

West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership

Stakeholder Organisations Workshop



Meeting Report

From 4 December 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 first Stakeholder Organisations Workshop of the West Cumbrian Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership took place on the 4th December 2009 in Whitehaven. Almost 100 organisations were invited with 40 stakeholders attending. The objectives of the meeting were: To help stakeholders develop their understanding of the MRWS process, the national context and how it is being managed in West Cumbria; To build the Partnership's understanding of stakeholder organisations' views about the MRWS process; To get feedback on the Partnership's work to date and plans ahead, particularly the Terms of Reference, criteria, work programme and PSE Plan.

Context. Presentations, followed by question and answer sessions were given by DECC, the local authorities and the Partnership. The purpose of these was to help all stakeholders get up to speed with the wider **MRWS process**, how the three Principal Authorities (Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council) made **expressions of interest** in the Government process and details of the Partnership which has been set up by the three councils to **recommend whether or not** West Cumbria should make a **decision to participate** in the Government siting process.

Key Issues. Stakeholders were asked to identify their key issues about MRWS for West Cumbria. Many different issues were discussed including;

- How to **engage** and **communicate** with the local community
- Clarity as to what the **community benefits package** might look like, **in addition** to the infrastructure that would be required to construct and run a repository
- How to ensure the **credibility** of the Partnership
- Satisfaction of **safety, monitorability** and **retrievability** concerns
- Clear and well publicised **criteria** for **site identification**.

The Partnership. Stakeholders were then asked to give their views on the Partnership; its establishment, what its priorities should be, its Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) and also its credibility. Views reflected the key issues identified above with advice to the Partnership from the stakeholders including to;

- **Ensure it engages widely** so that everyone in the area is knowledgeable on the issue and people feel involved and represented
- **Manage perceptions** by explaining why the Partnership sees itself as credible, and being careful of its words and behaviour about the possibility of proceeding in the Government's MRWS process
- **Continue to work to include wider interest groups** such as NGOs, tourist interests (e.g. B&Bs) and those that are socially excluded/ hard to reach groups, so that it can be confident that the outcomes of the process will fairly reflect the spectrum of views.
- Be **open, honest and transparent** about all its activities and decision-making process.

This input is being incorporated into the Partnership's work alongside the other ongoing engagement activities happening (public meetings, leaflet drops, media coverage etc) and will influence changes in the future operation and activity of the Partnership.

For more information, including the Partnership's Terms of Reference (ToR), work programme and PSE plan, please see the Partnership's website www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 Objectives. Specific objectives for the day were to:

- To help stakeholders develop their understanding of the MRWS process, the national context and how it is being managed in West Cumbria.
- To build the Partnership's understanding of stakeholder organisations' views about the MRWS process.
- To get feedback on the Partnership's work to date and plans ahead, particularly the Terms of Reference, criteria, work programme and PSE Plan.

The full agenda is in Appendix 1.

1.2 Attendance. 40 participants¹ attended the Civic Hall in Whitehaven on 4 December 2009. A full list of those organisations invited to the workshop is in Appendix 2 and an attendee list is in Appendix 3. The meeting was open for the public to observe but no members of the public chose to attend.

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.

¹ Plus 4 from the facilitation team

2. Context

2.1 Introduction

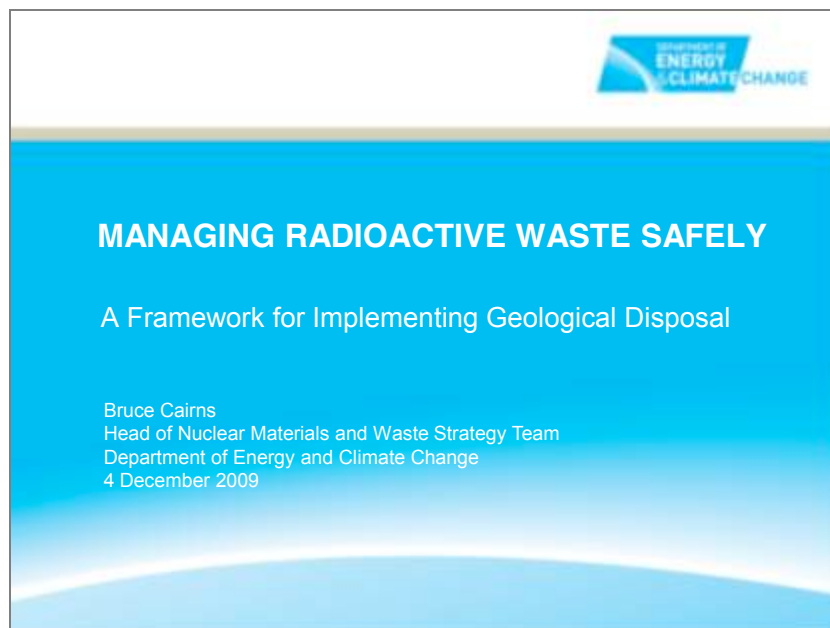
Three presentations were given in order to help participants get up to speed on the background of the process up to this point:

- The national Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) framework, presented by DECC
- How the three local authorities joined the process, presented by Cumbria County Council
- The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership's purpose and approach, presented by the Chair of the Partnership

For each presentation, participants were asked to discuss at their tables what questions they would like to be answered, listen to the presentation and then ask any unanswered questions. The slides and a summary of the questions and answers are recorded below.

2.2 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely

Bruce Cairns, Head of Nuclear Materials and Waste Strategy from DECC presented the following slides:





THE HISTORY

- UK a nuclear nation since 1950s;
- Waste legacy to manage in long term;
- Nirex process 1990s

THE SOLUTION

- Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Programme, 2001
- Independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), 2003
- CoRWM recommendations, 2006
- Government consultation, 2007
- White Paper 'a framework for implementing geological disposal' 2008

GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL - what is it?



- Preferred International approach
- Learned society support

The Facility:

- 200 – 1000 metres deep
- Area of several square km
- 20-30 years until ready for waste
- Century or longer to fill

Committed to:

- safe, secure interim storage
- ongoing R & D

SAFETY AND SECURITY



- No facility will be built unless it can meet the **demanding safety case** requirements of the independent statutory regulators

•Subject to strong independent regulation by

- Environment Agency
- Health and Safety Executive
- Office for Civil Nuclear Security
- Department for Transport (DfT)



- Ongoing rigorous technical and scientific assessment

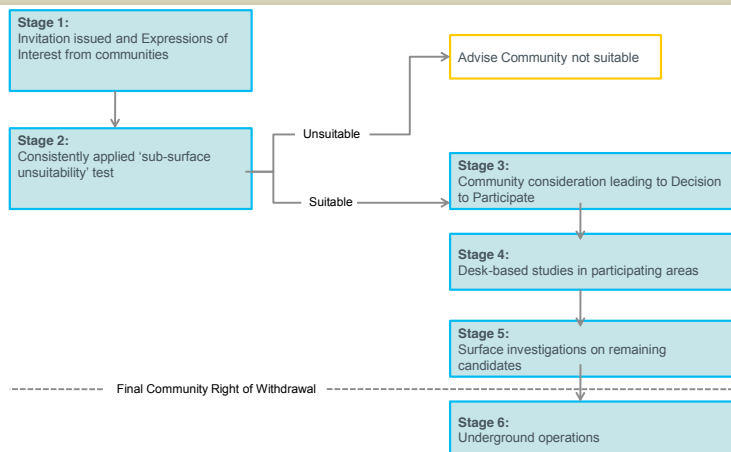
- Independent scrutiny and advice by CoRWM

OPPORTUNITIES



- Multi-billion pound high technology project
- High quality employment for hundreds of people for over a century
- Spin-off industry benefits
- Likely to involve major investment in local transport and other infrastructure
- Needs-focussed, community benefits package

Voluntarism and Partnership



Final messages



- This is a new process - **Voluntarism and partnership** the key drivers
- Involvement is without commitment - '**right of withdrawal**' right up until construction stage
- **Staged process** – progress made in relatively small steps to ensure those involved feel comfortable before choosing to move on at each stage
- Collaborative process to ensure the project contributes to **community well-being**
- Discussion, engagement and rigorous site assessment **will take time**. Looking forward to working with West Cumbria as the process moves forward

Qu: How do you define a community?

