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Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Technical Review Group (TRG) to inform the Partnership's assessment of progress against Criterion 3 in the work programme.

1 Criterion 3

This concerns GDF Community Benefits and Impacts. In its work programme the Partnership set out the following criteria that would need to be satisfied in order to recommend continuation in the MRWS process:

- 3a) Whether the Partnership is confident that an appropriate community benefit package can be developed.
- 3b) Whether the Partnership is confident that appropriate possibilities exist to assess and manage environmental, social and economic impacts appropriately if they occur.
- 3c) Whether the Partnership is confident that the possibility of a repository fits appropriately with the overall direction of the relevant community/ies.
- 3d) Whether the Partnership is confident that accepting a GDF at some point in the future, and committing the host area to a nuclear future for many generations to come, is economically advantageous and will contribute to economic sustainability.

2. What we are looking for (as stated in the work programme):

- 3a) Acceptable process in place to secure additional benefits - beyond those that derive directly from the construction and operation of the facility.
- 3b) Acceptable process is in place to assess any negative impacts and mitigate them.
- 3c) Support for the possibility of a repository in relation to other documented long term priorities.

3d) Satisfied that there is sufficient prospect of the development of other job-creating investments complementary to a repository that will provide sustainable employment in the long term.

3. **Work Completed**

The main work undertaken under the above criteria to date has been:

3a)

- Understand Government's perspective on community benefit and what is stated in the White Paper. Presentations received from DECC and NDA at 4 September 2009 Partnership meeting (document 20).
- Partnership develop Community Benefits Scoping note (document 71) leading to commissioned technical advice on development of a Memorandum of Agreement with Government around a formal set of principles by which community benefit would be discussed, agreed and potentially administered, including how benefits might be allocated to different communities (document 95). This work was endorsed by the Partnership on 17 May 2011 and the community benefit principles (document 172) were submitted to Government for its endorsement as the recommended basis for any future negotiation. Government's response, together with the principles, is in Appendix 1. The 17 May 2011 Partnership also initiated a new strand of work – to understand the support available from Government to mitigate any early adverse impacts of a decision to participate in a MRWS siting process. This is focusing on what mitigation measures might be appropriate at least during Year 1 of Stage 4, if applicable. As this is work in progress, the Community Benefit sub-group will give a verbal update on this to the 29th July Partnership meeting.
- Understand UK and international experience of community benefit and learning that Partnership could apply. NDA report at 14 October 2009 Partnership on international benefits packages and commissions research on international experience (document 31). Literature review of international experience commissioned from Galson Sciences (document 140). Partnership receives NDA presentation on international visit options 10 December 2010 (document 127) and a review of UK and international experience from Galson Sciences (document 116). Virtual WIPP visit undertaken (document 156). Fact-finding visit to Bure in France deferred to autumn 2011. Scandinavian site visit(s) to be decided.

3b)

- Understand the likely broad impacts (both positive and negative) of hosting a repository, and how they might be mitigated. Received paper and presentation from NDA to 14 October 2009 Partnership meeting covering potential GDF generic impacts (document 27). Impacts sub group established and first draft 'Schedule of Impacts to be Assessed' presented to 23 February 2010 Partnership meeting (document 58). Completed 'Schedule of Impacts to be Assessed' submitted to 14 April 2011 Partnership (document 163) but further assurance is sought about when and where some impacts will be addressed. The Schedule is further developed by NDA and resubmitted to 29 July 2011 Partnership for agreement.
- Review the transport infrastructure requirement. This was an additional task identified by PSE1 (3.4.4.i) and taken to NDA for a response. An NDA briefing on transport impacts was submitted to the 14 April 2011 Partnership (document 163) but further detail was requested. This was supplied by NDA to the 24 May 2011 Partnership (document 178). Cumbria County Council transport planners subsequently reviewed the NDA generic transport impacts information and considered transport requirements could be accommodated on existing infrastructure though it would be necessary to understand the detailed requirements in specific proposals for specific GDF head workings before any firm view could be reached.
- Define a specification for research to assess the likely extent of perception impacts. Partnership meeting on 31 March 2010 agrees perceptions impacts research specification for external invitation to tender (document 68).
- Consider results of perception impacts research, and take a view on their acceptability at this stage. Partnership meeting on 14 April 2011 and receives summary report and presentation from external consultants on surveyed community, visitor and business perceptions of GDF impacts (document 163). Full report publication followed (document 168).

