

West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership



Meeting Report

From 14 October 2009
At the Civic Hall, Whitehaven

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Note:

This report is a summary of discussions at the meeting. It is compiled by independent facilitators 3KQ, operating on behalf of all participants. Note that it is meant as an aide memoir for participants and a means of update to non-attendees, rather than a definitive record of every detail.

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Executive Summary

Overview. The 5th meeting of the West Cumbrian Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership took place on the 14th October 2009 in Whitehaven. 27 people attended with 3 members of the public present to observe the meeting. The objectives of the meeting were to: understand the British Geological Survey peer review process and work with Government to alter the process if required; understand the likely broad impacts of hosting a repository; monitor and guide Round 1 of the public and stakeholder engagement

Updates. A **memorandum of understanding** has now been agreed between Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council: Cumbria County Council has become a full member of the Partnership. DECC is continuing to inform other local authorities about the MRWS process through a variety of means, including a letter which has been sent to all English local authorities, reiterating the **invitation to express an interest** in the process. CALC has agreed a **Position Statement** with its Parish/Town Council members.

The Partnership reviewed the upcoming **Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) work** which includes;

- Regular awareness survey around MRWS and the Partnership's activity
- Information leaflet which is being delivered to all households in West Cumbria
- Stakeholder Organisation Workshop scheduled for 4th December
- Cumbria Citizens Panel survey of 3000 people
- Face-to-face Residents Panel with approximately 30 participants
- Presentations to all of Allerdale and Copeland's Neighbourhood Forums

An independent evaluator is being recruited to monitor and review the whole Partnership process, focussing specifically on the PSE work.

The Partnership discussed the **British Geological Survey's screening work** and how to ensure there is confidence in the outcomes of this review before moving forward. The BGS draft report will be made available to partnership organisations and others for discussion and peer review before publication in its final form. It is extremely important to the Partnership that the entire process is open and transparent and is perceived as being so by the public. Members of the Steering Group were tasked with discussing with DECC and others how to move forward to ensure this is the case.

Partnership members developed a list of both positive and negative **potential impacts** if a facility were built in West Cumbria. The NDA then set out the process it is going through to identify the impacts of a facility with a 'generic design' in the absence of a specific site. The Partnership felt that they needed more specific information around the potential impacts. Therefore, the Steering Group was tasked with developing the specification for a piece of research that could provide this information, and consider a range of mechanisms for taking this forward.

For future meeting dates and more information please see the Partnership's website www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 Objectives. Specific objectives for the day were to:

- Understand BGS peer review process and work with Government to alter process if required (task 2a-i)
- Understand the likely broad impacts (both positive and negative) of hosting a repository, and how they might be mitigated (task 3b-i)
- Start to develop principles for community benefit (task 3a-ii)¹
- Monitor and guide Round 1 PSE (task 6a-ii)

The full agenda is in Appendix 1.

1.2 Attendance. 27 participants² attended at the Civic Hall on 14 October 2009. A full list of those in attendance is in Appendix 2. The meeting was open for the public to observe: 3 members of the public attended.

1.3 Documentation. Readers should note that all finalized documentation is published on the Partnership's website www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk, in the document library.

2. Updates

2.1 – Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The Memorandum of Understanding between AllerdaleBC, CopelandBC and CumbriaCC has been agreed and signed. Cumbria County Council is now a full member of the Partnership. A copy of the MoU can be found on the Partnership's website at <http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk/cgi-bin/download.cgi> and is in Appendix 3.

Concern was raised that one of the principles listed (*"the distribution of benefits would be proportional to the degree people are affected by the decision"*) could be mis-interpreted to mean that the majority of benefits would be focused on a very small area around the host community. It was agreed that clarification as to the specific meaning of this principle would be circulated around the Partnership.

2.2 – Website

The Partnership website www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk has already received well over 1000 visits. The 5 minute video from the last meeting is on the homepage and tells the broad story of why the Partnership exists, what it is doing, and how it operates. As ever, comments are welcome on the website.

2.3 – Funding Stakeholders Policy

This policy has been amended slightly in light of suggestions made at the last Partnership meeting. The policy is now being reviewed by Allerdale, Copeland and County Council democratic services from an independent standpoint before being formally adopted. Meanwhile the draft policy is being applied (doc 8 draft 4).

¹ Due to time constraints, this objective could not be covered on the day

² Plus 4 from the facilitation team and secretariat

2.4 – Work Programme

The Steering Group have reviewed and updated the work programme (document 13). It is now published on the website as a 'working draft', meaning that although it is available for public access, it is recognised that it will constantly be updated.

2.5 – Update from DECC

A letter has been sent out to all English local authorities from DECC updating them on progress since the original invitation to express an interest in opening discussions with the Government and to re-iterate the invitation.

DECC has also informed local authorities about the MRWS process through other means, including;

- An MRWS stall at the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) conference
- An MRWS stall at the LGA (Local Government Association) annual conference
- Ensuring regional development agencies and Government offices are well informed so they can answer any queries and cascade the message
- Worked with NuLeAF to place an article in 'Local Government First'

DECC welcome any other suggestions.

CoRWM is monitoring the processes Government is using to inform local authorities about the MRWS process and will be discussing this at its next meeting.

2.6 – Update from CALC

The Cumbria Association of Local Council's Position Statement has been agreed and is available on the website at <http://www.calc.org.uk/calc/policies.asp>.

The Position Statement will be subject to review as the MRWS process develops.

2.7 – Update from the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is supporting the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) in its work to develop into an 'implementing organisation' for geological disposal. The first step in this programme involves RWMD establishing its own management arrangements within the NDA as a 'Prospective SLC (Site Licence Company)' - demonstrating the potential to develop into a standalone organisation capable of applying for the permits it will need in developing a geological disposal facility. Together with NII and DFT, the Environment Agency will review the RWMD management arrangements and audit the implementation of these during November. The audit findings will be documented and made publicly available. It is hoped that the findings and recommendations for improvement will help RWMD establish the robust organisational arrangements necessary to deliver their programme of work.

2.8 – Previous Actions

There are still a few organisations that have not yet provided their **constituency feedback details** (see Appendix 6).

The **NDA** has produced a number of papers to support the Partnership:

- Document 29: Generic Design Concepts – How they will evolve
- Document 30: Five Clarifications from the NDA
- Document 31: Summary note on International Benefits Packages

Copies of these papers are available from the website Document Library.

3. Public & Stakeholder Engagement Work - Update and Monitoring

3.1 – Introduction

The PSE (Public and Stakeholder Engagement) sub-group have met on a number of occasions along side electronic discussions to develop the programme in considerable detail. Each aspect of the PSE work emphasises that the Partnership is not yet making a recommendation and that this is a genuine attempt to engage early in the process.

3.2 - Awareness Survey

A specialist contractor is being recruited to conduct a regular awareness survey around MRWS and the Partnership's activity, in support of Criteria 6 in the work programme. The first survey of the public across Cumbria will be completed before the leaflet is issued, as a 'baseline' survey of public awareness of the issues.