Ans: Paragraph 6.8 in the White Paper defines what we mean by a community. The local authorities play a key role in the volunteering process. The Partnership is looking at the issue of how the local community is defined, especially as the process is narrowed down to specific sites.

Qu: Paragraph 6.5 in the White Paper says that if the voluntary approach doesn't look like succeeding the Government reserves the right to explore other approaches. This is a concern to the community of Gosforth, especially as the NDA, i.e. Government, is a large landowner in the area. Can you give us any assurances on this issue?

Ans: Government is responsible for dealing with the legacy waste and takes this responsibility seriously. This paragraph recognises that responsibility but we can understand how this statement in isolation may have raised concern in some communities.

The key question is if no community volunteers what would be the process? The first stage would be for Government to talk to communities that might have withdrawn from the process about what had caused them to withdraw. There could be further rounds of calls for volunteers along adapted lines and there could be a further consultation on how to improve the process. The worst case scenario could be a full scale consultation on alternative site selection processes to allow Government to proceed in managing this waste.

Re the land owners issue, paragraph 6.16 in the White Paper states that land owners have to go via their local authorities, they aren't able to make a direct Expression of Interest to DECC about the use of their site without the agreement of elected local authorities and that would apply to any Government owned land as well.

Qu: There is talk of opportunities for major investment in local infrastructure such as transport. How firm is it that there will be additional benefit as we already have major sites etc. without the corresponding required infrastructure?

Ans: The opportunities will become clearer as the process develops and as we work with the Partnership to identify suitable opportunities. This is a new process for Government so we are finding our way through it alongside the Partnership.

Qu: If there is a change in Government will there be a change in the process?

Ans: We do not envisage any major change in nuclear policy or change in this process. The main opposition party recognises the importance of nuclear policy.

The White Paper is available on the web at www.decc.gov.uk/mrws

2.3 Local Government Involvement

Stewart Kemp, Nuclear issues Manager from Cumbria County Council presented the following slides:

MRWS Stakeholder Workshop
4 December 2009

Local Government

Stewart Kemp
Cumbria County Council

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Expressions of Interest in the MRWS process

Copeland Borough Council

June 2008: Copeland Borough Council make an Eol based on their community consultation on, and commitment in, the West Cumbria Spatial Master Plan 2007 – 2027:

5.12 Long-term management of nuclear waste

...Any resolution to the issue of the disposal of radioactive waste will undoubtedly have a major impact on Copeland, and a significant bearing on adjoining Allerdale. However, this issue will be resolved over a long timescale well beyond the scope of the current Masterplan exercise.

A key action required is for Copeland Borough Council to continue to investigate whether Copeland has any role to play in partnering government in the disposal of higher level radioactive waste based on a full assessment of costs and benefits, consultation and the views of the Copeland people.

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Expressions of Interest in the MRWS process

Copeland decides upon:

- a) Initial discussions with Copeland's residents and Government on whether to participate in the Governments process will take place in line with Council policy.
- b) To facilitate this process the Council will 'express an interest' to Government, and seek funding to engage the local community and partners in the issues before deciding whether to 'participate'.
- c) A work programme and partnership arrangements designed to consider all the issues needed for this Council to make a Decision to Participate will be reported back for agreement.
- d) The partnership arrangements and work programme will be developed with the full involvement of relevant local partners including the County Council.

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Expressions of Interest in the MRWS process

Cumbria County Council

June 2008: Cumbria County Council welcome publication of the MRWS White Paper

November 2008: Cumbria County Council Cabinet make an Eol based on balance of support indicated by a 'soundings process' amongst local partners and key stakeholders (using the contact database of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership).

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Expressions of Interest in the MRWS process

Cumbria County Council decides:

- on behalf of the County Council the Cabinet makes a without commitment "expression of interest" in MRWS for the Copeland area in view of the nuclear waste legacy at the Sellafield site and the need to minimise the future movement of waste;
- on behalf of the County Council, Cabinet agrees that should Allerdale Borough Council decide to make an "expression of interest" in MRWS for the Allerdale area, then the County Council's expression of interest should be extended to include both the Copeland and Allerdale areas of West Cumbria.