3c)

- Understand the vision for the future of West Cumbria and to what extent a repository may or may not fit into it. Presentation about the current vision for West Cumbria delivered to Partnership meeting on 3 March 2011 (document 150.1).

3d)

- Assessment of commitment to other new nuclear missions that will support employment and a clear prospect of major sustainable

investments from other sectors that will provide sustainable employment. Presentation about the current vision for West Cumbria delivered to Partnership meeting on 3 March 2011 (document 150.1). Commitments in Community Benefits Principles (document 172) to the need for long term support (principle 11) that makes a difference (principle 3) and has potential to transform the economic and social wellbeing of West Cumbria (principle 6). Also looked into what longer-term visioning process might be applicable if the process was to proceed to Stage 4.

4. **Commentary**

3a) Can the Partnership be confident that an appropriate community benefit package can be developed?

4.1 In both PSE1 and PSE 2 (see annex) community benefits are generally considered appropriate and should be agreed in advance. PSE 1 and 2 feedback saw improved physical infrastructure, (roads, schools, housing, health facilities) and jobs as key. Skills development and training were also considered important. PSE1 identified safety, impact on tourism, stress on infrastructure, retrievability of wastes, legacy of development, and belief that development was already a 'done deal' as main concerns. PSE2 considered community benefits should be received prior to construction (see annex PSE2 section 4.2) and that these should be allocated according to proximity (annex PSE2 section 4.3), need and sustainability. Health and safety was an issue concerning respondents to PSE2 (annex PSE2 4.1). They felt health and safety was more important than community benefits.

4.2 The Community Benefits sub group has been mindful of PSE concerns in formulating the Principles now agreed by the Partnership. The principles are wide in scope and ambition for Cumbria as a whole, and West Cumbria in particular.

4.3 Near term pre development impacts e.g. potential negative media coverage amplifying negative perception of West Cumbria, loss of visitors, tainting Cumbrian brand image for quality produce, potential blight, or longer term intrusive investigations (boreholes) at candidate sites, have not been assessed in any detail. However, the Partnership meeting on 24 May 2011 agreed that a dialogue with Government was needed now to understand these impacts and the help that might be available to mitigate them. Any future Community Siting Partnership will need to consider how to develop an evidence base against which pre development impacts could be measured as well as agree specific mitigation or compensation measures.

4.4 Ethical ambiguity surrounds discussion of community benefits (bribe or just reward? - annex PSE1 3.4.3i), and lack of trust in central government is reflected in concern about whether any agreement sealed today will be honored tomorrow (annex PSE 3.4.4 ii + iii). Again, the Community Benefits sub group was mindful of these concerns as it developed the Principles now agreed by the Partnership. These Principles, now with Government for agreement, stress the expectation of additional benefits in recognition of the provision of a national service provided (over and above direct investment through GDF construction or investment that an area could expect irrespective of GDF development).

4.5 Government has recently responded to the Partnership's Principles in Annex 1. The Partnership will therefore have the opportunity on 29th July to judge whether it believes DECC's response provides adequate confidence that an appropriate community benefits package can be developed to secure additional resources over and above mitigation measures and the positive impacts accompanying GDF development.

3b) Is an acceptable process in place to assess any negative impacts and mitigate them?

4.6 NDA say that many of the issues raised in the Schedule of Impacts to be Assessed (document 163) have been considered in NDA's generic assessment work^{1, 2}. Subject to continuation of the MRWS process, NDA say a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would address all of the issues raised during MRWS Stage 4 and by Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) during MRWS Stages 5 and 6. At each stage the assessment work would become more detailed and there would be less uncertainty associated with its findings.