3.3 - Leaflet

The leaflet is being printed and is due to be delivered to all households across West Cumbria during the weeks commencing 26 Oct and 2 Nov. However, the delivery may have to be postponed slightly as it is important that the baseline awareness survey is carried out before the leaflet goes out. [Note that since the meeting, this delivery date has indeed moved to 16 Nov and 23 Nov].

3.4 - Stakeholder Organisation Workshop: 4 Dec

This workshop is booked in for 4 December, to enable all stakeholder organisations in West Cumbria with an interest in MRWS to get involved. Apart from the Steering Group, most Partnership members should not attend this event because it is a recap of previous work. However, all members are invited to nominate one other person from their organisation to attend if they wish. Invitations are being issued this week.

3.5 - Citizens Panel

The quarterly survey of 3000 people on the Cumbria Citizens Panel is being used to ask a series of brief questions about people's attitudes to MRWS. The activity is 'broad and shallow' in terms of the intelligence it generates.

3.6 - Residents Panel

A small selection of people from the Citizens Panel is being recruited to form a face-to-face Residents Panel. This group of people (around 30 participants) will enable more in-depth exploration of people's attitudes and values in West Cumbria. The Residents Panel is 'narrow and deep' in terms of the intelligence it generates.

3.7 - Neighbourhood Forums

The Partnership has booked a 20min slot on each Neighbourhood Forum meeting in Allerdale and Copeland, between 16 Nov and 11 February 2010. Presentation teams have been booked in so that there are 2 Steering Group members at each event. Any other Partnership members or their officers are welcome to attend any (or all!) of the meetings as well. Adverts will be placed in the local press to advertise all of the Forum meeting dates.

A small public exhibition will be displayed from 17:00 before each of the above meetings, to allow members of the public to drop in and out and discuss the issues one-to-one rather than attend the whole meeting. [Please note: Since the meeting the start time of the public exhibitions has been changed to 18:00]

All presenters will receive a briefing pack with a standard presentation, FAQ and answers, feedback requirements and venue details. The normal minutes of the meetings will be used by 3KQ to extract any issues raised by attendees.

3.8 - Evaluation

An independent evaluator is being recruited to monitor and review the whole Partnership process, focussing specifically on the PSE work. This is in line with best practice. The evaluator will report to the Steering Group. The Invitation to tender has been sent to approximately 15 organisations. Scoring of the quotes will occur on 28 October by the appointment body, with the evaluation contract due to start in November.

3.9 – Reporting from Phase 1 PSE

The PSE sub-group and 3KQ are currently developing ideas on what the reporting from each strand of engagement will look like. 3KQ will then produce an overall report to feedback to the Partnership. The Partnership meeting in February 2010 will be spent reflecting on the outputs of Phase 1 of the PSE programme.

3.10 – Monitoring of PSE Plan

In response to Task 6a(ii) of the Partnership's work programme, to initiate, monitor and guide Round 1 PSE, including consulting on the PSE Plan, the Partnership members were asked to discuss around their tables how they are feeling about the PSE plan and how they think they will feel when the plan starts to be implemented? The following points in 3.11-14 were raised in light of the Round 1 PSE objectives of;

- building understanding
- seeking input on the work programme, the terms of reference, the criteria and the PSE plan
- understanding the issues of the public, stakeholders and the local community
- providing feedback

3.11 – Other Nuclear Processes

Concern was expressed that even if the Partnership is very clear about the distinctions between this process and other nuclear processes such as New Build and local commercial proposals on VLLW/LLW disposal, stakeholders and members of the public are likely to become confused. The presentations to the Neighbourhood Forums will need to consider what other processes are going on locally. It was noted that the MRWS process is inevitably linked to the new build discussions as there is no prospect of nuclear new build without a credible waste solution.

3.12 - Neighbourhood Forum meetings

There was some discussion around the variability of the Neighbourhood Forums. They can vary in numbers attending, as well as the interest levels of attendees given their personal reasons for being there. The PSE Sub-Group acknowledged this and emphasised that presentations to the Neighbourhood Forums are a single strand in the PSE Plan. Also, a key question for the end of each presentation will be whether there is interest in an opportunity for a more in-depth discussion on the work of the Partnership.

3.13 – Expectations for Community Interest levels

The Partnership reflected that there may be low media coverage and public interest due to it only being at the start of a very long discussion process or there may be a high level of media coverage if campaigning groups choose to target the media. It was also noted that coverage to-date has largely been positive about the engagement process but that

this may now change as it goes to the wider public. The Partnership welcomes all views; as it is not advocating either for or against a facility in the area at this stage.

3.14 – Partnership Membership

A concern was raised that the Lake District National Park are not attending Partnership meetings even though they are key to the discussions. A formal written invitation will be reissued to them, including to the 4 December Stakeholder Organisation Workshop.

4. British Geological Survey Peer Review

4.1 British Geological Survey (BGS) Peer Review. As per Criterion 2a in the work programme, the Partnership needs to be confident in the integrity of the BGS screening work/ report. DECC had previously provided an introductory paper (Document 24, see Appendix 5), laying out their thinking on the peer review process. The Partnership discussed the paper in order to meet task 2a(i) in their work programme, to 'understand the peer review process and work with Government to alter the process if required'. The points raised are summarised in 4.2 - 4.5.

4.2 Clarifications about the BGS Screening Process. The BGS's expertise is in geology only and therefore the screening at this stage will only be against the criteria laid out in Annex B of the MRWS White Paper. It will rule out areas that definitely cannot host a facility for geological reasons. Following the BGS work, in the next stages of the process, there will be increasingly detailed assessments which will include socio-economic factors. The BGS piece of work will be a desk top survey at quite a high level, based upon the collation of information that is already in the public domain. The BGS already has an internal peer review built into its process as standard. Any peer review organised once the BGS has released its findings will be in addition to this. The BGS findings will be made public.

4.3 Who will carry out Peer Reviews? The NDA and the Environment Agency confirmed that their organisations would probably carry out some sort of review of the BGS findings and CoRWM will be scrutinising the peer review process. DECC re-iterated their wish to work with the Partnership, the NDA, CoRWM and others to agree some kind of co-ordinated mechanisms to undertake the desired peer review if at all possible. However, if agreement cannot be achieved the Partnership has the right to commission its own peer review process.

4.4 Openness and Transparency. This will be the first time in the current process that information specific to the West Cumbria area will be released to the community. The Partnership needs to be sure that the BGS screening findings are robust so that its work can move forward from this point. Therefore, regardless of the size of the piece of work, it is vital that every stage of the process is kept open and transparent with all of the information being available to everyone: this is key learning from the Nirex process. The public's perceptions of the Partnership will be linked in part to the openness and transparency of the peer review process.

