

West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership



Meeting Report

From 31 March 2010

At Hunday Manor Hotel, Workington

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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-memoire 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 8th meeting of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership took place on 31st March 2010. 31 people attended with 2 members of the public present to observe the meeting. The main objectives of the meeting were to reflect on and respond to the output of the first round of Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE1), and to consider whether to ask the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to instruct the British Geological Survey (BGS) screening study.

Updates. The Steering Group has identified who will deliver most of the tasks in the Work Programme, with an emphasis on the need for independent advice. The Steering Group has initiated 2 new tasks on Community Benefits. The Partnership now has access to an online information portal on global radioactive waste management. A seminar is being organised by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to enable a delegation from Sweden to meet the MRWS Partnership and others on 5th May: all Partnership members are invited. The Environment Agency has published its summary of work carried out to date scrutinising the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, and is considering suggestions for an Issues Register that would enable issues raised by stakeholders and the public about the development of a geological disposal facility (GDF) to be logged transparently, and responded to. The latest report from the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee on the management of radioactive waste and the MRWS process has now been published. Cumbria County Council will be responding to the DECC Consultation on Fixed Unit Price methodology for waste disposal.

Impacts. The Partnership agreed a proposal from the Impacts Sub-Group to commission qualitative research. This research will assess the potential impact on perceptions of West Cumbria, should GDF development progress.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement Round 1. The activities in PSE1 have now been completed. A full report, detailing the results from all of the various strands, was presented to the Partnership for consideration at this meeting. The Partnership considered each issue raised by the public and, in most cases, agreed a response. A lack of time prevented the Partnership from finalising their responses and signing off the report for publication. This has been carried forward to the next meeting on 13th May, together with asking DECC to commission the BGS geological screening study.

Partnership Review. A discussion was held about the meeting planned for April 14th, which is being held to consider issues raised about the Partnership's purpose and operation in the paper submitted by the Cumbria Association of Local Councils in January 2010. It was agreed that this meeting would still take place and would consider the issues alongside the findings from PSE1.

Work Programme. It was acknowledged that the Work Programme has expanded, and that it is congested in the coming months. Certain tasks were moved to a later date, and the duration of future Partnership meetings was extended by an hour to allow more time.

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:

- Reflect on and respond to output of Public and Stakeholder Engagement Round 1 (PSE1) (Task 6a(iii)).
- Consider whether to ask the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to instruct the British Geological Survey (BGS) screening study (Task 2a(i)).
- Commission the peer review of the BGS screening study (Task 2a(iii)).
- Consider priority tasks in the next 3 meetings within the Work Programme.

The full agenda is in Appendix 1.

1.2 – Attendance

31 participants¹ attended at Hunday Manor Hotel near Workington on 31st March 2010. A full list of those in attendance is in Appendix 2. The meeting was open for the public to observe and 2 members of the public attended.

2. Updates

2.1 – Work Programme

The Work Programme has been developed by the Steering Group (Document 13.1), in particular with the addition of specific people to deliver each task. The focus has been to introduce a range of independent advice. A funding request has been developed in line with these activities for 2010/11.

2.2 – Community Benefit tasks

The Steering Group has initiated Tasks 3a(ii+iii), aiming to have a scoping proposal for consideration at the 13th May Partnership meeting. Fergus McMorro has been asked to initiate the work and keep the Partnership updated. Note that these tasks include:

- Task 3a(ii). Develop a set of cross-party principles for community benefit.
- Task 3a(iii). Understand UK and international experience of community benefit to identify key learning for the Partnership to apply.

2.3 – Access to the 'Virtual Repository'

The Partnership has bought 5 passwords to access a 'Virtual Repository' online. This is an information portal on global radioactive waste management. The resource is maintained by Galson Sciences at www.thevirtualrepository.info. The passwords are held by Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council (BC), Copeland BC, Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) and 3KQ – please contact them if you would like to access the database.

2.4 – Procurement of Communications Support contract

The level of communications support provided by Osprey Communications is being increased from April/May onwards. The contract's financial ceiling will soon be reached, so it will be re-let to cover the rest of the Partnership's life.

¹ Plus 5 from the facilitation team and secretariat.

2.5 – Procurement of Facilitation and Programme Management contract

The contract for Facilitation and Programme Management was put out to competition as the financial ceiling on 3KQ's current contract had been reached. 3KQ have won the competition and have been appointed for another year, with the option of an additional year's extension.

2.6 – Documents Published

Since the last Partnership meeting the following documents have been published at www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk:

- Doc. 52: Steering Group notes from 11th February.
- Doc. 58: Partnership Meeting Report from 23rd February.
- Doc. 59: Residents' Panel event report from 6th February.
- Doc. 60: PSE Sub-Group meeting notes from 23rd February.
- Doc. 63: Contact Note from presentation to the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), 17th December 2009.
- Doc. 64: Contact Note from Japanese Cabinet Office meeting, 16th March.
- Doc. 66: Citizens' Panel Survey (conducted in November 2009).
- The final sets of minutes from the Neighbourhood Forum meetings (all now available).

2.7 – Steps Towards Implementation

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) was due to release a report called 'Steps Towards Implementation' covering its work and plans on geological disposal. The publication of this document has now been postponed by 2 – 3 months.

2.8 – Visit from Swedish delegation, 5th May

A seminar is being organised by the NDA to enable a delegation from Sweden to meet the MRWS Partnership and others. The delegation is visiting various facilities and people between 4th and 7th May in West Cumbria. Partnership members are invited to book 5th May (lunch and the afternoon) into their diaries if they are interested in attending.

Note that the website of Sweden's equivalent Partnership can be seen at www.finaldisposal.se and Partnership members are invited to sign up to their newsletter.

2.9 – Environment Agency – scrutiny of the RWMD, Issues Register and briefing material

Recently the Environment Agency (EA) published its summary of work carried out to date scrutinising RWMD. It is available at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/37483.aspx>.

The Agency is considering suggestions for an Issues Register that would enable issues raised by stakeholders and the public about the development of a geological disposal facility (GDF) to be logged transparently, and responded to. The Agency is in discussion with the Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates (NWAA) and others about the process for such a register.

The Agency also advised that they are in the process of drafting briefing material on the role that they are trying to take in geological disposal. They asked Partnership members to review the 3 documents produced to date, to provide feedback on their preferred format and how useful they would find this information.

2.10 – DECC Consultation on Fixed Unit Price methodology for radioactive waste disposal from new build nuclear power stations

This consultation sets out:

- Changes to the Government's policy framework for setting a Fixed Unit Price for the disposal of intermediate level waste and spent fuel as a result of feedback from stakeholders received during the pre-consultation.
- The main stages of the proposed methodology to determine a Fixed Unit Price and worked examples of how it would be calculated using this methodology.
- The Government's updated estimates of the costs for decommissioning, waste management and waste disposal for new nuclear power stations.

The consultation closes on 18th June. The consultation document is available at: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/nuc_waste_cost/nuc_waste_cost.a.spx.