4.7 The commissioned GVA perceptions research (document 168) identified visitor concern about environmental impact of GDF development (reinforcing PSE1 & 2 findings – see annex). Visitors also indicated concern about health impacts but these were not widely shared by the local community. On the whole the perception of development captured by GVA appears positive within the West Cumbrian urban community, and business community, but less so in the rural community where there was concern about landscape impacts and land and property prices. GDF development is expected to bring investment to road infrastructure and have a positive impact on employment which will help retain young people in West Cumbria and reduce outward migration. However, there was a

¹ Entec (October, 2010) *Geological Disposal: Generic Environmental and Sustainability Report for a Geological Disposal Facility – Main Report* (Entec Doc Reg No.: 26069-02)

² NDA (December 2010), *Geological Disposal: An overview of the generic Disposal System Safety Case*, (NDA-RWMD Report NDA/RWMD/010, ISBN 9781840293944)

concern that a prosperous 'nuclear driven' economy could hamper development of tourism on the West Coast and a concern that any investment would be 'channeled away' from local people who might not benefit from GDF development (document 168).

4.8 The above work was supplemented at the 24 May 2011 Partnership meeting with a presentation by NDA on employment and skills required for GDF development (document 176). Construction and early facility operation would see the highest levels of direct employment (circa 1,000) though average employment across project lifetime would be around half that level. There would also be wider economic benefits, including indirect employment. "Economic multipliers" are used to express the multiple by which output in the national economy increases as a result of the original investment. At this early stage of the MRWS process it is difficult to assess what sort of multiplier might be associated with a geological disposal facility. Reference to English Partnership's Additionality Guide³ (as used by the Treasury) and figures from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis implies a multiplier effect of anything between x1 and x4.5 might be possible. The NDA is planning further work on this subject during MRWS Stage 4 as appropriate.

4.9 Generally, a good deal of information on both positive and negative generic impacts of GDF development has been provided to the Partnership by NDA and through PSE1 and 2, and GVA commissioned perceptions research. There appears to be no grounds to conclude at this stage that an acceptable process cannot be put in place at MRWS Stage 4 to assess any negative impacts and mitigate them.

3c) Is there support for the possibility of a repository in relation to other documented long term priorities?

4.10 Broadly speaking, GDF construction appears consistent with the current vision of economic development in West Cumbria⁴ which is largely shaped by energy industry opportunities. However, West Cumbria also has a significant rural community and economy to protect, largely sustained by farming and tourism, and any future GDF siting work will need to progress mindful of both Allerdale's vision for rural areas⁵ and Copeland's regeneration framework and proposed local develop framework 'to support the sustainability of rural communities' and 'to diversify the rural and urban economic base'⁶. Should GDF development

³ http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/green_book_guidance_regeneration.htm

⁴ See The Energy Coast Masterplan (formerly West Cumbria Spatial Masterplan, July 2007)

⁵ See Copeland Regeneration Framework 2009/12 & Vision and Objectives for a (revised) Core Strategy 2010

⁶ See Allerdale Issues, Vision and Objectives, 2009 (p18/19)

progress then there appears a need to define more clearly the vision for rural communities.

4.11 Existing policies and development plans suggest GDF development is broadly compatible with the economic aspirations of West Cumbria though the vision for the rural economy will need to be protected.

3d) Satisfied that there is sufficient prospect of the development of other job-creating investments complementary to a repository that will provide sustainable employment in the long term.

4.12 The perceptions research identified a visitor concern about impacts on Cumbria as a whole, and on the Lake District National Park and West Cumbria that could adversely affect the visitor economy. This has been recognized in Partnership discussion and in part informs community benefit Principles – specifically the need for any future benefits to be ‘transformational’ and create new job creating investment opportunities that lift the whole of West Cumbria for the long term. In the context of GDF development ‘long term’ spans many generations and achieving long term sustainable employment in a diversified market economy anywhere would be challenging. Nonetheless, the Community Benefits principles (Appendix 1) provide a basis for future discussion between a Community Siting Partnership and Government about how this aspiration can be realised.

4.13 Partnership discussion has been very high level and should MRWS work progress then a future community siting partnership will need to assess this potential impact in much more detail. As referred to above, DECC appears willing to consider mitigation for impacts that occur as a result of any future MRWS pre-development work though discussion is at a very early stage. The NDA too recognise in their recently published employment and skills report that there will be a requirement for pre-development investment in local skills training. This will be essential if the West Cumbria workforce is to be advantageously positioned to compete for jobs arising from any future GDF construction and operation.

4.14 The Partnership notes that it is particularly difficult at this early stage to be clear on the precise long-term economic implications of siting a GDF in West Cumbria. The Partnership notes that as more detail becomes available (if the process proceeds), it may be worth considering undertaking a ‘visioning’ exercise to model the economic implications over at least a 20-50 year time horizon. Experience shows that such exercises are not quick or cheap to undertake, but can be usefully used to inform policy choices or strategy.