4.5 Way Forward. It was agreed that some members of the Steering Group (AllerdaleBC, CopelandBC, CumbriaCC, CALC) should meet with DECC in order to;

- Review the different organisations intentions re peer reviewing the BGS findings
- Discuss what the Partnership might like to see in addition to this and what the Partnership's role should be in this process, including how this might be perceived by the public
- Produce a more detailed paper including a proposal on the way forward for the Partnership to discuss.

The NDA, CoRWM and the Environment Agency offered to support this activity as requested, and will circulate their plans for peer review to the Steering Group.

5. Impacts of a Facility

5.1 Work Programme. Task 3b(i) in the work programme is "Understand the likely broad impacts (both positive and negative) of hosting a repository, and how they might be mitigated. Collate existing work with the NDA". To address this task initially from the Partnership's perspective, members worked in small mixed groups to identify what positive and negative impacts they might expect. These potential impacts are recorded below, in no particular order.

5.1.1 Blight

- Difficult to sell house/ impact on house prices.
- Blight could be caused for areas where a site investigation is carried out but not followed through
- Very long timescale of blight, starting even before the facility is built
- Could be temporary and/ or permanent
- Cumulative impact when combined with other nuclear facilities/ negative image of the area

5.1.2 Employment

- Influx of workforce and impact on temporary housing requirements
- Limitations to the local labour pool (especially if nuclear new build goes ahead) but, if anticipated, can plan and manage for this in advance
- Near term and intergenerational
- The 'nuclear loop' would be closed locally without generating very many jobs, especially for the long term

5.1.3 Local Economy

- Distortion of local employment market due to high wages potentially paid by SLC
- Supply of aggregates and materials required for building the facility
- Inward investment (positive) via supporting businesses etc
- Spin off from support industries e.g. if materials developed for the facility are manufactured in the area but requires initial inward investment
- If there is no solution for the waste issue how will the Energy Coast Masterplan be impacted?

5.1.4 Diversification

- Limited due to 'only nuclear' focus/ reliance
- Doesn't attract other investors into the area

5.1.5 Stigma

- Especially for local businesses
- Seen as having 'sold out' for community benefits
- For West Cumbria, started as soon as the Expression of Interest was made
- Profile of the area (positive and negative) in the media
- Burden of liability across future generations

5.1.6 Tourism

- Inward investment in the area could boost tourism

- A facility could possibly act as a tourist attraction?
- Or could have negative impact on tourism – will depend upon the area

5.1.7 Transport

- Direct impacts of nuclear material and spoil transportation
- Noise
- Indirect impacts through infrastructure needs, e.g. Port of Workington and expectation of an international airport in Cumbria
- Impact of transporting 70% of the country's nuclear waste elsewhere if the facility was not built in West Cumbria

5.1.8 Community Benefits Package

- Direct benefits of building a facility
- Added value over and above what is needed to build the facility (beyond Section 106 agreements).
- Need to ensure that the area is not penalised for having the benefits package and therefore ignored for other possible benefits that should get if didn't have the facility
- Could improve the local economy

5.1.9 Population Numbers

- Could increase due to an influx of workers or decrease due to people moving away from the facility
- Both would impact on schools, health services and associated public services

5.1.10 Visual impact of the facility

- Amenity impact. Note that in Sweden the facility was designed to look like a farm house to reduce visual impact.

5.1.11 Health and Safety Impacts

- Safety/ workforce impact
- Mainly during construction and operation
- Perception and reality of safety risks (for the facility to go ahead a safety case will have to be made and approved)

5.1.12 Environmental Impacts

- Risk of a variety of environmental impacts

5.1.13 Confidence in Government

- Confidence in local decision makers and their processes (either positive or negative) if either host the facility or not
- Confidence in national Government (either positive or negative) depending on whether promises are followed through or not

5.1.14 Impacts on storage plans

- If no facility is built in the country or...
- If the facility is built in the country but not in West Cumbria.

5.2 Observations on the Potential Impacts List. The Partnership then discussed the list they had generated. The following key points were raised:

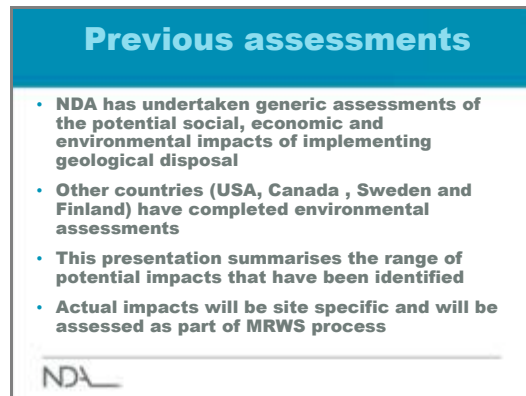
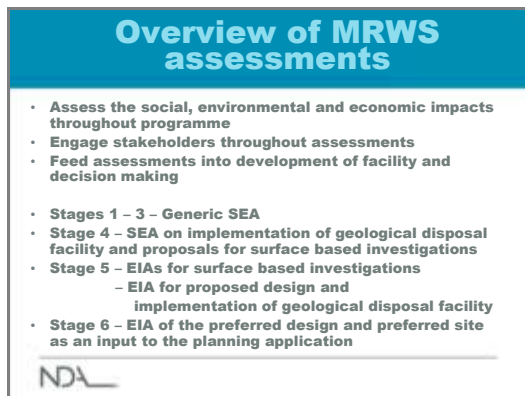
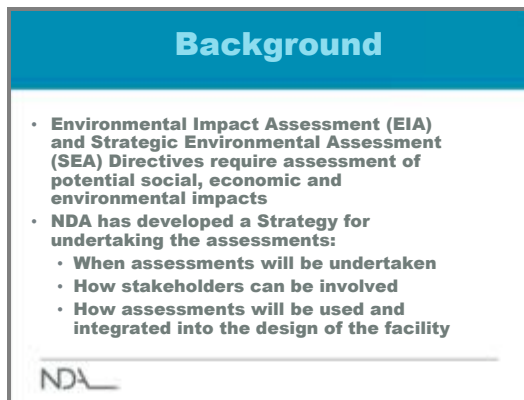
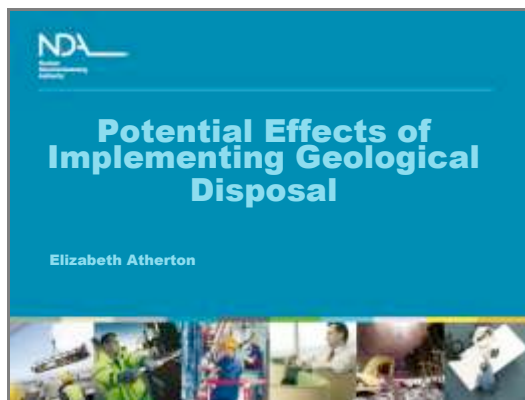
The key impacts need to be identified, assessed and managed in advance. There is potential for most of the impacts to become positive impacts with **proactive management**.