It was requested that the Steering Group keep an eye on this consultation to be aware of its content and progress. Cumbria CC advised that they are looking at this already. They asked Partnership members to submit their initial responses to them and a Cumbria CC response will be circulated to the Partnership by mid-June. The Partnership agreed that they will not submit a joint response but do wish to watch progress in this area.

2.11 – House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee – Third report of session 2009 – 2010

The report is now published, with the recommendation in paragraph 72 that '*DECC now sets out key milestones [for finding a suitable site] and reports progress against these to Parliament on an annual basis*'. The full report can be found at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmenergy/231/231i.pdf>.

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee report, which is specifically on radioactive waste management, makes a similar recommendation. This report can be found at: http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_s_t_select/rdmup.cfm.

DECC reiterated their commitment to the voluntarism approach (see also section 4.2 below).

2.12 – Impacts research

The first meeting of the Impacts Sub-Group was held on 4th March, with support from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), the EA and the NDA. The group are proposing to commission qualitative research to understand the potential impact on perceptions of West Cumbria, should GDF development progress. They have highlighted some headlines as to how this might be approached including looking at:

- 3 repository siting programmes (with the best fit of characteristics) and comparing them. This will cover both international experience and the impacts of a similar facility.
- 3 large civil engineering projects in the UK that would be comparable with a facility in West Cumbria, should it take place.

A copy of the research scoping note was presented to the Partnership for feedback/agreement. It was agreed that further discussion is needed on what will be included in the research and what will be covered elsewhere, (e.g. the outputs of PSE1, socio-economic impacts), but otherwise Partnership members agreed to proceed with the procurement of research consultants.

2.13 – CALC paper

There was a request for an update on what is happening with regards to the paper from CALC that was presented to the Partnership in January 2010. Following the postponement of the original meeting in March, the Officer Group are now due to meet with CALC, NuLeAF and 3KQ on April 14th. (See also section 3.7 for further discussion on this topic and the January 13th Meeting Report, Document 47.1.)

2.14 – NDA and PSE Sub-Group research on the involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and environmental campaigning groups in engagement

The NDA provided an update on the research that they have been carrying out into how other countries engage with NGOs/environmental campaigning groups. To date they have findings from Sweden, Slovenia and the Czech Republic and further work is still in progress.

The research so far has come back with similar findings. NGOs around Europe have limited resources and their focus is on new build, rather than on waste management. The main issues that such groups/organisations raise are around whether their views will be party to the process, including issues around trust and suspicion. NGOs are also concerned that if they accept any funding it will undermine their independence. In Slovenia they do not involve NGOs in the process *per se* but have organised a special event for NGOs to attend. An independent facilitator, agreed on by both parties, was employed and it was reported that the NGOs then felt that this would mean that their views were more likely to be listened to and taken on board.

The PSE Sub-Group have allocated funds in the budget for contacting NGOs in other countries directly, to have their own conversations with them on the basis of the NDA's initial findings. This addresses concerns about the NDA carrying out the research. The Programme Manager is staying in touch with Ruth Balogh, the Cumbrian environmentalist who presented at the February 2010 Partnership meeting and who raised the issue.

2.15 – Aarhus Convention, conference on radioactive waste management

The NDA advised that they are attending a conference on 'Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in radioactive waste management' in Luxembourg in April. The Aarhus Convention is a United Nations Economic Commission for Europe initiative which has now been taken on and converted into a directive of the European Union. It focuses on 3 things: Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. It is now having a fairly major influence on the extent to which each of these is being met. Further information is available from CoRWM. Details of the conference can be found at <http://nonuclear.se/files/20100408-9luxembourg.pdf> and the Convention website is <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/>.

2.16 – West Cumbria Strategic Partnership

Michael Heaslip and Willie Slavin of the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership (WCSP) and WCSP Forum will no longer be taking part as members of the Partnership and they were thanked for their valuable work and contribution in the process to date.

3. Public & Stakeholder Engagement Round 1 – Partnership response

3.1 – PSE1 Report

The key item on the agenda for this meeting was to: ‘Reflect on and respond to the output of Round 1 of Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE1) (Task 6a(iii))’.

Apart from the last two Neighbourhood Forum meetings and the special meeting in Allerdale, the focus of PSE work since the last meeting has been on collating and analysing the PSE1 output arising out of the 8 strands of public and stakeholder engagement work carried out between November 2009 and March 2010.

The result of this is the PSE1 Report which was presented for discussion today. The report lists the issues identified, and potential responses from the Partnership. The draft report had been reviewed by the PSE Sub-Group and the Steering Group before the meeting. The aim of the meeting today was to gain input and endorsement from Partnership members before publication of the final version of the report.

3.2 – Update on PSE activity since the February 24th Partnership meeting

Two pieces of engagement work came in at the end of the reporting process – the remaining 3 Allerdale Neighbourhood Forum meetings (including a special meeting), and the second awareness tracking survey conducted by Ipsos MORI.

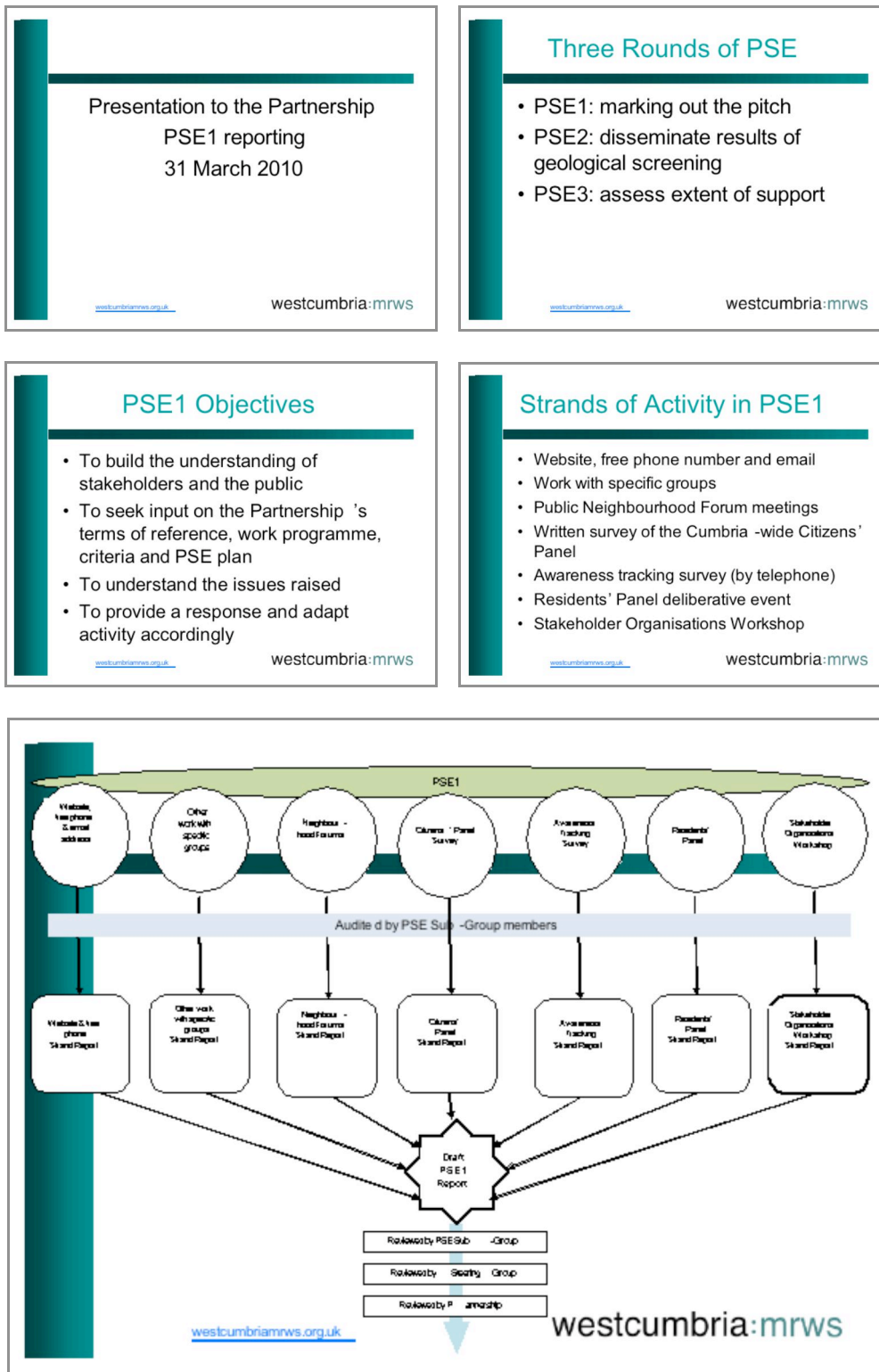
The output from the remaining Forum meetings has already been incorporated into the report. The second awareness tracking survey happened just at the end of PSE1, and updates were available only after the draft report was sent to Partnership members. The key headlines were therefore incorporated into suggested amendments which were worked through as part of the process at this meeting.