5 Emerging Conclusions

In the light of the work undertaken on criterion 3 and 'what we are looking for' the TRG considers:

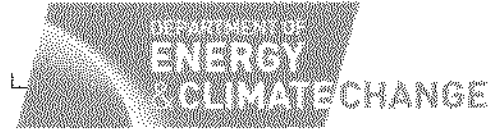
3a) Government has only recently responded to the Partnership's Principles as per Appendix 1. The Partnership will therefore have the opportunity on 29th July to consider whether it can be confident that an appropriate community benefits package can be developed to secure additional resources over and above mitigation measures and the positive impacts accompanying GDF development. However, there is no reason to conclude at this stage that an acceptable community benefits package could not be developed.

3b) Generally, a good deal of information on both positive and negative generic impacts of GDF development has been provided to the Partnership by NDA, through PSE1 and 2, and GVA commissioned perceptions research. There appears to be no grounds to conclude at this stage that an acceptable process cannot be put in place at MRWS Stage 4 to assess any negative impacts and mitigate them.

3c) GDF development appears broadly compatible with the economic aspirations of West Cumbria though the vision for the rural economy will need to be protected. Need to define more clearly the vision for rural communities if the GDF process continues in West Cumbria.

3d) At this time there appears sufficient prospect of new job creating opportunities in West Cumbria to move into MRWS Stage 4 but more substantial evidence will be needed to move beyond it. The principles for Community Benefit provide the basis for future discussion between a Community Siting Partnership and Government about how the aspiration of long term sustainable employment can be realised. The Partnership would suggest that if Stage 4 comes to pass, then a future partnership considers undertaking a longer-term visioning exercise over at least a 20-50 year horizon to understand the economic implications more clearly.

Appendix 1 – DECC’s Commentary to Community Benefit Principles



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Thank you for the Partnership Benefits Principles which you have proposed and which my officials have taken me through.

I very much welcome your proposals as a clear indication of your expectations should you decide to move forward into the later stages of implementing geological disposal and I can assure you of my continued support.

I believe there is much common ground between us. I agree that, subject to some more detailed points which are set out in the attached and which I am happy to discuss, the principles you have proposed can be the basis for working towards a more detailed understanding and in due course agreement of the benefits which would be commensurate with hosting a geological disposal facility, following any decision to participate.

Community benefits are clearly an important part of the framework for implementing geological disposal set out in the 2008 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper, which set out UK Government's policy on implementing geological disposal and on which – as you know – my Department leads. The White Paper recognised that in addition to the significant benefit to host communities resulting from hosting a geological disposal facility there may be other benefits which may be commensurate with developing the social and economic wellbeing of a community that has decided to fulfill such an essential service to the nation.

I trust that this initial response will assist your current considerations, there are clearly a number of areas which will need to be explored in more detail as the process moves forward. Nevertheless, I hope you will find this response helpful and my officials stand ready to discuss any points of clarification or address any issues that you may have.

I should be as always very happy to talk about this at any time. In the meantime take you an well

LORD MARLAND OF ODS TOCK

With all best wishes

PRINCIPLES FOR COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Principle 1: Overall: International best practice shows that community benefits are commonly used to ensure a positive contribution to the well being of host and other affected communities, and are therefore worthy of consideration in West Cumbria

The 2008 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper, which set out UK Government's policy on implementing geological disposal recognised that in addition to the significant benefit to host communities of hosting a geological disposal facility there may be other benefits which may be commensurate with developing the social and economic wellbeing of a community that has decided to fulfill such an essential service to the nation. This position was informed by international practice and the recommendations of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. I am happy to confirm that it remains the Government's view.

Principle 2: Timescale: Any benefits must deliver both short and long-term community well being for West Cumbria as a whole

Geological disposal is a very long- term programme and Government recognises the lengthy timescales involved in developing and operating a geological disposal facility. The local needs arising from the development are therefore also likely to have an intergenerational element. I therefore agree that the need for any agreed community benefits to contribute to long-term as well as shorter-term social and economic well-being should therefore be a consideration in future discussions between Government and local communities if a decision to participate is made.

Principle 3: Making a Difference: Benefits must put the area in a better position, both economically and socially, than if no repository were to be developed.