The potential impacts identified are **not very surprising** (apart from the lack of focus on environmental impacts) and are similar to those for the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) and nuclear new build.

The **timescale** of this project is an impact itself. The stigma attached to the facility will start 30 years before any waste is even placed in the repository and perceived benefits will need to match this timeline.

The **decision** whether or not to site the facility in West Cumbria will be hugely significant for the area, which ever way it goes. The community has to be able to see the benefits and be satisfied with the entire process for making a decision.

5.3 Potential Impacts of Implementing Geological Disposal. Elizabeth Atherton gave a presentation giving the NDA's view on potential impacts of implementing geological disposal. The presentation was accompanied by a summary note that had been previously circulated (document 27). The slides are provided below, with a summary of the questions raised and points added from other perspectives in the room.



Potential impacts

- **Landscape and Visual Effects:**
 - Changes to or loss of views from drilling rigs and surface facilities, traffic movements
- **Land use:**
 - Land required for boreholes, facility, infrastructure
- **Cultural Heritage:**
 - Impacts on heritage sites, archaeological disturbance
- **Geology and Soils:**
 - Effects on host geology, soil quality

NDA

Potential impacts

- **Ecology and nature conservation:**
 - Creation, disturbance or loss of habitat, impacts on wildlife from construction
- **Traffic and transport:**
 - New infrastructure, increased traffic from transport of materials, personnel and waste
- **Air quality and climate:**
 - Dust, emissions from transport and construction
- **Noise and vibration:**
 - From construction and transport

NDA

Potential impacts

- **Water resources:**
 - Usage, discharges, water quality
- **Community Effects:**
 - Employment, population, skill levels
- **Health Effects:**
 - Risks from construction and operation of the facility and transport associated with it

NDA

Mitigation measures

- Will be assessed as part of SEA and EIA
- Will be developed in consultation with the potential host community
- Will depend on the site being investigated
- Could include changes to the:
 - Design
 - Implementation
 - Use of resources

NDA

Summary

- Any community hosting a geological disposal facility will expect Government and NDA to ensure that the project contributes to its development and well being
- Actual impacts will be depend on the site chosen, wastes and facility design
- NDA will assess the impacts in line with regulations and good practice
- Stakeholders will be involved throughout the assessments
- The results of the assessments will be integrated into the design of the facility and its implementation
- Sustainability issues will be taken into account when appointing and monitoring contractors

NDA

Questions and discussion covered:

5.4 NDA Process

The NDA intends to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that assesses the 3 generic designs (based on different rock types) for the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). Each of these will look at a range of scenarios to encompass current uncertainties such as the inventory of wastes to be managed. Drafts of the generic SEA should be available at the end of this calendar year.

5.5 Generic versus Specific

The assessments have to be generic before a specific site is decided upon. They make assumptions about the environment the facility would be implemented in, for example the depth of the facility. This leaves a dilemma for the Partnership, as it believes that it needs to identify the potential positive and negative impacts that might arise from a site in West Cumbria in order to aid its decision making and to be able to answer inevitable questions from the public. It was noted that the first stage of the formal SEA process for a specific site would only commence if a Decision to Participate was made. Information

both from the NDA generic SEA and the study of potential impacts to be commissioned by the Partnership could contribute to the SEA scoping study.

It was agreed that the Steering Group should coordinate with the NDA to avoid duplication of work and then develop the specification for a piece of research to inform the Partnership's understanding of potential impacts of a GDF in West Cumbria. The Steering Group will consider what the best mechanism is to take this forward, acknowledging that any research specification will need to come back to the Partnership for consideration and will need to be approved within the overall work programme if it is to be funded by Government.

6. Way Forward and Actions

6.1 Principles for Community Benefit to be discussed at the next meeting.

6.2 Length and Timing of Partnership Meetings. It was noted that members of the Partnership leaving meetings early has become a regular occurrence. Partnership members agreed that they would prefer to reduce lunch and break times and finish earlier in order to allow people travel time. It is not practical to start any earlier for the same reason. Future timings will be 0900 arrivals, 0930 start, 1500 close.

6.3 Dates. The forward programme of dates is provided below as a reminder. Members of the public are welcome to observe the Partnership meetings (right hand column): please contact the secretariat for details and registration.

<i>Steering Group meetings:</i>	<i>Partnership meetings:</i>
28 October 2009	24 November 2009
9 December 2009	13 January 2010
27 January 2010	23 February 2010
10 March 2010	

Meeting dates beyond those above are being programmed in soon.

6.4 Actions. The following actions were agreed:

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
1	Complete constituency feedback details	All if not done already	ASAP
2	Any comments on the westcumbriamrws.org.uk website to Rhuari	All	Ongoing
3	Provide update on NGO engagement	Rhuari B	24 Nov
4	Generate a list of potential FAQs that the public might ask and answers	Ian C & PSE sub grp	16 Nov
5	Consider arranging briefings for staff and members in advance of or around the time of the leaflet being delivered	DECC/ CBC/ ABC/ CCC	24 Nov
6	Consider timing of media briefings and potentially meet with editors to ensure accurate info given	Ian C & ABC & CCC media teams	16 Nov
7	Produce clarification re MoU para 3.1 & circulate around the Partnership	Elaine Tim	16 Nov
8	Feed back on CoRWM's discussions re monitoring DECC's communications to all local authorities	Brian	24 Nov
9	Keep the Partnership updated on the Nuclear New Build Process	DECC	Ongoing
10	Circulate venue details of Neighbourhood Forums to all Partnership members	Rhuari	1 Nov
11	Consider mechanism to update interested organisations that not on the Partnership e.g. Cumbria Vision and West Cumbria Vision Board	Rhuari	23 Oct
12	Follow up with Lewis and Elizabeth re ensuring copies of the White Paper etc are available at each of the neighbourhood forum meetings	Rhuari	22 Oct
13	Contact the National Park Authority about sending a	Rhuari	23 Oct

	representative to the Partnership meetings		
14	Circulate the NDA, EA's and CoRWM's expected role in the BGS peer review process to the Steering Group and involve DECC.	CoRWM (Brian), NDA (Elizabeth), DECC, EA (Gavin)	End Oct
15	Prompt diary search for 'peer review meeting' with DECC	Rhuari	16 Oct
16	Develop specification for a piece of research to inform the Partnership to understand the likely extent of impacts of a GDF. Consider range of mechanisms to take this forward	Steering Group	28 Oct
17	Circulate draft meeting report to Partnership	Rhuari	21 Oct
18	Comment on draft meeting report	All	28 Oct
19	Circulate final draft of meeting report and publish on website	Rhuari	2 Nov
20	Write and publish articles for organisational newsletters and websites to raise awareness of the Partnership	All	Ongoing
21	Let Rhuari know if any articles or updates about the Partnership are published in your newsletter/ website as a result of the action above	All	Ongoing

7. Public Questions/ Comments

7.1 Different processes being used for nuclear new build and managing nuclear waste. Why is it that a volunteerism approach is being used for the MRWS process but specific sites are being suggested for nuclear new build?