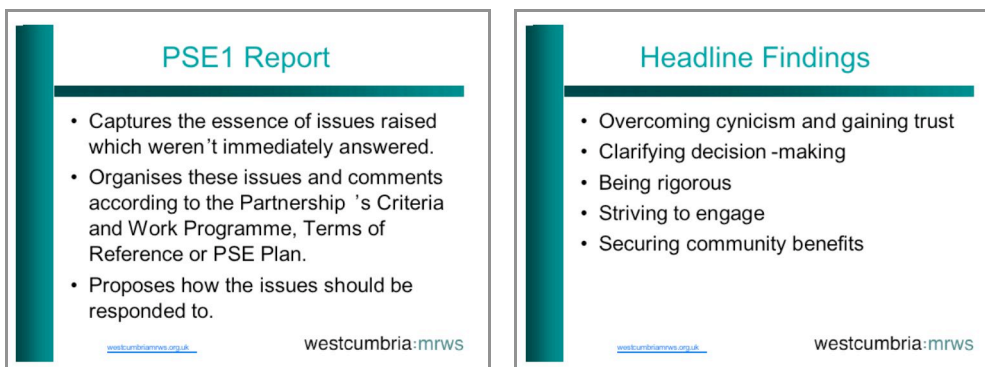
The headline results of this second survey were a fairly mixed picture of the change in results of awareness, trust, confidence, support etc. If all of the non-statistically significant changes are screened out, in Allerdale there have been no changes upwards or downwards. In Copeland there is a slight improvement in terms of levels of understanding and a decrease in the belief that the Partnership will take on board the views of the public. In the rest of Cumbria there has been a decrease in support for the discussions and belief that the Partnership will take on board the views of the public.

It was noted that the PSE Sub-Group will soon be designing PSE2 and they will therefore take on board the detailed results from the awareness tracking survey.

3.3 – Overview of the methodology for PSE1

A member of the PSE Sub-Group carried out a presentation on: the nature and purpose of PSE1, how the report was put together, and the headline findings. The presentation slides are below.





3.4 – Independent evaluation of PSE1

David Collier, the Partnership's independent evaluator, presented his evaluation of the Partnership's work to date, with a particular emphasis on PSE1.

3.4.a – Overview of the evaluation process

The evaluator has, to date, been carrying out a number of activities to assess the work being carried out by the Partnership, including observations, attending events, reviewing event records/feedback analyses, and interviewing some Partnership members. The 3 key things that the evaluation is looking at are:

1. Organisation of the Partnership including working practices, the website, contact mechanisms and general project management functions – these areas have been tested thoroughly and are generally working well.
2. PSE1 and the reporting – see below.
3. The Work Programme, criteria, how decisions are going to be made etc.

3.4.b – Evaluation of PSE1

The evaluator gave the view that the work done during PSE1 has been incredibly thorough. An awful lot of effort and money has gone into it and it has worked very well. The Partnership has paid for high quality delivery and the work has been sensibly planned and sensibly delivered. There is a good balance of people in the PSE Sub-Group with an appropriate level of expertise. The reporting, including the auditing process, was painstaking, and followed the CoRWM model for engagement and reporting. The level of work could be said to be above and beyond what was required in the first round of PSE, but is worth it given the sensitivity of the issue, and it is important to check that the system works for the future.

The evaluators were unable to find a single thing in the PSE Report that had not been followed through properly, nor anything that hadn't been covered in the report/ couldn't be traced back to where it arose. There were some minor issues, but these have been picked up by the PSE Sub-Group and the evaluator is confident that these will be addressed in PSE2.

It is apparent that people in the PSE Sub-Group and the Partnership are very familiar with stakeholder engagement, but not so familiar with awareness raising, and it is clear that work in this area is still a learning process. Progress has been made with this, e.g. the leaflet, and the communications advisor. During PSE2 it is expected that the Partnership will draw more on specialist communications input, and on evidence of what has worked elsewhere. In addition, if the Partnership wants to hear from all parts of the community, it will need to target those that are less likely to respond to conventional PSE initiatives.

3.4.c – Issues identified

Two key issues were identified:

- **Awareness raising** – the Partnership needs to raise awareness, not only with the public, but wider e.g. with their own constituencies. It is not clear how that is working, and, where things have been input by stakeholders and members of the public, it is not clear how it is working in terms of feeding it back and effectiveness.
- **Neighbourhood Forums** – the question was raised as to whether the Partnership is getting an appropriate investment from attending the Neighbourhood Forums. The Forums do work for awareness raising, and there were some very interesting meetings. However there is a lot of work and resource put in to attending them, with up to 6 people from the Partnership at some meetings (when technical experts are included). Where technical experts were not in attendance it was apparent that some issues went unresolved/unanswered. It is therefore worth considering the balance of resources and the possibility of bringing the meetings together into special/grouped meetings.

3.4.d – Using the PSE1 results effectively

As a result of this evaluation, the Partnership was encouraged to put its effort into discussing the outputs from PSE1, rather than debating the processes used. The view was given that the challenge facing the Partnership is to ensure that the messages from PSE1 – and their implications – are fully debated, in public.

