to be contributed to local cultural festivals and events”

Beyond these suggestions, there are many groups of respondents who single out sport and leisure facilities as an area to invest in. Sports centres, swimming pools and sports pitches are all suggested, along with a request that rural areas, and not just towns, benefit from this investment.

A number of groups of respondents suggest that some of the community benefit money should be made available to support and encourage community groups. It is suggested that a central fund could be created for groups to apply to for funding.

Financial benefits

A number of groups of respondents suggest that there should be financial community benefits. A couple of groups of respondents advocate compensation for those who lose income or property value as a result of the disposal facility, or lump sums paid to local authorities. However, the vast majority of those who suggest financial benefits focus their attention on the idea of providing all households with free or reduced cost utilities, particularly energy and / or council tax rates.

“Financial assistance for electricity bills- particularly for the elderly- seen as a very fair thing to do. 1 person pointed out young people living independently also struggle with these costs.”

Table 4-6: Groups applied to question 5

Group	Count
CB - Challenge idea	5
CB - Comment on decision making power	6
CB - Comment on timescales	3
CB - Comment on who benefits	4

CB - Other comment	3
CB - Safeguarding delivery	7
CB - Suggestions - education / work / training	43
CB - Suggestions - financial	21
CB - Suggestions - health and fitness	14
CB - Suggestions - infrastructure	48
CB - Suggestions - other	9
CB - Suggestions - socioeconomic	28
CB - Suggestions - youth	10
CB - Support idea with caveat	1
I - Environment	3
I - Geology	1
I - Health	1
I - Intergenerational issues / ethics	3
I - Jobs / skills	5
I - Leisure / tourism	9
I - Local business / economy / investment	1
I - On specific communities / local area	2
I - Other socioeconomic concerns	1
I - Perception issues	1
I - Property value / insurance	4
I - Safety	2
I - Visual impact	1
Info - More research needed	2
Info - Other comment	2
No comment	3
OP - Partnership - mandate	2
Refer to other question	3
RI - National energy mix / policy	1
RI - Nirex / previous process	1

4.7 Question 6: What needs to happen to involve the community if the process to find a potential site in West Cumbria continues?

70 groups of respondents answered this question.

Awareness

A number of groups of respondents suggest that the majority of the local population are still unaware of the proposals for a geological disposal facility and suggest that there should have been more publicity. A large number of groups of respondents suggest a wide range of approaches to publicity that they would like to see used. These include use of television and radio, print media, outreach visits to community groups and schools, and the internet.

“Awareness raising is important. 9 out of 10 didn't know about the issue before today's session. TV campaign and adverts could get the message over. General feeling that people would want a say and to be involved if they knew.”

Need for more information

Groups of respondents raise a number of issues about which they would like more information, or suggest information which they think they need to be given for them to be able to fully participate in the process. A number suggest that access to independent advice for communities, as well as access to independent experts' recommendations to the Partnership, would be valuable. Some also suggest that it might be useful to visit an existing facility similar to the one proposed, possibly abroad, to see one first-hand.

"Information in understandable terms. Funding to support independent advice and representation."

Some participants feel that there needs to be more information available before they are able to comment fully. This includes information about both the national search for a suitable location for geological disposal, and the specific process in West Cumbria. A number of groups of respondents think that the written documentation should be made as simple as possible to read and understand. However, some make it clear that they still think it is important to provide technical information.

Others think that there needs to be more information about the decision making process, both the aspects still to come and how the process has worked so far. This includes confirmation of the 'right to withdraw' clause. Some would like the public to be shown that other areas of the country have been considered and why those other areas were ruled out. Others would like to know which sites in West Cumbria are under consideration.

Some state that they would like there to be more information on the health and safety risks to people living in close proximity to such a facility, while others would like more information about how it is proposed to transport waste to the site.

Engagement

A significant number of groups of respondents make it clear that they consider an ongoing engagement process to be paramount to the site selection process. A number reiterate comments above about different methods of getting people engaged, while others suggest the need for face-to-face dialogue between members of the public and councillors, national agencies and other key decision makers.

A number of groups of respondents suggest that referenda could, or should, be used to ensure that the local population's view on hosting a geological waste disposal facility is captured in a way that is accurate and representative.

"Holding ballots was discussed - how viable was this? It was felt it would give a more realistic view of how people felt."