DECC Answer

The MRWS process flows from the very specific recommendations from the original CoRWM committee. It utilises and builds on experience from the most successful programmes overseas. The most relevant process is designed for each situation, therefore a different process is used for the nuclear new build situation.

7.2 Nirex. Observation that although Nirex is a big issue and a ‘ghost’ for some of the community there is a whole sector of the community that, due to their age, are not aware of this history.

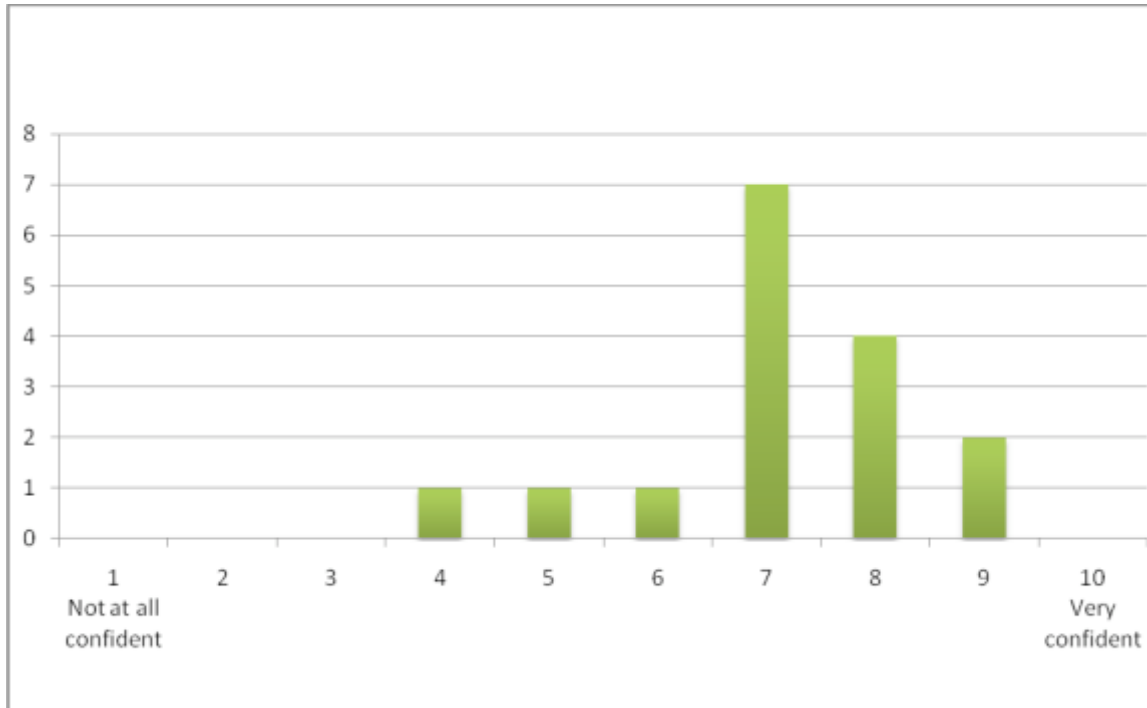
7.3 What is the difference between observing and other types of members of the Partnership?

Partnership Answer

When key decisions are made throughout the programme, the Observing Members do not have a say. This includes when a decision about the recommendation whether or not to participate in the geological disposal facility siting process is finally made. The Steering Group has a mandate to do some decision-making on behalf of the Partnership but there are no Observing Members on the Steering Group. The details of the different types of membership are in the Terms of Reference for the Partnership, on the website (document 2).

8. October 09 Evaluation Report

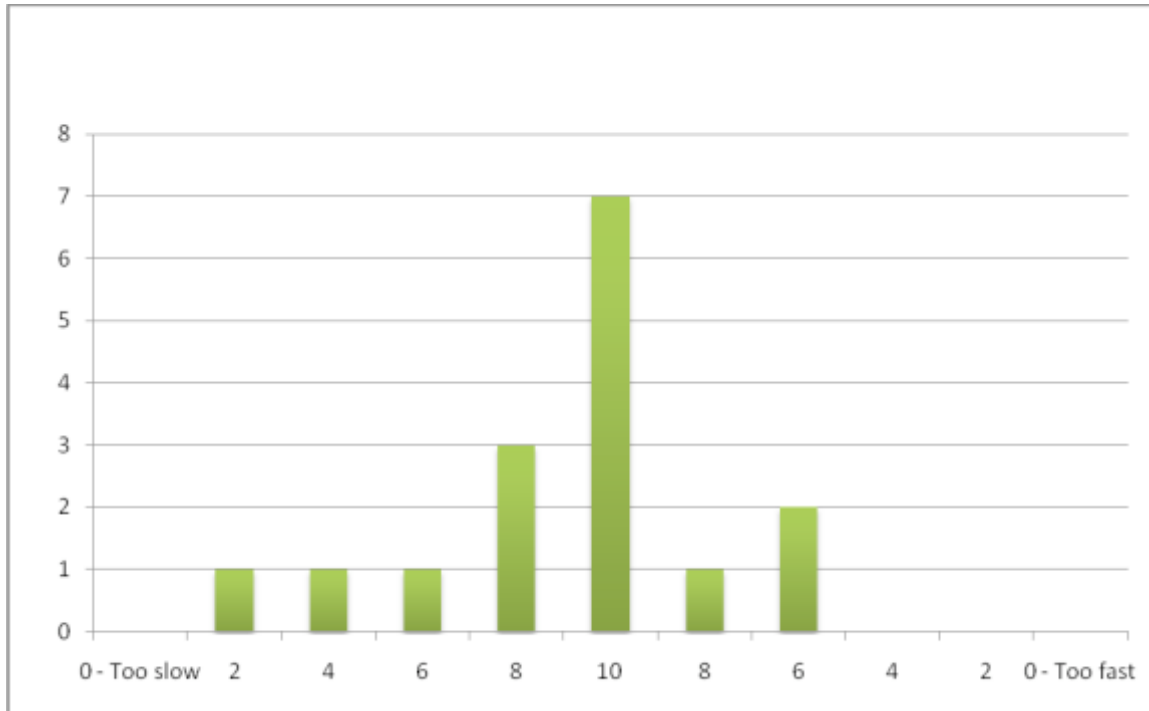
1. How confident are you in this Partnership to make a well-informed and robust recommendation at the end of its work programme?