3.5 – PSE1 Report discussion process

All Partnership members had been asked to read the full report in advance and make notes on any Partnership responses that they wanted to comment on. During the meeting members were mixed into small groups to work through specific sections of the report in detail. Additional comments from all members on each section were also collated (including those from observing members).

Live changes were made to the wording where agreement was reached at the meeting. More detailed changes were allocated to appropriate individuals and/or the PSE Sub-Group to provide suggested amendments.

3.6 – Final amendments to the report – carried forward to the 13th May Partnership meeting

The outputs from this discussion process will be incorporated into the final PSE1 Report and have therefore not been detailed here. Due to the time taken to work through this process, and because of other discussions held on the day, some sections of the report were not discussed in full at this meeting. It was therefore agreed that further consideration, and sign-off of the PSE1 Report, would take place at the 13th May Partnership meeting.

Discussions regarding wider issues to do with the PSE1 Report and the related work of the Partnership are captured below.

3.7 – Discussion re CALC paper

CALC noted that they are unable to sign off certain sections of the Partnership responses in the PSE1 Report until the outcomes are known from the review meeting that is due to take place on April 14th. This meeting was scheduled as a result of the paper that CALC submitted to the Partnership in January 2010 (see Document 47.1 Appendix 3). This generated further discussion which is summarised below.

3.7.1 – Status and purpose of this review

A discussion was held regarding where the Partnership is going with the review that was triggered by the paper submitted by CALC. Some members felt that they were not sure how the paper had now become a 'full blown Partnership review' and clarification was sought as to what exactly the April 14th meeting would be about. There were some concerns that CALC's views might be weighted too heavily against other views.

The facilitator reminded the meeting of the discussion held at the Partnership meeting on January 13th 2010 where it was agreed that, given the timing of the CALC paper *and* PSE1, it would be appropriate to hold a review of the Partnership's purpose and structure which would incorporate the issues raised in this paper (see Document 47.1 Section 5).

3.7.2 – Links between the CALC paper and the PSE1 Report

A discussion was held regarding whether the CALC review/paper should drastically change the PSE1 Report. CALC reiterated that there are a number of issues raised in the PSE1 Report that are similar to those that they raised in their paper. It was therefore felt by CALC that the two could not be separated as the issues are *not* something that CALC is worried about but nobody else is. It was therefore suggested that what is needed is to look at the CALC paper and the responses in the PSE1 Report and address those together.

3.7.3 – Debate regarding whether the meeting is still needed

A debate was held as to whether the review meeting is still needed. Given the overlaps it was requested that CALC revisit their paper and the PSE1 report, and comment on which issues still need to be addressed. A further suggestion was that CALC could take the PSE1 Report to their constituencies and see what the responses are.

CALC agreed to provide this paper in advance of the April 14th meeting, but also reiterated that, whilst many things have clearly moved on since January, they still feel it is important to hold the meeting, especially given the issues of substance regarding, for example, the proposed change in the Aim of the Partnership.

3.7.4 – Issues regarding changing the Aim of the Partnership

Council members highlighted the fact that for them to change fundamental things like the Aim of the Partnership, they cannot just make decisions such as this as they are representing local authorities. Cumbria CC agreed with this, stating that they signed up to the terms of reference for the Partnership and if the goalposts shift they would have to go back to their constituency and consult further. The subsequent delays could take many weeks.

CALC stated their concerns about the message that it sends to the public, if the Partnership is saying that papers that challenge the way that the Partnership operates cannot be put on the table for discussion. The need to have some flexibility if the Partnership wants to get the process right was highlighted, even if this incurs delay.

3.7.5 – How the Partnership should address issues such as this

A further debate was held about how to address the issues under discussion. One member stated that if there is distrust within (and of) the Partnership, then it needs to be sorted out. Another member stated that 'this is the most fundamental discussion we've ever had at this Partnership'. There was a suggestion that the issues could be discussed at the Partnership meeting today, but also an

alternative view that the elected members (from the Councils) should be the people to make critical decisions, with the role of the Partnership being to make sure that their decision is the best decision possible.

3.7.6 – Way forward

It was agreed that the April 14th meeting would go ahead and CALC would submit a review paper in advance.

There was a reminder that some items in the CALC paper, together with outcomes from this meeting, may well be taken into the PSE1 Report, but some may stand as separate issues that are not related to PSE. CALC also reiterated that the level of agreement or disagreement will not be clear until after the April meeting. It was acknowledged that there is a lot of work for the PSE Sub-Group and the Steering Group to address as a result of the PSE1 Report and the meeting on the 14th is just part of this.

3.8 – Leaflet delivery

A discussion was held about quality control mechanisms for leaflet delivery. It was confirmed that the PSE Sub-Group are reviewing the delivery mechanisms used last time and have already taken steps to avoid future problems. All problems from the previous delivery have been investigated and action has been taken to resolve any areas where it is known that delivery was not completed in full. It was acknowledged as being very unfortunate that Gosforth was one of the areas where delivery was not completed in full by the delivery agents (3 street postcodes were omitted in Gosforth).

It was also acknowledged that there are always problems with using leaflet drops for the purpose of awareness raising. No industry standard exists, but Ipsos MORI would expect an unprompted recall level of 10% after 3 months (meaning that, when asked, 10% of people recall receiving an item without being shown it to prompt them). From the second awareness tracking survey, the recall level in Allerdale was 13% and in Copeland 22%, so there is an argument that the leaflet has been fairly effective as a mechanism for awareness raising, despite some delivery issues.

3.9 – Executive Summary

A discussion was held about making the Executive Summary of the PSE1 Report more accessible for members of the public. The 5 key issues that have come out of PSE1 are listed in the Executive Summary but it was felt by some that what is missing is the Partnership's response to these issues. It was suggested that the model in the rest of the report should be followed in the Executive Summary, and that there should be a slightly fuller version of the Summary that could act as a stand alone document. A question was also raised about whether a different version of the report is needed for members of the public, especially for the next round of PSE.

It was agreed that the PSE Sub-Group would redraft the Executive Summary and bring it back to the 13th May meeting for consideration.

3.10 – Timings against actions in the PSE1 Report

The Programme Manager advised that the majority of actions in the PSE1 Report need to be completed in the next couple of months if they are to be of use. It was therefore agreed that a timed plan for delivery against the actions will be compiled once the report has been signed off and published.

3.11 – Actions and Way Forward

Due to the time taken to discuss the CALC paper and other issues raised in the updates section, the Partnership agreed to delay further consideration of the PSE1 Report, and its

subsequent publication, to the May 13th Partnership meeting. This is to enable a full and robust Partnership analysis of the responses to take place, and for the outcomes of the CALC paper review meeting to be incorporated.

It was agreed that, in the meantime, the actions for amending wording on the issues that had been discussed would be adopted by nominated individuals and the Programme Manager.