Groups of respondents who referred to the public's interest in engaging with this process broadly feel that involvement levels would increase as, and if, the project progresses. This might be due to both increased awareness over time and because people would feel that the issues are more pressing and substantive. A number feel that a key stage for getting people engaged would be if or when a list of potential sites were announced.

In terms of specific groups that participants feel need to be involved in the process, children and young people are mentioned as it is felt they are not particularly engaged at present, yet they would be the generation who would potentially be most impacted by it. A number also state that it is important that the wider community is consulted on the plans. A few support this but also suggest that the immediate community around any potential site should also be subject to an additional, more detailed, engagement process.

“Children and teenagers... – as they will have to live with it.”

Table 4-7: Groups applied to question 6

Group	Count
CB - Challenge idea	1
CB - Comment on timescales	2
CB - Comment on who benefits	6
CB - Necessary / expected	1
CB - Safeguarding delivery	2
DC - Co-location of specific facilities	1
General / other comment	2
GI - Awareness / knowledge	46
GI - Community need / want to be involved	2
GI - Engagement process	24
GI - Involvement in specific decision	3
GI - Involvement of specific groups	7
GI - Motivation / apathy	8
GI - Other comment	1
GI - Public information needs	15
GI - Referenda	8
GI - Roles / responsibilities	1
GI - Suggestions	2
GI - Timing of involvement	2
GI - Uncertain that public views will make a difference	2
I - On specific communities / local area	1
I - Transport impacts	2
Info - More research needed	1
Info - Requested	1
L - International	1
No response	4
OP - Consultation - challenge	2
OP - Consultation - comment on process	3
OP - Consultation - comment on specific strand	4
OP - Consultation - support	1
OP - Decision is inevitable	1
OP - General challenge	2
OP - Government - challenge MRWS process	1
Refer to other question	1
RI - Nirex / previous process	2
SHV - Validity / representativeness	2

SP - Challenge proposed approach	2
SP - Comment on proposed approach	2
SP - Definition of community	4
SP - Other comment	1
SP - Other cons - compulsory purchase / relocation	1
SP - Suggestions	1
SP - Timescales	2

4.8 Question 7: What kinds of things other than geological suitability should be considered when looking for a potential site, if the process continues?

71 groups of respondents answered this question.

Safety

Groups of respondents think that the safety of a facility is an important consideration, both in terms of its operations and any impact on the safety of local people.

It is important to take into consideration how close a potential site would be to housing and schools. Groups of respondents suggest that it should be as far from dwellings as possible, and certainly away from areas of higher population density.

“Locate away from highly populated areas.”

Environment and visual impact

A number of groups of respondents raise the issue of environmental impacts. Many simply state that they think environmental issues should be taken into consideration. Those who do provide examples and further information mention its level of environmental friendliness, its contribution to pollution and global warming, potential negative impacts for local wildlife and livestock, impacts on flora and fauna, and potential impacts on groundwater.

Also important to groups of respondents is the issue of visual impact. Themes included how big the above-ground part of a facility would be, how this might impact on the attractiveness of its surroundings, particularly if near areas of beauty, and whether these impacts could be lessened.

Traffic and transport

The impacts on traffic and the local transport system are a major concern for groups of respondents. The biggest issue that they think needs to be considered is the method for transporting waste to a chosen site, and the need to carefully consider whether the site could be accessed satisfactorily by road and rail to ensure that this task could be carried out with the least risk possible.

“Transportation of the waste, its route, suitability of that route”

Security

Another risk that some groups of respondents suggest needs to be fully taken into account is the security risk, particularly in relation to terrorism, that the proposed facility might pose.

Economy and businesses

Groups of respondents think that the impact on the economy and local businesses is also particularly worth taking into account. Concerns include the effect on current land use near a prospective site and those that use it, especially farmers. Also of concern is the potential impact on tourism, particularly in the Lake District, with the possibility of a facility deterring visitors.

Construction period

Groups of respondents think that the impacts during the construction phase should be taken into account. There are concerns about noise, dust and general disruption to the lives of nearby communities while this phase takes place.

“The expected levels of pollution including traffic noise and the level of disruption to the chosen area caused by construction and site traffic when it was operational should also be factored into site selection in terms of where impacts would be least damaging.”