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Expressions of Interest in the MRWS process

Allerdale Borough Council

January 2009: Allerdale Borough Council make an Eol based on the balance of support expressed at two workshops involving local partners and key stakeholders.

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Expressions of Interest in the MRWS process

Allerdale Borough Council decides:

- A without commitment interest in discussions with Government about potential involvement in the siting process be expressed.
- Officers, through the Nuclear Issues Task Group, be authorised to open discussions with Government to:
 - Develop proposals and a timeframe for the offered review by British Geological Survey (BGS), to establish which areas within the Borough might be unsuitable for repository development
 - Develop an approach to engaging in depth with stakeholders and residents in the Borough, on the MRWS process and its implications
 - Seek to define and agree the scale and scope of Government support to Allerdale to properly fund the engagement required.
 - That reports on the BGS and Stakeholder programme as developed be brought before the Executive and full Council for consideration and confirmation before any work is carried out on the BGS study or any programme of consultation and engagement is commenced.

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Why engage in the MRWS Process?

- 70% of the wastes earmarked for disposal are already in West Cumbria on the Sellafield site
- The process is voluntary. The local authorities can withdraw
- National need. There is a national need to find a safe disposal route for legacy wastes
- For a community that accepts a geological disposal facility, the White Paper commits to recognising the national service performed through provision of 'Community Benefits'

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Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework (adopted April 2009)

8.15 This plan does not propose the development of a geological disposal facility within Cumbria or the higher activity wastes. It is not even known if there are areas of the county where the geology is suitable for such a facility, further research is needed on this critical aspect. However, the Government has published the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper and commenced the siting programme by inviting expressions of interest. A policy is, therefore, included that relates to that programme and to the procedures that will be involved. The Generic Development Control Policies will also be relevant to the consideration of any proposals. It is recognised that considerable amounts of further research are still needed on issues relating to the geological disposal of radioactive wastes. One particular issue that has been raised in representations is how much radioactivity would dissolve underground and where the contaminated water would go.

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Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021

Policy EM 14

Radioactive Waste

Plans and strategies should continue to support the North West as a centre of national and international expertise in the fields of nuclear fuel fabrication, reprocessing, radioactive waste management and decommissioning.

National and regional partners should work together to promote an agreed solution to the safe long-term management of radioactive waste, based on consultation with all relevant interests. This should incorporate a long-term commitment to the reduction of radioactive discharges and to radioactive waste minimisation, management and safe storage techniques.

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Memorandum of Understanding (October 2009)

The three local authorities, that the MRWS White Paper recognises as Decision Making Bodies, agree:

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

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Memorandum of Understanding

The MoU recognises the statutory responsibilities of the three local authorities and commits to the principles of:

- A Partnership of equals aiming for consensus and co-ordinated decision making
- 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.

The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership is the mechanism for carrying this work forward

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Qu: The County Council seemed to be a bit more hesitant to go down this road which then changed due to the local elections. Does the County Council still see itself as in a secondary role to the borough councils?

Ans: Cumbria County Council has never seen itself in a secondary role. There was a broad range of opinions within the County Council at the time and discussions between the three authorities as to how to proceed but not everyone got to the same place at the same speed. After the local elections Cumbria County Council decided to engage in the discussions through the Partnership that Copeland Borough Council had already set up.

Qu: Some don't see it as clear cut as you do in your presentation. We see this as something that could be beneficial to the whole of Cumbria, and especially West Cumbria, and we are in danger of losing it if we don't act as one. We see the biggest hurdle as infighting between the local councils.

Ans: The three local authorities are working together very closely through the Partnership. There is a spectrum of views within the Councils but, speaking on behalf of Cumbria County Council, we are fully committed to the Partnership and to committing resources to participating in the Partnership's work. The MoU states that the community most affected must get the greatest proportion of the benefits and Cumbria County Council fully supports that.

2.4 West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership

Elaine Woodburn, current Chair of the Partnership presented the following slides:



What are councils doing?

- AllerdaleBC, CopelandBC, CumbriaCC have started the conversation with Gov't, partly as 70% of waste is already at Sellafield
- To ensure coordinated input^{FBI}, councils have set up a Partnership of community interests
- Partnership comprises...