4. Remaining agenda items and other issues discussed

4.1 – Decision on commissioning the BGS screening study

It was agreed that there was too much to still consider and understand before the Partnership makes the decision to ask DECC to commission the BGS to carry out the geological screening work. It was therefore decided that this decision should be postponed to the next meeting on 13th May.

4.2 – Request for a Government statement about voluntarism

The discussions at the last meeting regarding concerns about the Government's statements on Plan A and Plan B were referred to (see 23rd February meeting report, Document 58 Section 6.15).

It was stated that it is not very helpful that the message going out is that there is no Plan B. Some members felt that this conflicts with the perception of there being a 'done deal', and is not a satisfactory context for voluntarism. It was therefore suggested that the Partnership request a considered statement from DECC on this issue i.e. something in writing that clarifies the Government's thinking on this issue.

Some members were worried that this might force DECC to come up with a Plan B, but assurance was given that the request is about giving DECC the opportunity to set out their current position. Concerns were also raised that Plan B could be seen to be less pleasant than Plan A, and could be regarded as the threat if Plan A doesn't work.

DECC reiterated that the wording and concept of Plan B originally came up at the Stakeholders Organisation Workshop on 4th December 2009, to address concerns that if the voluntarism process does not work then the Government will impose something. It was not intended to suggest that the process depended on the Partnership making a recommendation to participate in the site assessment process, or that this was a done deal – it was intended to do quite the opposite by reiterating DECC's commitment to voluntarism. DECC therefore reminded the Partnership that their Plan B is to make the voluntarism process work, and will do everything that they can to make this process work.

There was a reminder that a proposed response in the PSE1 Report is to produce briefing notes on key topics, including voluntarism. There are several things that could be incorporated into a briefing note to show that the process does not fall apart if West Cumbria withdraws.

DECC explained that the reason for adopting this approach is that it has been shown to work internationally and is considered to be the most likely route to be successful.

Members highlighted a number of problems that the Partnership is wrestling with. One is making voluntarism work – and this is effectively experimenting with a different form of democracy. Another is what to do with regard to the disposal of radioactive waste, including the issue of which wastes would go to a GDF. It was acknowledged that both need to work, but if the first one is solved it is more likely that the second one also will be. With regard to public viewpoints, it was stated that members of the public think that disposal is for new generation waste, as opposed to the issue that existing waste needs a solution. It is considered by many to be unfortunate that the 2 are related. It is also felt that it needs to be clearer for the public that disposal is needed for the waste that already exists.

It was agreed that the PSE Sub-Group would look at how all of this might fit into their work, and liaise with DECC on what is needed from them to feed into this by way of a written statement, including a reference to the Government's response to the CoRWM report.

4.3 – Decision-Making Bodies

A discussion was held about who the Decision-Making Bodies (DMBs) are. The definition in the Government White Paper was quoted, to highlight that it defines DMBs as being made up of principal authorities, i.e. District/Borough Councils and County Councils. Some members felt the definition of DMBs is very clear from the White Paper definition. It was also stated that when the Government has been asked previously, it is clear that it is the principal authorities who are the DMBs.

However, others felt strongly that the White Paper is not so clear, and it was apparent that there are different views on this issue. It was suggested that if there is some concern with regard to clarity, the principal authorities and parishes represented by CALC do need to sit down and discuss roles. The question was also posed as to, if the definition of a DMB in the White Paper is taken by the Partnership to be correct, whether the definition of Host Community in the White Paper is also correct.

There was also a reminder that the DMB does depend on the level and stage of decision making, especially with regard to taking a decision to participate (DtP) or withdraw and later stages of the process, and that these stages should therefore be kept separate.

This issue was not resolved and will be discussed further at the Officers Group meeting on 14th April.

5. Way forward and actions

5.1 – Today's agenda carried forward to next meeting

It was agreed that today's agenda would carry forward to the meeting on 13th May. As a result, the publication of the final PSE1 Report will be delayed until after this meeting and the decision to ask DECC to commission the BGS study will be made on that date.

5.2 – Publications and articles on the MRWS process

It was acknowledged that the second awareness tracking survey has shown that awareness levels of the MRWS process and the Partnership have not risen significantly, and this therefore needs more focus in PSE2. In order to support Partnership members in securing articles in their publications, the Programme Manager and the Communications Advisor will ask members to provide contact names for any publications and newsletters that exist in their organisations, so that they can contact these people on their behalf and prompt publications in a timely way.

5.3 – Work Programme and impact on Partnership meetings

It was pointed out that the Work Programme is now very congested and something has to shift if the Partnership is to meet the current timetable, increasingly so now that the programme has been put back 1 cycle following the meeting today.

It was agreed that:

- Tasks 3c and 3d will be put to a later point in the Programme to relieve pressure on the next few meetings.
- Final reporting from the Partnership is now scheduled for September 2011.
- The end time of Partnership meetings will revert to 4 p.m., with a proviso that no other meetings are scheduled at the end of the day.

5.4 – 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 (0800 048 8912).

Steering Group meetings 2010:	Partnership meetings 2010:
14 April	
28 April	13 May
26 May	
9 June	25 June
7 July	
21 July	5 August
18 August	
1 September	16 September
29 September	
13 October	28 October
10 November	
24 November	10 December
2011:	2011:
5 January	19 January
2 February	
16 February	3 March
16 March	
30 March	14 April

5.5 – Actions. The following actions were agreed:

	Action	Who	When
1	Partnership members to advise Jay Redgrove if they wish to take part in the Swedish delegation visit on 5 th May.	All	23 April
2	Consider a meeting and/or briefing for Partnership members who are taking part in the Swedish delegation visit to discuss appropriate approach/responses.	Rhuari/Jay	28 April
3	Provide comments to Stewart Kemp on DECC Consultation on Fixed Unit Price methodology for waste disposal.	All	Mid-May
4	Circulate Cumbria CC response to the above DECC consultation to Steering Group and Partnership members.	CCC/Stewart Kemp	Mid-June
5	Collate information, statements and responses from DECC, CORWM, etc. with regard to Partnership/Government statement on voluntarism and position on interim storage.	Paul (Andrew, Rhuari, Fred)	Update by next meeting
6	Complete timed plan for delivery against the actions in the PSE1 Report.	Rhuari	After next P'ship meeting
7	Individuals to provide wording/drafting changes of identified sections of PSE1 Report to Programme Manager.	Nominated individuals	2 April

8	Extend the Executive Summary of the PSE1 Report, and include a Partnership response, to ensure that it can stand alone.	Rhuari/PSE Sub-Group	In advance of May 13 meeting
9	Amend Work Programme to reflect discussed changes, including later end date.	Rhuari	Within 1 week – draft in next report
10	CALC to provide an update on their paper in advance of the meeting on April 14 th .	CALC	13 April
11	Collate information on how many people Partnership members forward the newsletter to (carried forward from previous meeting as the next newsletter is due in mid-April).	Jane	Next newsletter
12	Put together initial thoughts on what the Partnership could do to encourage involvement from NGOs and environmental campaigners in the West Cumbrian MRWS process (carried forward from previous meeting – Programme Manager is continuing discussions).	Jean McSorley & Ruth Balogh	
13	Circulate draft meeting report to Partnership attendees.	Jane	9 April
14	Comment on draft meeting report.	All	16 April
15	Circulate final draft of meeting report and publish on website.	Rhuari/Jane	23 April
16	Write and publish articles for organisational newsletters and websites to raise awareness of the Partnership.	All	Ongoing
17	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