Level of local support

A number of groups of respondents state that the level of local support that the development receives should be taken into consideration. Some think that community support is essential and that no facility should be built without this approval.

Table 4-8: Groups applied to question 7

Group	Count
CB - Comment on who benefits	5
DC - End point / future of facility	3
DC - Flexibility	1
DC - Monitoring	1
DC - Retrievability / reversibility	1
DC - Transport distance	1
DC - Transport type / infrastructure / accessibility	5
DC - What will it look like	2
Editorial note	1
F - General	1
GD - Alternatives / other options	3
GD - Need case	1
General / other comment	1
Geo - Climate change impacts	6
Geo - Geological stability	12
Geo - Hydrology	1
Geo - Mining / extraction	5
Geo - More detailed survey / information	1
Geo - Undersea build	1
Geo - Water table / movement	1
GI - Engagement process	1
GI - Involvement in specific decision	3
GI - Involvement of specific groups	3
GI - Public information needs	6

GI - Roles / responsibilities	1
I - Environment	5
I - Health	1
I - Intergenerational issues / ethics	1
I - Other socioeconomic concerns	1
I - Property value / insurance	1
I - Safety	4
I - Security / terrorism	1
I - Sustainability / long term impacts / future proofing	4
I - Visual impact	2
Info - Reference document / external source	1
Info - Requested	3
L - International	4
L - Location specific	3
No comment	1
No response	3
OP - Consultation - comment on materials	1
OP - Final decision making power	1
OP - What happens if no one volunteers or not in Cumbria	1
RI - Nirex / previous process	2
SHV - Validity / representativeness	1
SP - Challenge proposed approach	2
SP - Comment on proposed approach	1
SP - Definition of community	1
SP - Other cons - compensation	6
SP - Other cons - compulsory purchase / relocation	5
SP - Other cons - dealing with influx of workers	1
SP - Other cons - designated areas	3
SP - Other cons - during construction	8
SP - Other cons - environmental	16
SP - Other cons - health	3
SP - Other cons - house / land prices	5
SP - Other cons - jobs / skills	4
SP - Other cons - land ownership / useage	4
SP - Other cons - leisure / tourism	6
SP - Other cons - level of public support	8
SP - Other cons - local business / economy / investment	11
SP - Other cons - local services / facilities	4
SP - Other cons - local socioeconomic profile	2
SP - Other cons - name of site	1
SP - Other cons - National Park / AONB	1
SP - Other cons - noise	4
SP - Other cons - none beyond geology	1
SP - Other cons - perception issues	2
SP - Other cons - population density	11
SP - Other cons - potential for visual improvement	1
SP - Other cons - proximity to houses / schools	11

SP - Other cons - proximity to other facilities	4
SP - Other cons - safety	13
SP - Other cons - secondary blight	1
SP - Other cons - security / terrorism	8
SP - Other cons - traffic / transport	18
SP - Other cons - visual impact	10
SP - Other cons - waste packaging requirements	1
SP - Timescales	1
WI - What should / might go in	3
WI - Where it comes from	3

4.9 Question 8: Any other comments?

62 groups of respondents answered this question.

Groups of respondents use this question to make a wide-range of comments. No issues are especially prominent and comments made broadly re-iterate points discussed in earlier questions. However, a number of groups of respondents comment on the consultation materials. Of these, a couple say that they like the DVD provided as part of the discussion pack as they found it interesting, while others equally say they do not because they feel it is unhelpful and a PR exercise. Several say that the materials do not provide them with enough information.

Some groups of respondents comment on the consultation process. A few question the timing of public involvement suggesting that it has come too early in the overall process of considering the possibility of hosting a repository. Others say there has not been enough publicity, and that it would have been better for participants to have been provided with information before the beginning of the discussion sessions.

A number of groups of respondents point to a previous study of the area as part of the Nirex process. They understand that this process declared the West Cumbria area unsuitable for geological disposal and so question why the issue is being investigated again.