Clearly, as part of the voluntarist approach to siting a geological disposal facility participating communities are likely to consider the extent to which the socio-economic benefits associated with hosting a geological disposal facility and any other benefits agreed with Government enhance community well-being in deciding whether or not to exercise their right of withdrawal.

We expect the net benefits of hosting a geological disposal facility to be an important part of the discussions between Government, siting partnerships and decision making bodies, which would take place at later site specific phases of the programme if a decision to participate is made.

Principle 4: Additionality: Benefits must be additional to existing and planned investments, rather than replacing them. Other government funds or opportunities must not be displaced, and the approach must be at no cost to the community. Benefits must also be in addition to the investment that will be necessary to create a repository and its associated facilities.

In future discussions to agree what benefits may be commensurate with developing the social and economic well-being of a community which is considering hosting a geological disposal facility those communities will want reassurance that benefits would be additional to what would occur in the absence of a facility.

It is clearly appropriate that benefits which may be agreed with a community that has decided to fulfill such an essential service to the nation should relate to benefits which would not occur if they did not choose to host a geological disposal facility. However, Government would not want this to constrain the ability to co-ordinate the agreed benefits with wider social and economic development programmes.

Principle 5: Impact Mitigation: Preference should be given to mitigating rather than compensating for impacts recognising the long timescales over which impacts could potentially occur. Reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and/or compensate for any impacts arising from the siting process itself, as well as from hosting a potential facility.

It is important to be clear that any facility will only be operated if the independent safety, security and environmental regulators are satisfied that it will be safe and meets regulatory requirements. The ability of geological disposal to provide safe and secure long-term disposal of these wastes is at the core of the managing radioactive waste safely programme.

While any facility must be safe, like other large construction projects there may be local impacts such as construction noise or increased transport. For impacts relating to the construction and operation of the facility, we would expect these to be considered and dealt with as part of the planning process. The nature of both potential benefits and impacts of hosting a geological disposal facility will become clearer during the later, more site specific stages of the process, if a community decides to participate. Where potential impacts are identified as a result of hosting a geological disposal facility preference should be given to reasonable steps to avoid or mitigate their impact rather than compensating for them.

As regards impacts arising from the siting process itself, I strongly believe Government and the local communities must work closely together to thoroughly analyse such impacts and work constructively to ensure they are minimised. To the extent that impacts cannot be avoided, then clearly consideration will need to be given to what action might be taken. At this stage I rule nothing out, but it is difficult to give a more specific response without greater clarity on the nature and magnitude of the problem. We would therefore like to take forward more specific discussions on the communities' concerns and what action may be appropriate to address them.

Principle 6: Scale: The scale of any benefits must have the potential to transform the economic and social well-being of West Cumbria (taking into account best practice from other countries)

It remains too early to specify the details of such benefits. although we recognise, as shown in the Partnership's own review, that the benefits agreed in some other countries can be substantial and local communities in discussing other benefits will want to be satisfied the effect of any benefits on social and economic well-being is sufficient before they ultimately decide whether to host a facility.

Construction and operation of a geological disposal facility will be a multi-billion pound project that will provide skilled employment for hundreds of people over more than a century. It will contribute greatly to the local economy and wider socio-economic framework. There could be spin-off industry benefits, infrastructure benefits, benefits to local educational or academic resources, and positive impacts on local service industries that support the facility and its workforce. It is also likely to involve major investments in local transport facilities and other infrastructure, which would remain after the facility had been closed.

As such, hosting a geological disposal facility is likely to bring significant economic benefits to a community in terms of employment and infrastructure, maintained over a long period. A study by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estimates that on average, implementing geological disposal would directly employ around 550 people for more than a century with a maximum of over 1000 (including around 800 at the site of the facility) during initial construction of the facility.

In addition to these benefits the White Paper also recognised there may be other benefits which may be commensurate with developing the social and economic well-being of a community that has decided to fulfill such an essential service to the nation. This was informed by and is consistent with the approaches to community benefit in some other countries.

Principle 7: Defining Scale: The magnitude of benefits must bear a clear relationship to the overall scale, nature and national significance of the development.

While it is too early to fix the details of community benefits, the Government recognises that agreed benefits should reflect the scale, nature and significance of the development. It will have the potential to contribute greatly to the local economy and wider socio-economic framework.