6. Public Questions/Comments

6.1 – Observations

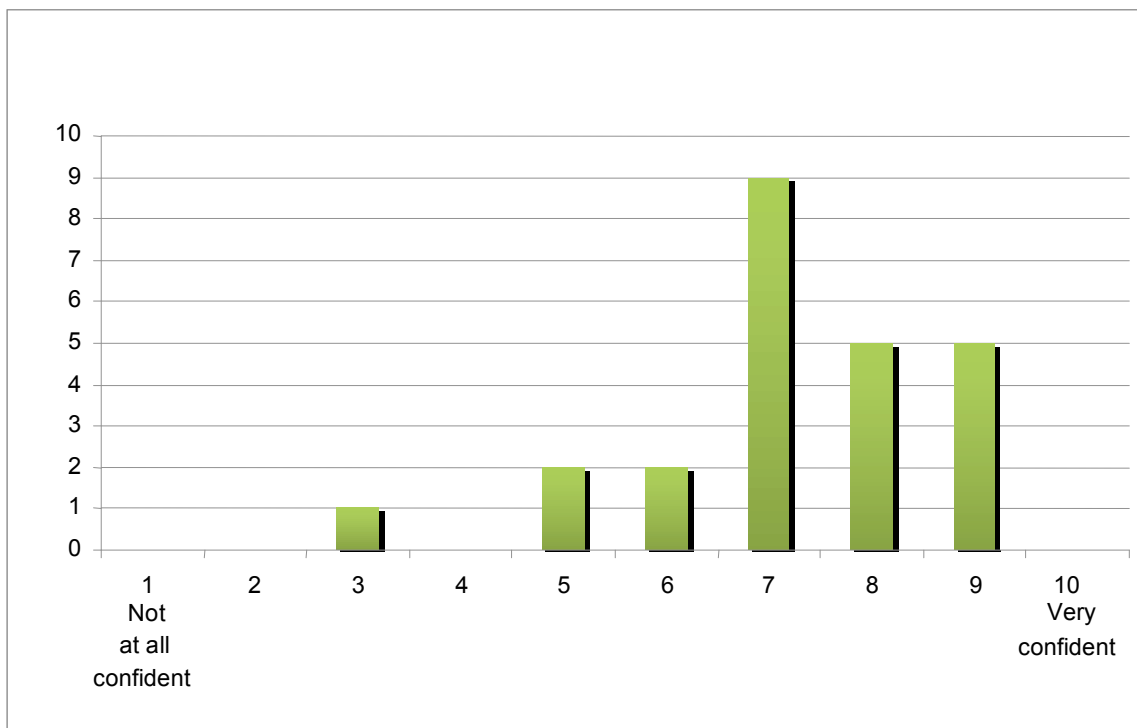
1. In terms of membership of the Partnership and discussions about NGOs – there's a line in the report about health NGOs. I'm surprised that there isn't professional membership to focus on health issues e.g. mental health, population mixing, viruses etc. I'm perhaps a little bit surprised that that's not being taken into account.
2. I was very refreshed to hear [a Partnership member] mentioning broadcasting media – there's over-reliance/emphasis these days on published media. I wondered, has the Partnership got a listing on Wikipedia?
3. Finally, regarding skills and skills into the future, and communicating back out into the skills providers about what might be needed. For example, West Lakes College have had no information on skills that might be needed in the future.

Programme Manager response

One aim of the Public and Stakeholder Engagement programme is to involve various points of view without necessarily having everybody sitting directly on the Partnership. Regarding the health issue, the Primary Care Trust was invited and came to the Stakeholders Organisation Workshop in December 2009 to provide their input. The mechanism is there that they can ask to elevate their status if they feel they need to.

7. Evaluation

Q1. How confident are you in this Partnership to make a well-informed and robust recommendation at the end of its Work Programme?



Comments that went with a score of 3:

- Divisions between Partnership members becoming much more apparent.

Comments that went with a score of 6:

- Should be making a report (majority or minority if required) rather than recommendation.

Comments that went with a score of 7:

- We need to acknowledge that the White Paper is a 'given' and not try to rewrite it.
- Splits could occur if we are not careful.
- Subject to successful conclusion of discussions.

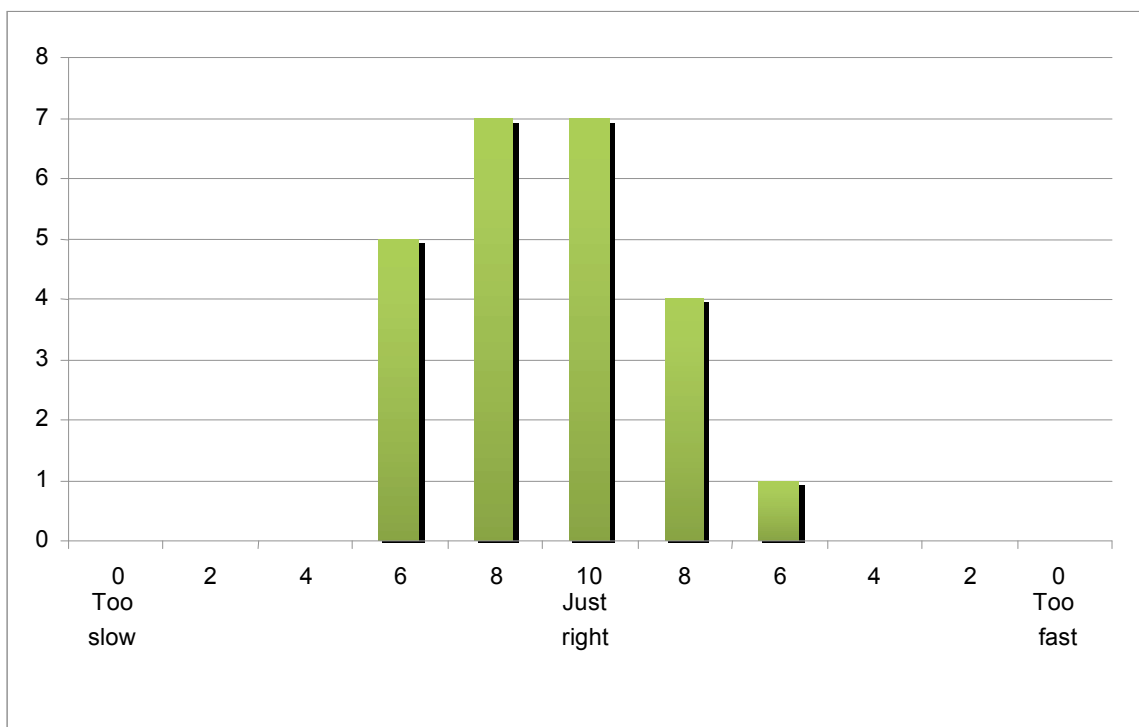
Comments that went with a score of 8:

- A single recommendation with full agreement of all Partnership members is perhaps uncertain.