Table 4-9: Groups applied to question 8

Group	Count
CB - Challenge idea	1
CB - Community benefits are necessary / expected	2
DC - End point / future of facility	2
DC - Monitoring	1
DC - Retrievability / reversibility	2
Editorial note	1
F - Who pays	3
GD - Alternatives / other options	1
GD - Challenge the idea	1
GD - Mixed views in the group	1
GD - Need case	1
GD - Support the idea	2

GD - Support the idea with caveat	3
Geo - Comment / question about BGS survey	1
Geo - Geological stability	3
Geo - Hydrology	1
GI - Awareness / knowledge	6
GI - Community need / want to be involved	2
GI - Engagement process	4
GI - Involvement of specific groups	4
GI - Motivation / apathy	3
GI - Public information needs	7
GI - Referenda	1
GI - Timing of involvement	1
GI - Uncertain that public views will make a difference	5
I - Assessing impacts	1
I - Intergenerational issues / ethics	2
I - Jobs / skills	3
I - Leisure / tourism	1
I - Local business / economy / investment	2
I - On specific communities / local area	1
I - Perception issues	1
I - Safety	6
I - Security / terrorism	3
I - Transport impacts	1
Info - Reference document / external source	1
Info - Requested	3
L - International	5
No comment	8
OP - Consultation - challenge	5
OP - Consultation - comment on materials	10
OP - Consultation - comment on process	8
OP - Consultation - comment on specific strand	2
OP - Decision is inevitable	5
OP - Final decision making power	3
OP - General challenge	3
OP - General support	2
OP - Overall timescales	2
OP - Partnership - mandate	3
OP - Partnership - other comment	1
OP - What happens if no one volunteers	2
RI - Arms	1
RI - Current waste storage situation	1
RI - History of nuclear industry locally	3
RI - National energy mix / policy	3
RI - Nirex / previous process	8
SHV - Accountability / evidence / transparency	3
SHV - Process suggestions / concerns	1
SHV - Validity / representativeness	2

SP - Comment on proposed approach	2
SP - Definition of community	2
WI - What should / might go in	2

A Appendix

A.1 Detail responses by question to “Your Group”

Table A1 – 1: Number participants in the group discussions by gender

UserID	Date of the discussion	Number of men	Number of women	Total Gender
17	01/11/2010	9	0	9
18	15/12/2010	5	2	7
19	21/12/2010	2	3	5
20	10/12/2010	2	6	8
21	15/12/2010	5	2	7
22	06/12/2010	5	1	6
24	15/12/2010	1	5	6
26	11/01/2011	3	4	7
27	18/01/2011	4	4	8
28	21/01/2011	12	5	17
29	18/01/2011	4	2	6
30	27/12/2010	2	4	6
31	27/01/2011	2	4	6
32	13/01/2011	10	0	10
33	26/01/2011	4	3	7
34	18/01/2010	5	4	9
35	November 2010 - January 2011	4	4	8
36	20/01/2011	5	2	7
37	24/11/2010	7	6	13
38	26/01/2011	9	6	15
39	31/01/2011	7	2	9
40	?	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
41	?	4	1	5
44	03/02/2011	7	4	11
45	04/02/2011	4	4	8

UserID	Date of the discussion	Number of men	Number of women	Total Gender
46	20/01/2011	1	9	10
47	26/01/2011	10	0	10
48	02/02/2011	7	2	9
49	17/01/2011	6	10	16
50	02/02/2011	0	8	8
51	?	2	0	2
52	24/01/2011	0	15	15
53	16/01/2011	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
54	08/02/2011	2	1	3
56	08/022011	3	4	7
57	07/02/2011	9	9	18
58	08/02/2011	3	3	6
59	07/02/2011	11	6	17
60	10/02/2011	1	1	2
61	10/02/2011	8	9	17
63	09/02/2011	8	2	10
64	?	3	8	11
65	?	4	3	7
67	14/02/2011	5	3	8
68	08/02/2011	4	5	9
69	09/02/2011	4	2	6
70	10/02/2011	4	3	7
71	09/02/2011	5	2	7
73	08/02/2011	6	3	9
74	15/02/2011	6	9	15
75	11/02/2011	5	15	20
76	11/02/2011	1	7	8
77	10/02/2011	2	2	4
78	16/02/2011	4	4	8
79	09/02/2011	11	13	24
80	?	0	1	1

UserID	Date of the discussion	Number of men	Number of women	Total Gender
81	09/02/2011	7	11	18
82	13/12/2011	2	1	3
83	10/02/2011	0	3	3
84	09/02/2011	9	11	20
85	27/01/2011	21	24	45
86	14/02/2011	6	3	9
87	09/02/2011	3	4	7
88	10/12/2010	11	7	18
91	N/A	4	3	7
92	N/A	3	4	7
93	N/A	3	4	7
94	N/A	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
95	N/A	12	5	17
96	N/A	2	4	6
97	N/A	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
99	N/A	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
	TOTAL	340	321	661