Comments:

- Making progress
- Potentially
- I think members are becoming (generally) more informed so this makes a 'good' decision likely
- But confidence is growing!
- Rather depends on how engagement process pans out

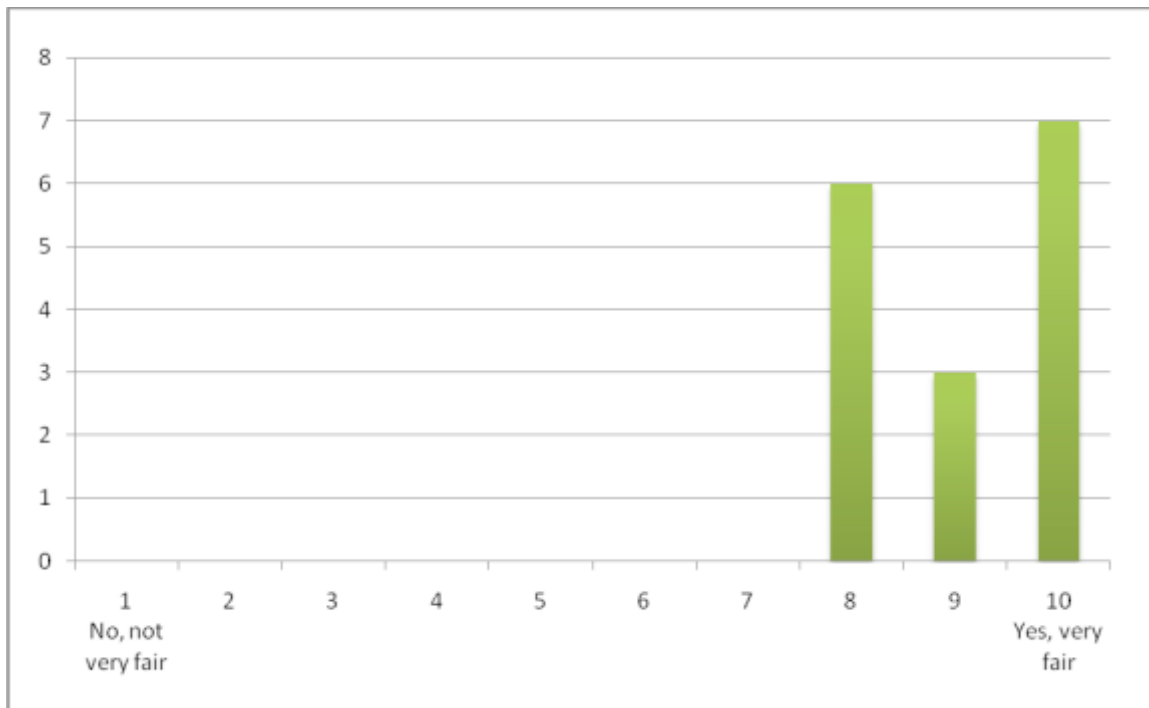
2. How do you feel about the pace the Partnership is moving at?



Comments:

- More rigour, less pace required
- Time is against us
- The pace reflects the Partnership's needs but the occasional push is also good
- Do not want to see premature decision on whether to participate or not taken

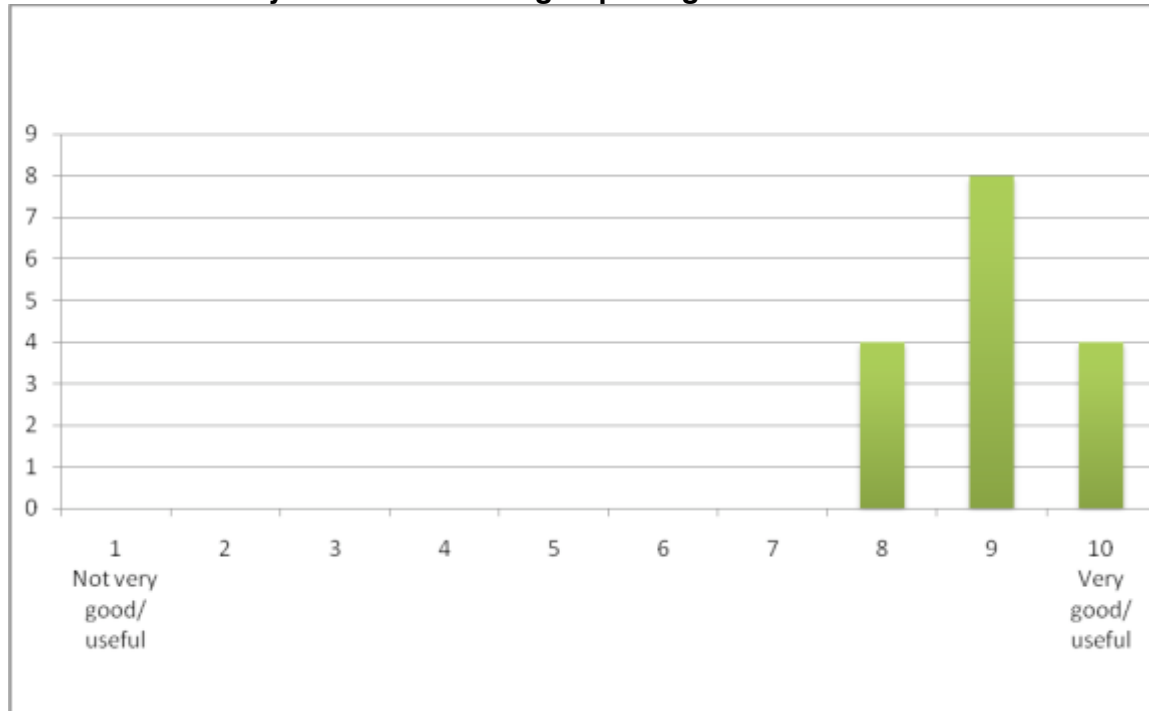
3. Do you feel Partnership meetings are run in a fair and unbiased way?



Comments:

- It seems so
- Excellent facilitation – ran very fairly – all encouraged to involve & participate

4. How would you rate the Meeting Reporting?



Comments:

- Good minutes that are 'peer reviewed'

5. Is there anything else you would like to say about this meeting or the Partnership more widely?

- Better acoustics would be very helpful
- Try to get a room where we can all hear what is being said i.e. the acoustics very poor!!
- I need a few more meetings to form a clear view
- Not at this time
- Papers distributed before meeting – subject matter too vague and general – hard to see main points being made
- Need to try and engage with the public more and for more of the public to attend Partnership meetings
- Was pleased concern expressed that some members were leaving early I raised this issue some months ago

9. Acronyms

ABC/ Allerdale BC	Allerdale Borough Council
BGS	British Geological Survey
CBC/ Copeland BC	Copeland Borough Council
CCC/ Cumbria CC	Cumbria County Council
CALC	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DfT	Department for Transport
DtP	Decision to Participate
Eoi	Expression of Interest
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
LGA	Local Government Association
LLW	Intermediate Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRWS	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NII	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
NuLeAF	Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum
PSE	Public and Stakeholder Engagement
RoW	Right of Withdrawal
RWMD	Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (of the NDA)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SLC	Site Licence Company
ToRs	Terms of Reference
WCSF	West Cumbrian Strategic Forum
WCSSG	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Appendix 1 – Agenda for the 14 October 2009 workshop

Objectives of the workshop are to:

- Understand BGS peer review process and work with Government to alter process if required (task 2a-i)
- Understand the likely broad impacts (both positive and negative) of hosting a repository, and how they might be mitigated (task 3b-i)
- Start to develop principles for community benefit (task 3a-ii)
- Monitor and guide Round 1 PSE (task 6a-ii)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Notes</i>
0900	Arrivals and Registration	
0930	Welcome, Agenda setting	
	Updates Actions	Fergus McMorrow and others
	PSE Update and Monitoring	Update on the events booked for next 3 months. Clarifications and guidance as required.
	British Geological Survey peer review	Document 24. Understand and comment on the suggested peer review process.
	Public Questions	Opportunity for members of the public to ask questions
1245	LUNCH	(approx. timing)
	Impacts of a Facility	NDA presentation supported by document 27. Questions on the wider impacts, as well as planning future work in this area.
	Way Forward	Next meeting items Actions and other communications
1600	Close	

** We will assume you have read the advance papers before the meeting. Please contact us ASAP if you do not have copies of them.*

Appendix 2 – Attendees on 14 October 2009

Charles Holmes	Allerdale Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Carni McCarron-Holmes	Allerdale Borough Council	
Tim Heslop	Allerdale Borough Council	
Chris Shaw	Allerdale/ Copeland CALC	(Steering Group member)
Guy Richardson	CALC	
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Alan Holliday	Copeland Borough Council	
Ian Curwen	Copeland Borough Council	
John Kane	Copeland Borough Council	
Keith Hitchen	Copeland CALC	(Steering Group member)
Tim Knowles	Cumbria County Council	(Steering Group member)
Shaun Gorman	Cumbria County Council	
Peter Kane	GMB Union	(Steering Group member)
Paul McKenna	Isle of Man Government	
Robert Morris-Eyton	National Farmers Union	
Fred Barker	NuLeAF	
David Moore	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group	(Steering Group member)
Michael Heaslip	West Cumbria Strategic Partnership	(Steering Group member)
Willie Slavin	West Cumbria Partnership	(Steering Group member)

Observing Members

Bruce Cairns	DECC
Lewis Mortimer	DECC
Elizabeth Atherton	NDA
Jay Redgrove	NDA
Brian Clark	CoRWM
Les Netherton	CoRWM
Gavin Thompson	Environment Agency

Facilitators, Secretariat and Presenters

Richard Harris	3KQ (Facilitator)
Rhuari Bennett	3KQ (Facilitator and Programme Manager)
Helen Ashley	3KQ (Report Writer)
Sharon Walker	Copeland Borough Council (Secretariat)

Members of the Public who attended for all or part of the meeting:

John Bowman
David Davies
Penny Hitchin

Memorandum of Understanding Dated 2nd October 2009

1. Parties to the Memorandum

- 1.1 The parties to this Memorandum are Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To enable and inform joint working and inform decision making by the local authorities participating in the MRWS process.

3. Principles

- 3.1 The memorandum has been developed on the basis of the following principles that all parties will seek to achieve;
- A Partnership of equals aiming for consensus and co-ordinated decision making.
 - Ensure effective discussion between one another and with other stakeholders on all aspects of the MRWS process
 - An open and transparent approach to decision making insofar as is legally practicable
 - Continued support from Government for the decision making processes we adopt before proceeding.
 - Continuity of approach during any political changes locally or nationally
 - Safe geological disposal arrangement will be the top priority of all three Councils
 - Take into account the relationship of this project with other major strategic developments in the area when progressing the work
 - The distribution of benefits would be proportional to the degree people are affected by the decision.
 - Joint working between the organisations on all aspects of the work required through an agreed work programme which addresses for example; development issues, community engagement and discussions with Government on the engagement and benefits packages
 - Review of the partnership arrangements from time to time.

4. Mutual Acknowledgment

4.1 The parties acknowledge that:

- Cumbria County Council is an elected local authority (a “Principal Authority”) representing the residents of Cumbria with statutory responsibilities for waste planning, strategic planning, transport planning and the provision of certain public infrastructure and services.
- Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Councils are elected local authorities (“Principal Authorities”) representing the residents of their respective areas with statutory responsibilities for Economic, Social and Environmental Wellbeing, local planning and development control and the provision of certain public infrastructure and services.

5. Informed decisions

5.1 The parties will put in place arrangements to ensure that all members involved in taking decisions in their respective authorities have full information and a proper understanding of the issues associated with the decisions they make.

5.2 The parties will also make appropriate arrangements for members involved in taking decisions in their respective authorities to meet and discuss jointly all relevant information and issues prior to decisions being taken.

5.3 Decisions taken will be informed by the advice of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership and the views of other stakeholders and where appropriate the general public.

6. Termination

6.1 Each party has the right to give notification of withdrawal from this Memorandum.

SIGNED

Allerdale Borough Council

Copeland Borough Council

Cumbria County Council

Date **2 October 2009**

“MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY”

CALC POSITION STATEMENT

Background

In June 2008 the Government published a White Paper “Managing Radioactive Waste Safely – A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal” (commonly referred to as ‘MRWS’). The White Paper sets out the Government’s approach for managing higher activity radioactive waste in the long term through geological disposal. It proposes a ‘voluntarism’ approach and invites communities to express an interest in opening up discussions with Government on the possibility of having a geological disposal facility in its area at some time in the future.

The full White Paper can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/mrws/pdf/white-paper-final/pdf

Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council have all submitted without commitment Expressions of Interest to Government which cover the whole of Allerdale and Copeland Districts.

A West Cumbria MRWS Partnership has been established. The role of the Partnership is to assist participants in gaining an understanding of all the issues associated with geological disposal, provide information and promote discussion within communities and, in due course, to advise the Decision Making Bodies on whether to take the formal Decision to Participate in the MRWS process. CALC represents the interests of Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings (local councils) on the Partnership. Further information about the Partnership can be found on its website: www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk

To assist the Association in representing the interests of local councils on the Partnership, a CALC Position Statement has been adopted following consultation with member councils. The Statement was adopted at meetings of the Allerdale Association of Local Councils, the Copeland Association of Local Councils and the CALC Executive Committee at meetings during September 2009. The Position Statement is subject to review as the MRWS process develops.

POSITION STATEMENT (September 2009)

1. CALC supports, in principle, the ‘voluntarism’ approach within the MRWS White Paper and welcomes the definition and prominence given to the ‘host community’.
2. CALC sees the parish council as the tier of local government which most closely coincides with the geography and interests of a ‘host community’.
3. At this early stage CALC has no preconceived view about the merits or demerits of siting a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in West Cumbria.
4. Parish councils should be central participants in the MRWS process rather than purely consultees.
5. CALC will seek to test and challenge the work being undertaken in the MRWS process in a constructive manner. In view of the level of resources that this will require, CALC will seek financial support from the Engagement Package.