Comments that went with a score of 9:

- It's in our power to make sure it happens!!

Q2. How do you feel about the pace the Partnership is moving at?



Comments that went with a score of 6 (too slow):

- Need to consider more fully how to deal with work before commissioning it.
- To progress as we need to, meetings need to be more frequent.

Comments that went with a score of 8 (too slow):

- A reflection of my own desire to move things along in a timely manner.

Comments that went with a score of 10 (just right):

- Always kept to time apart from today, but the slippage was unavoidable and the best thing to do in the circumstances.

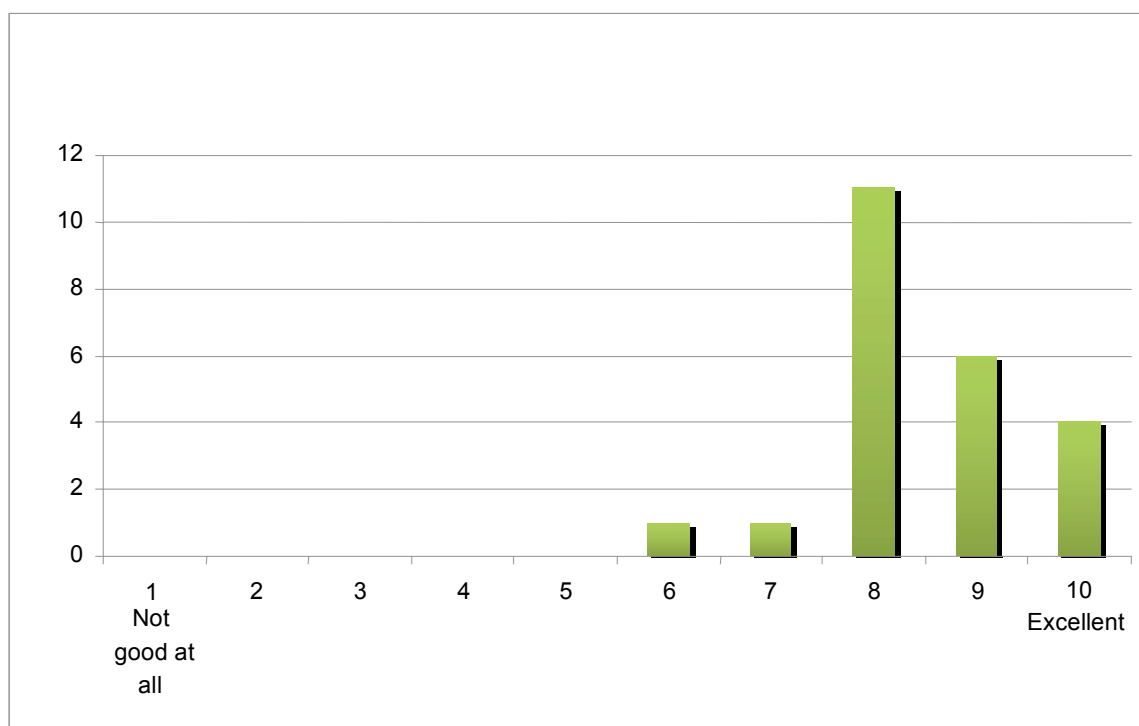
Comments that went with a score of 8 (too fast):

- Concern that more added to Work Programme will slow down progress.
- It's about right but some of the fundamentals are being left.

Comments that went with a score of 6 (too fast):

- Make sure we get as much community engagement as possible.

Q3. How would you rate 3KQ's performance overall delivering its service?



Q4. One thing you appreciate about how 3KQ work (and therefore want us to continue doing).

- Thoroughness.
- Firm management of meetings.
- Approachability.
- Thorough & methodical.
- Understanding of the issues & the positions of different organisations.
- Produce thorough and informative reports/minutes.
- Info circulated prior to meetings.
- Excellent facilitators, everyone engaged & given an opportunity to speak but also move the meeting on.
- Keeping us focused and well informed.
- Regular contact from Rhuari to keep me in picture.
- Good communication. Good facilitation.
- Inclusive intelligent approach.
- Keep pushing ahead & trying to keep to programme.
- Facilitation keeps meetings fairly tight in what is a difficult deliberation/decision making.
- Information after meetings is produced in very good time, but sometimes info is produced just on the day.
- Keeping calm and moving things on.

Q5. One thing you'd like 3KQ to consider doing differently/better in the future.

- Nothing.
- Need to consider timing of agenda items length + number of meetings.
- Time planning during meetings – sometimes too optimistic on agenda.
- Ensuring members are mixed on the tables.

- Unsure anything.
- N/A.
- Nothing apparent.
- Making sure text on screen READABLE.
- Tackle the 'wicked issues' fundamental about the Partnership structure/process.
- I think the info needs to be marked in line with the agenda list.

8. Acronyms/Abbreviations

ABC/Allerdale BC	Allerdale Borough Council
BGS	British Geological Survey
CALC	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
CBC/Copeland BC	Copeland Borough Council
CCC/Cumbria CC	Cumbria County Council
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DfT	Department for Transport
DMB	Decision Making Body
DtP	Decision to Participate
EA	Environment Agency
Eoi	Expression of Interest
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FoE	Friends of the Earth
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
HSE	Health & Safety Executive
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
LGA	Local Government Association
LLW	Low Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRWS	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
ND	Nuclear Directorate (a department of the HSE)
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NII	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
NNPS	Nuclear National Policy Statement
NWAA	Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates
NWDA	North West Development Agency
NuLeAF	Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum
NWAT	Nuclear Waste Assessment Team (of the EA)
OCNS	Office for Civil Nuclear Security
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
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
UKSO	UK Safeguards Office
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WCSF	West Cumbrian Strategic Forum
WCSP	West Cumbria Strategic Partnership
WCSSG	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Appendix 1 – Agenda for the 31st March 2010 meeting

Objectives of the workshop are to:

- Reflect on and respond to output of PSE1 (Task 6a(iii)).
- Consider whether to ask DECC to instruct the BGS screening study (Task 2a(i)).
- Commission the peer review of the BGS screening study (Task 2a(iii)).
- Consider priority tasks in next 3 meetings within the Work Programme.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Notes</i>
0900	Arrivals and Registration	
0930	Welcome, Agenda setting	
	Updates, including from the Impacts Sub-Group Actions	Updates sheet will be tabled on the day.
	PSE1 – REFLECTION AND PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE	Review and reflect on the messages emerging from PSE1 (Document 61, draft 5). Agree responses and what is required with members' constituencies.
	GEOLOGICAL SCREENING	Decide whether to ask DECC to instruct the BGS study. Agree peer review specification.
	Public Questions	Opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.
1245	LUNCH	(approx. timing)
	GEOLOGICAL SCREENING	(continued)
	WORK PROGRAMME	Agree prioritisation of tasks in Work Programme during next 3 meetings (Document 13.1, draft 15 March 2010).
	Way Forward	Actions and other communications.
1500	Close	

Emboldened type indicates papers sent to Partnership members in advance of the meeting. We will assume you have read them: please contact us ASAP if you do not have copies.