Principle 8: Flexibility: There must be flexibility over how community benefits are distributed over time and between different communities.

It is too early to specify what specific mechanisms could be used, or to define the level or nature of benefits. Any benefits packages should be developed between communities, the Government and NDA as discussions progress, taking into account local needs, affordability and value for money considerations. This should allow for flexibility in future discussions on how any community benefits are distributed over time and between communities to ensure they reflect local priorities and circumstances. These will become clearer during the site selection process which would take place if a community decides to participate.

Principle 9: Distribution: Benefit distribution must be equitable, in terms of the scale of the impact on different stakeholders, both locally and nationally.

The scale, nature and distribution of any community benefits should be both reasonable and equitable as well as representing value for money. We would expect that if a decision to participate is made future discussions on benefits would explore to what extent distribution or distribution mechanism should be set out in any agreements on benefits and to what extent distribution should be addressed by Community Siting Partnership and local Decision Making Bodies.

Principle 10: Delivery: Effective mechanisms must be agreed between national and local government for the provision of benefits. These mechanisms must ensure value for money and incorporate the principles of fairness, equity and flexibility in relation to communities and local businesses.

It is not proposed at this stage to set out what mechanisms are most appropriate but they should provide value for money and incorporate the principles of fairness, equity and flexibility.

Principle 11: Longevity: Agreements on community benefits will need to endure over a substantial period of time because of the multi-generational nature of the proposed development. These agreements could take a range of forms including legislation.

Any participating communities will want confidence that any community benefits which are agreed will be delivered. This is particularly relevant especially given the long timescales for the implementation of a geological disposal facility and the fact that a facility may operate for a century or more, based on current planning assumptions. We would expect this to be considered in future discussions on community benefits.

As described above it is too early at this stage to specify the mechanism or mechanisms which are most appropriate to provide long-term confidence, but at this stage we would not rule out any option, including legislation.

Principle 12: Community Confidence: In order to establish and maintain community confidence, any agreement on a community benefits package must provide a high level of reassurance that any agreed benefits will be delivered if a site is selected.

Community confidence is crucial. Once a decision to participate has been made and the site selection process starts it is necessary to maintain confidence of local communities. While as described above it is too early to specify the mechanism or mechanisms which are most appropriate to provide community benefits they will need to provide a high level of confidence to local communities.

More widely, confidence in Government does not depend only on the MRWS programme in isolation from other factors, but will also reflect wider relationships between Government and local communities.

A key example of such engagement in Cumbria is the West Cumbria Strategic Forum and commitment from Government to work with local partners to help achieve the West Cumbria ambition to create and maintain a sustainable local economy for West Cumbria, recognising current dependence upon the nuclear sector.

Appendix 2 – Responses to PSE1 and PSE2 that relate to this Criterion

PSE 1 responses

Ref.	Issue	Who	Response
3.4.1i	Monitor the NDA's work to assess the likely impacts of a facility, and seek reassurance on where particular impacts would be identified and assessed in the process moving forward (Tasks 3b(ii) and 3b(iii) in the Work Programme). We will ensure that, when delivered, this task will cover: transport safety and impact; community safety and cohesion of worker influx during construction; public health; and impact on inland and offshore water environments. (See also section 3.4.3 on Negative Impacts and Mitigation.)	<i>Impacts Sub Group</i>	Complete, included as far as possible within Doc 163 and further clarifications from NDA about transport movements.
3.4.3i	Ensure discussions about community benefit in Task 3a(ii) start with the widest possible definition of 'benefit': not just about transport infrastructure but also about improving the financial, physical, social and mental well-being of residents.	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Partnership has agreed a set of principles, which establish the notion of benefits improving 'well-being' in a wide context, not just financial.
3.4.3ii	Bring forward the Work Programme task on agreeing principles for community benefit (Task 3a(ii)), including how benefits would be agreed, potentially administered and allocated to different communities. This is so that this work gets well underway before the rest of the programme proceeds too far, and is well developed by PSE2 so that it can be a central theme of PSE2 engagement.	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Community benefit was a central theme of PSE2 and the principles have now been agreed as a suitable draft to go into PSE3.
3.4.3iii	Add a new Work Programme item to explore the ethical issues of such a long term facility, and an associated potential community benefits package.	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Complete