6. CALC considers that the community Benefits Package should be described in as much detail as possible at an early stage.
7. In the interests of probity, consideration of matters concerning the environment and GDF safety should be kept separate from the consideration of community benefits.
8. Any site chosen for a GDF must fully meet all environmental and safety criteria. The criteria should not be compromised by other considerations.
9. In view of the three tiers of elected local government in West Cumbria, CALC will not support a single local authority acting as Decision Making Body.
10. CALC considers that the three tiers of local government should work collaboratively with a view to making separate but compatible decisions within the MRWS process.
11. CALC will represent the interests of parish councils in West Cumbria in the MRWS process until the point where individual parish councils can represent the interests of potential 'host communities'

Appendix 5 – British Geological Survey Peer Review

Document No:	24 draft 1
Status:	Draft
Author:	DECC, for the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership
Title:	British Geological Survey Peer Review
Notes:	none

1 – Background to BGS screening

1.1 The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) White Paper set out that once a community had expressed an interest, the British Geological Survey (BGS) would undertake an initial, high level, desk based screening of an area to rule out any sites that definitely *can't* host a facility.

1.2 Screening will be led by the BGS Chief Geologist and carried out by a team of experienced geoscientists. It will be a desk based study only, using readily available information, and all expression of interest communities will be screened in the same way using similar data. Screening will use the criteria set out in Annex B of the MRWS White Paper and will not be 'in depth' with no consideration of non-geological factors. It will simply be to eliminate from the process any areas that are obviously geologically unsuitable. More rigorous technical and scientific assessment will be undertaken if a community decides to progress further in the process.

2 – Peer review

2.1 The BGS estimate that the initial study will take less than 6 weeks, dependent on the size and geological complexity of an area, and following internal BGS review the draft report will be made available for discussion and peer review. The White Paper set out that -

7.12 For each area that expresses an interest, the BGS will make a draft report available for discussion and peer review to the Host Community, the Decision Making Body, the NDA, the regulators and the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) before completion and publication in its final form. Government will fund this initial screening work and the BGS report will help inform a decision about whether to participate.

2.2 Government is keen to ensure that those involved in the local process have the opportunity to consider and comment on the report, including peer review by independent experts if required alongside the involvement of the independent regulators, CoRWM and NDA views. The Partnership's planning for public and stakeholder engagement that is currently being undertaken will cover local consideration of the draft report.

2.3 Government would be keen to work with the Partnership, the NDA, CoRWM and others to agree some kind of co-ordinated mechanisms to undertake the desired peer review. Clearly it would not represent value for money if we, the partnership, CoRWM and the NDA all looked to different experts for review, when we can work jointly to gather all the required inputs at once. This does not mean that different organisations would lose their input or ability to comment, but simply that we work together to address everyone's requirements comprehensively.

2.4 It is suggested that there is a need for either the full Partnership or the steering group to jointly consider this process further with Government and NDA.

Appendix 6 – How Members Represent their Organisations on the Partnership

All Partnership members recognise the need to update the organisations that they represent and proactively feed their views in. This is essential to prevent Partnership members becoming 'detached' from their organisation in terms of understanding, as well as maintaining the credibility of the representative role that members commit to fulfilling. The table below sets out how each organisation undertakes to do this.

Note the gaps will be filled as reporting mechanisms are clarified.

Organisation	Nominated Representatives and preferred contact details	Mechanisms Used
Allerdale BC	Sam Standage Mike Davidson Charles Holmes charles.holmes@allerdale.gov.uk	Verbal progress report provided to the following meetings: - Corporate Management Team/ Heads of Service - Regeneration Portfolio Holders - Regeneration Managers Group (for further cascade) - Partnerships and Communities Directorate Formal report for endorsement, or decision, would be via: - Nuclear Issues Task Group - Executive Committee Council
Barrow BC	Ken Williams Phil Huck	
CALC (Allerdale)	Chris Shaw (officer) chris.shaw@calc.org.uk Alan Smith alan.smith@allerdale.gov.uk	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Allerdale Association meetings
CALC (Copeland)	Chris Shaw (officer) chris.shaw@calc.org.uk Keith Hitchen keith.hitchen@btinternet.com	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Copeland Association meetings
CALC	Guy Richardson office@calc.org.uk	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Executive Committee meetings
Chamber of Commerce (Cumbria)	Robert Johnston	
Copeland BC	Elaine Woodburn Allan Holliday John Kane Yvonne Clarkson Fergus McMorro Ian Curwen	Leader's update to Full Council Update to Nuclear Working Group Update to Executive at key milestones Update to MRWS Task Group when needed
Cumbria County Council	Tim Knowles Stewart Kemp	6-weekly written report to Nuclear Issues Working Group (NIWG) Quarterly report to Cabinet Monthly report to Nuclear Issues Programme Board Possible insert in weekly briefing to all staff Link to Partnership website Attending Allerdale and Copeland Local Area Committees upon request
Eden District Council	Attending next meeting	
GMB Union	Peter Kane	

Lake District National Park Authority	Stephen Ratcliffe	
National Farmers Union	Robert Morris-Eyton	Link to Partnership website and Robert's contact details placed on NFU website. 2 principal officers that cover West Cumbria updated that the process is happening and to forward any queries to Robert.
NuLeAF	Fred Barker	Written report to each NuLeAF Steering Group. Referenced in e-bulletin. Website has a GDF section which signposts Partnership meeting reports.
Prospect Union	Peter Clements	
South Lakes District Council	Simon Rowley	
WCSSG	David Moore	Quarterly verbal updates to SSG Paragraph in quarterly newsletter Link on website to Partnership site
West Cumbria Partnership	Willie Slavin Michael Heaslip	Reports on MRWS progress will be made to each WCP Forum meeting (quarterly) Link on website to Partnership site
Observing Members:		
CoRWM	Brian Clark Mark Dutton	Verbal update to all plenary meetings Circulate key papers to Committee Insert in e-bulletin as appropriate
DECC	Bruce Cairns 020 7215 0273 bruce.cairns@decc.gsi.gov.uk	Report to various meetings and colleagues with an interest in the process. Advise Ministers who take Government decisions in this area.
Environment Agency	Gavin Thomson Gavin.thomson@environment-agency.gov.uk	Report key points arising to various colleagues in nuclear regulation and NW region
Isle of Man Government	Paul McKenna Paul.McKenna@gov.im	Presentation on geological disposal planned for Council of Ministers in mid-June 09
NDA	Alun Ellis alun.ellis@nda.gov.uk 01925 802717 Jay Redgrove jay.redgrove@nda.gov.uk 01925 802453 Elizabeth.atherton@nda.gov.uk 01925 802826	Monthly reporting to RWMD and central communications staff. Dissemination of Partnership minutes and Meeting Reports to staff
Nuclear Installations Inspectorate	Mick Bacon 0151 951 4099 Mick.bacon@hse.gsi.gov.uk	Contact reports distributed after each contact (meeting or otherwise). Regular report to related project groups. Briefings taken before each meeting depending on agenda.