Appendix 2 – Attendees on 31st March 2010

Charles Holmes	Allerdale Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Tim Heslop	Allerdale Borough Council	
Guy Richardson	CALC	
Geoff Smith	Allerdale CALC	
Keith Hitchen	Copeland CALC	(Steering Group member)
Chris Shaw	Allerdale/Copeland CALC	(Steering Group member)
Revd Dr Lindsay Gray	Churches Together in Cumbria	
Fergus McMorrow	Copeland Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Ian Curwen (pm only)	Copeland Borough Council	
Yvonne Clarkson	Copeland Borough Council	
Stewart Kemp	Cumbria County Council	(Steering Group member)
Tim Knowles	Cumbria County Council	(Steering Group member)
Gerald Humes	Cumbria County Council	
Robert Allison	Lake District National Park Authority	
Robert Morris-Eyton	National Farmers Union	
Fred Barker	NuLeAF	
Simon Rowley	South Lakeland District Council	
Michael Heaslip	West Cumbria Strategic Partnership	(Steering Group member)
Willie Slavin	West Cumbria Strategic Partnership Forum	(Steering Group member)

Apologies

Carni McCarron-Holmes	Allerdale Borough Council	
Sam Standage	Allerdale Borough Council	
Allan Holliday	Copeland Borough Council	
John Kane	Copeland Borough Council	
Mark Dutton	CoRWM	
Tony Markley	Cumbria County Council	
David Southward	Cumbria County Council	
Peter Kane	GMB Union	(Steering Group member)
Paul McKenna	Isle of Man Government	
David Moore	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group	(Steering Group member)
Mike Tonkin	Eden District Council	

Observing Members

Lewis Mortimer	DECC
Andrew Craze	DECC
Cherry Tweed	NDA
Alun Ellis	NDA
Brian Clark	CoRWM
John Rennilson	CoRWM
Gavin Thomson	Environment Agency
Mick Bacon	NII HSE

Facilitators, Secretariat and Presenters

Richard Harris	3KQ (Facilitator)
Rhuari Bennett	3KQ (Facilitator and Programme Manager)
Jane Dalton	3KQ (Report Writer)
Helen Ashley	3KQ (PSE1 Report Writer)
Sharon Walker	Copeland Borough Council (Secretariat)

Other

Paul Gardner	Osprey Communications (Communications Adviser)
David Collier	Golder Associates (Evaluator)

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

Jay Redgrove
Steve Bradley

Other Members, Not in Attendance

Peter Clements	Prospect Union
Phil Huck	Barrow Borough Council
Rob Johnston	Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
Ken Williams	Barrow Borough Council

Appendix 3 – 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	<p>Mike Davidson (councillor) mike.davidson@allderdale.gov.uk Sam Standage (councillor) sam.standage@allderdale.gov.uk Tim Heslop (councillor) tim.heslop@allderdale.gov.uk Charles Holmes charles.holmes@allderdale.gov.uk</p>	<p>Verbal progress report provided to the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Management Team/ Heads of Service. - Regeneration Portfolio Holders. - Regeneration Managers Group (for further cascade). - Partnerships and Communities Directorate. <p>Formal report for endorsement, or decision, would be via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nuclear Issues Task Group. - Executive Committee Council.
Barrow BC	<p>Ken Williams (councillor) kenwilliams@barrowbc.gov.uk Phil Huck philhuck@barrowbc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Verbal update given to Leader after each Partnership meeting.</p>
CALC (Allerdale)	<p>Chris Shaw chris.shaw@calc.org.uk Geoff Smith geoffandhelen@tesco.net</p>	<p>Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Allerdale Association meetings.</p>
CALC (Copeland)	<p>Chris Shaw chris.shaw@calc.org.uk Keith Hitchen (councillor) keith.hitchen@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Copeland Association meetings.</p>
CALC	<p>Guy Richardson office@calc.org.uk</p>	<p>Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Executive Committee meetings.</p>
Chamber of Commerce (Cumbria)	<p>Robert Johnston rob@cumbriachamber.co.uk</p>	
Copeland BC	<p>Elaine Woodburn (councillor) ewoodburn@copelandbc.gov.uk Allan Holliday (councillor) allan.holliday@copeland.gov.uk John Kane (councillor) john.kane@copeland.gov.uk Yvonne Clarkson (councillor) Fergus McMorro fergus.mcmorrow@copeland.gov.uk Ian Curwen ian.curwen@copeland.gov.uk</p>	<p>Leader's update to full Council. Update to Nuclear Working Group. Update to Executive at key milestones. Update to MRWS Task Group when needed.</p>

Cumbria County Council	Tim Knowles (councillor) timothy.knowles@cumbriacc.gov.uk Tony Markley (councillor) anthony.markley@cumbriacc.gov.uk David Southward (councillor) david.southward@virgin.net Gerald Humes (councillor) gerald.humes@cumbriacc.gov.uk Shaun Gorman shaun.gorman@cumbriacc.gov.uk Stewart Kemp stewart.kemp@cumbriacc.gov.uk	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	Mike Tonkin (councillor) mike.tonkin@eden.gov.uk	Report to members on 'Outside Bodies' website. Presentation to members as Env. Portfolio Holder.
GMB Union	Peter Kane peter.kane@sellafieldsites.com	Updates given to Shop Stewards Committee. Forward on newsletters to members.
Lake District National Park Authority	Robert Allison robert.allison@lake-district.gov.uk	
National Farmers Union	Robert Morris-Eyton rmorriseyt@aol.com	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 fbarker@gn.apc.org	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 pc34@sellafieldsites.com	
South Lakes District Council	Simon Rowley s.rowley@southlakeland.gov.uk	Forward minutes and newsletters to Senior Management Team and Portfolio Holder.
WCSSG	David Moore dmoore@copelandbc.gov.uk	Quarterly verbal updates to SSG. Paragraph in quarterly newsletter. Link on website to Partnership site.
West Cumbria Partnership	Willie Slavin willieslavin@aol.com Michael Heaslip michael@heaslip.fslife.co.uk	Reports on MRWS progress will be made to each WCP Forum meeting (quarterly). Link on website to Partnership site.
Observing Members:		
CoRWM	Brian Clark briandclark@btinternet.com Mark Dutton lizmark@lizmark1.co.uk	Verbal update to all plenary meetings. Circulate key papers to Committee. Insert in e-bulletin as appropriate.
DECC	Bruce Cairns bruce.cairns@decc.gsi.gov.uk Andrew Craze andrew.craze@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 Jay Redgrove jay.redgrove@nda.gov.uk	Monthly reporting to RWMD and central communications staff. Dissemination of Partnership minutes and Meeting Reports to staff.
Nuclear Installations Inspectorate	Mick Bacon 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.