3.4.3iv	Include in our principles for community benefit, Task 3a(ii), an assessment of how 'community' should be defined.	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Complete as far as is possible at this stage.
Impacts 3.4.3i	Review what transport infrastructure would be required and the associated lead-in times so that the Partnership can reach a view on how the delivery of transport infrastructure could be staged over time.	<i>Impacts Sub Group</i>	Complete, part of Doc 163
Impacts 3.4.3ii	Commission qualitative research to understand the potential impact on perceptions of West Cumbria and other areas of the County, should geological disposal facility development progress. This research should cover the following perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current and prospective inward investors. - Local industry and business. - Current and prospective tourism. - Current and prospective residents. 	<i>Impacts Sub-Group</i>	Complete. GVA presented research to Partnership meeting on 14 th April 2011.
Impacts 3.4.3iii	Consider how we can ensure that the image perspective, including tourism and incoming businesses, should be represented. See also section 3.3.3 on Partnership Membership.	<i>Steering Group</i>	Cumbria Tourism has joined Partnership. Perceptions research completed. Discussion started with DECC around mitigation of impacts during Stage 4.
Impacts 3.4.3iv	Ensure that the impacts work (Task 3b(ii)) addresses the wider impacts raised in the PSE1 Report [<i>see page 29 of the PSE1 Report</i>].	<i>Impacts Sub-Group</i>	Complete, part of Doc 163
Impacts 3.4.3v	Add a new Work Programme item to identify the ethical implications of hosting a facility, including how impacts and benefits might affect different areas and generations. We will also clarify how and when these ethical issues should be addressed later in the process, <i>if</i> a Decision to Participate is taken.	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Complete, part of Doc 163

PSE2 responses

Ref.	Issue	Who	Response
4.1	<p>Most of the issues that people raised about possible impacts in PSE1 are raised again in this round of public and stakeholder engagement. In particular, the issues of health and safety, and uncertainties around potential economic impacts, need to continue to be reflected strongly in the Partnership's considerations.</p>	<p><i>Impacts Sub-Group</i></p>	<p>The Partnership has received presentations and information from the Environment Agency, HSE and NDA about general health and safety impacts of any GDF development on workers, the public and environment and about how these impacts will be assessed if a specific site for development is identified. This information will be summarized in the PSE3 Consultation Document. Indicative research on the perception of GDF development was commissioned by the Partnership which included perceptions of health impacts. In this survey most people perceived no health impacts providing quality public services and physical infrastructure (roads, rail, housing) can be maintained. No further Partnership work will be undertaken at this stage but it is very clear from PSE1, PSE2 and the 'perceptions' research that issues of health, safety and the economic wellbeing of the community must be protected if the process to site and develop a GDF continues in West Cumbria.</p>
4.2	<p>It should be noted that there is a range of public attitudes towards community benefits, including those who see them as positive compensation, those who see them as a bribe and those who believe they would be insufficient compensation. If the Partnership recommends a decision to take part in the</p>	<p><i>CB Sub-Group</i></p>	<p>The Partnership is aware of the sensitivity of the issue of community benefits. We are in discussions with Government to ensure we clearly understand their intentions regarding community benefit, including when they would be received, and what control the community would have over them. We acknowledge and share the desire for benefits to be agreed (and potentially delivered) in advance of a final decision about a site. Our preliminary conclusions will be published in our autumn consultation.</p>

	search for somewhere to locate a GDF it will need to set out why it believes these benefits would be justified. In addition, the Partnership should bear in mind the general desire for advance agreement of community benefits balanced with concerns over premature commitment to a facility.		
4.3	The Partnership should bear in mind the potential community benefits suggested by PSE2 respondents, and the decision-making factors for the allocation of community benefits as suggested by the Residents' Panel. In particular the various views on the geographical distribution and timing of benefits should be considered.	<i>CB Sub-Group</i>	Agreed. There are many ways in which community benefits could be distributed, if the process continues. We believe that at this stage it is not appropriate to choose exactly how benefits would be distributed. If appropriate, that will need to be decided later when more information is available about where possible sites are.
4.4	The Partnership should consider the impacts of retrievability and monitorability on public perceptions	<i>TRG</i>	This is an issue to consider when more information on design and implication of retrievability is available.