

Document No:	275
Status:	Adopted
Author:	Cath Little
Title:	Notes of MRWS Steering Group meeting held on 29 th May 2012 Moresby Hall, Moresby, Whitehaven
Notes:	Published 18 th June 2012

Present:

Cllr Tim Knowles (CCC), Stewart Kemp (CCC) , Steve Smith (CBC), Cllr Alan Smith (ABC), Richard Griffin (ABC), Cllr Keith Hitchen (CALC), Guy Richardson (CALC), Rhuari Bennett (3KQ), Richard Harris (3KQ), Stuart Smith (Wood Holmes), Cath Little (CBC)

1. Apologies

Paul Walker (CBC), Cllr Elaine Woodburn (CBC), Chris Shaw (CALC), Paul Feehily (CCC), Paul Gardner (Osprey Communications),

2. Actions & Minutes – Doc 271

	11 th May 2012 – All Actions complete Notes adopted
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3. Updates

3.1 SEA meeting is booked with NDA and DECC on 20th June. This aims to better understand why DECC+NDA are confident they have the correct approach to SEA and have therefore minimised legal risks (and therefore risks of time-wasting) later in the process.

3.2 Geological Society meeting is booked for 19th June. The main aim is to explore whether key consultation submissions change their views expressed in their letter i.e. that the Partnership has reached a reasonable initial opinion.

3.3 DECC's Review of CoRWM is now published at http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/wms_corwmtrier/wms_corwmtrier.aspx The review raises nothing of significance to the MRWS Partnership, except perhaps a positive conclusion that the review team believed CoRWM to still be an independent body that appears to be trusted by the public and organisations alike. Two minor procedural suggestions were made to improve the running of the committee.

3.4 Public Funding Statement is now published for 2011-12. It shows spend as expected during the year at £1,225K.

4. Legal Advice

Updates were given and discussions took place around the following pieces of legal advice that may be required, or have already been requested, by the Partnership. The Steering Group considered if any further actions are required before a full discussion at the Partnership meeting on 25th June 2012.

1. *SEA*
2. *Communit Benefits*
3. *Voluntarism vs Public Interest*
4. *Making Volunteerism legally binding*

- **SEA** - Following the decision taken to obtain legal advice on how the NDA are handling SEA in the MRWS process the NDA has requested an opportunity to explain in more detail what their approach is and why they are confident it is legally robust.
A meeting therefore has been booked with NDA and DECC on 20th June 2012. Seeking legal advice is now on hold until this meeting has taken place.
- **Community Benefits** – the lawyers' informal view is that the Community Benefits principles could be made legally binding. When and how needs to be decided, and it is suggested that this is best done as part of making the whole process more 'firm' in a legal sense. Rhuari to circulate the lawyers' initial and informal thoughts..
- **Voluntarism vs Public Interest** – the legal advice received was tabled for reading and discussion.

It was agreed that nothing new or surprising has arisen in the report, if anything it was considered to be light on detail.

Action: Steve Smith to go back to Wragge & Co and ask for a more robust report around the issue of Voluntarism and the Public Interest

- **Making Volunteerism legally binding** – The legal advice requested regarding this issue has not yet been received therefore this issue will be rolled over to 13 June 2012 Steering Group meeting. A member of DECC will be present at this meeting.

5. Final Reporting

Rhuari Bennett gave an update on the drafting of the final report. At 25th June meeting the Partnership needs to be working towards closing out. Need to agree PSE3 report which will be going to the PSE Sub Group on the 30th May for a rigorous go through.

- **Planning for June/July**

Richard Harris led a discussion around how the Steering Group members felt the Partnership meeting on 22nd May went and the possible format of the next two meetings. The overall perception was the May meeting went well and that the Ipsos MORI presentation was excellent.

- **Handling Disagreements**

A brief discussion took place regarding how the issue of expressing agreement and disagreement should be managed within the final report.

This will be reflected in Partnership's Final Report.

- **Final Evaluation Report**

A discussion took place around a suggestion that in terms of the evaluation report we get passed the Partnerships final report stage, have a short pause then using a workshop format we look back highlighting issues with a view to producing the Final Evaluation Report by the end of September.

Action: Stuart Smith to document the working details of this suggestion for further comment from the Steering Group.

Actions

	ACTION	WHO
Agenda Item 3 - Updates		
	No actions	
Agenda Item 4 - Legal Advice		
	Wragge & Co to be asked for a more robust report around the issue of Voluntarism and the Public Interest	SCS
Agenda Item 5 – Final Reporting		
	Final Evaluation Report Stuart Smith to document the working details of the approach suggested regarding the Final Evaluation Report.	SS