Table A1 – 2: Number participants in the group discussions by age group

User ID	Date of the discussion	17 and under	18-25	26-39	40-64	65 and over	Total
17	01/11/2010	0	9	0	0	0	9
18	15/12/2010	0	0	0	3	4	7
19	21/12/2010	1	0	0	4	0	5
20	10/12/2010	6	2	0	0	0	8
21	15/12/2010	1	5	1	0	0	7
22	06/12/2010	1	5	0	0	0	6
24	15/12/2010	0	6	0	0	0	6
26	11/01/2011	0	0	0	5	2	7
27	18/01/2011	0	0	3	4	1	8
28	21/01/2011	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	N/A

User ID	Date of the discussion	17 and under	18-25	26-39	40-64	65 and over	Total
29	18/01/2011	0	0	0	3	4	7
30	27/12/2010	3	0	0	2	1	6
31	27/01/2011	0	0	1	5	0	6
32	13/01/2011	2	0	5	2	1	10
33	26/01/2011	0	0	0	0	7	7
34	18/01/2010	2	0	2	5	0	9
35	November 2010 - January 2011	0	0	0	2	6	8
36	20/01/2011	0	0	0	7	0	7
37	24/11/2010	4	0	8	1	0	13
38	26/01/2011	0	0	0	17	0	17
39	31/01/2011	0	0	0	6	3	9
40	?	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
41	?	1	4	0	0	0	5
44	03/02/2011	1	0	4	6	0	11
45	04/02/2011	0	0	0	8	0	8
46	20/01/2011	1	9	0	0	0	10
47	26/01/2011	1	8	1	0	0	10
48	02/02/2011	Not provided	Not provided	0	0	0	N/A
49	17/01/2011	0	16	0	0	0	16
50	02/02/2011	0	0	0	1	7	8
51	?	0	0	0	2	0	2
52	24/01/2011	13	2	0	0	0	15
53	16/01/2011	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
54	08/02/2011	0	0	0	1	2	3
56	08/022011	0	0	0	1	6	7
57	07/02/2011	2	16	0	0	0	18
58	08/02/2011	0	0	0	0	6	6
59	07/02/2011	2	15	0	0	0	17
60	10/02/2011	0	0	2	0	0	2
61	10/02/2011	2	13	0	2	0	17

User ID	Date of the discussion	17 and under	18-25	26-39	40-64	65 and over	Total
63	09/02/2011	1	9	0	0	0	10
64	?	0	0	0	0	11	11
65	?	0	Not provided	0	Not provided	0	N/A
67	14/02/2011	0	0	4	4	0	8
68	08/02/2011	3	0	4	2	0	9
69	09/02/2011	2	0	3	1	0	6
70	10/02/2011	2	0	5	0	0	7
71	09/02/2011	2	0	5	0	0	7
73	08/02/2011	3	0	5	1	0	9
74	15/02/2011	4	11	0	0	0	15
75	11/02/2011	0	20	0	0	0	20
76	11/02/2011	0	8	0	0	0	8
77	10/02/2011	0	11	0	0	0	11
78	16/02/2011	0	0	0	8	0	8
79	09/02/2011	0	24	0	0	0	24
80	?	0	0	0	0	1	1
81	09/02/2011	1	17	0	0	0	18
82	13/12/2011	0	3	0	0	0	3
83	10/02/2011	3	0	0	0	0	3
84	09/02/2011	0	20	0	0	0	20
85	27/01/2011	0	45	0	0	0	45
86	14/02/2011	6	3	0	0	0	9
87	09/02/2011	0	0	0	2	5	7
88	10/12/2010	3	15	0	0	0	18
91	N/A	0	0	1	5	0	6
92	N/A	0	0	0	7	0	7
93	N/A	0	0	0	7	0	7
94	N/A	Not provided	8	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	8
95	N/A	0	0	0	9	8	17
96	N/A	3	1	0	2	0	6
97	N/A	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	N/A

User ID	Date of the discussion	17 and under	18-25	26-39	40-64	65 and over	Total
99	N/A	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	N/A
	TOTAL	76	305	54	135	75	645