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Who is on the Partnership?



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What are we doing?

- ✓ Aim: To recommend whether or not West Cumbria should make a decision to participate^{FBI} in the Government siting process

...what are we NOT doing?

- ✗ Deciding whether there will be a repository in West Cumbria
- ✗ Deciding where a repository - if one is built - will go

(...these come later if we don't withdraw)

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FB1

Key work areas

6 key areas of work: informing our recommendation whether or not West Cumbria should participate in the next stage

1. Safety, security and environment
2. Geology
3. Community Benefits
4. Design and Engineering
5. Process
6. Public and Stakeholder views (cross-cutting)



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How are we doing this?

The Partnership meets 6-weekly (in public) to ^{FB1}

- Build understanding of the issues
- Cross-examine arguments
- Commission independent research
- Judge whether the criteria can be met
- Consider public and stakeholder views
- Protect West Cumbrian interests

“This has to be done RIGHT, not RUSHED”

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What happens next? ^{FB1}



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Getting Involved ^{FB1}

- ✓ Leaflet to 79,000 households
- ✓ westcumbriamrws.org.uk
- ✓ Observe Partnership Meetings (every 6 weeks)
- ✓ We'll come to you... Ask us for specific meeting/presentation
- ✓ N'hood Forums/info display
- ✓ Comment via website
- ✓ Run this workshop again with output of BGS screening



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Qu: Given the importance of a volunteerism and partnership approach, should potential host communities be engaged in the Partnership earlier rather than later and if so what would be the mechanism?

Ans: The Partnership has been very careful not to identify potential areas and ask them to join the Partnership as a specific site has not been identified. There are representatives from CALC (Cumbria Association of Local Councils) on the Partnership and representatives from town and parish councils are being kept up to date. The aim of the Partnership is to make recommendations to the local authorities whether or not to proceed to the next stage. We are also looking to ask the BGS (British Geological Survey) to start their survey. This will identify completely unsuitable areas but equally doesn't mean that any other areas are perfect. If the decision is to continue further after this, the Partnership will have to evolve or a new Partnership will be formed (still lead by the three local authorities). The Partnership recognises that the communities most affected should have a big voice in the process.

3. Identifying Key Issues

3.1 Introduction

Participants were asked to identify individually their key issues about MRWS in West Cumbria and then discuss these around their tables in order to identify their top 3. These were discussed briefly in plenary with stakeholders adding an approximate weighting to the issues of greatest importance to them.

3.2 Key Issues and Approximate Weighting Given

KEY Issue	Weighting Given
How do we engage and communicate with communities? Context of lots of little communities and interest groups	26
Education and information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure its accurate • National and local implications 	2
Impact of Nirex history and people's perception of this process	2
Is there an estimated amount of waste?	3
Where will the waste come from?	0
Community benefits – need clarity that they are additional	18
Maximise skill sets now in the community – Partnership role in this	3
Community benefits – same focus on deprived areas, health benefits & disparity between areas – health: physical and social, mental, well being	14
Community losses?	7
Potential opportunity costs	5
Manage the credibility of the Partnership (trust, cover all interests)	9
Infrastructure needs to enable repository -> construction needs & constraints	14
Infrastructure pressures post-build?	3
Transport safety	2
Community safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and disorder • Impact of influx of people 	6
Safety: build, management, monitoring, <u>retrievability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are these done? • <u>Monitorability</u> • Does a repository enable retrievability? 	14
Clear criteria for site identification and location and people know what they are	15
Not just geology - other constraints	9
What part will the rest of Cumbria have in decisions?	5
Impact of IPC process on facilities/ buildings supporting the repository?	0
None of the above	0

3.3 Clarifications. The following clarifications were provided by the NDA:

Volume of Waste. The NDA clarified that there is a section in the White Paper (page 20, Table 1) that gives details about the legacy waste and which discusses potential future waste from new build. The NDA will publish a Generic Disposal

System Safety Case next year which will address the questions of potential spent fuel and other waste from new build.

Transport Safety. Nuclear materials are already transported according to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) regulatory requirements which are implemented in this country by the Department for Transport (DfT).

Criteria for Site Identification. The NDA will be working with the Partnership, if it continues within the process, on how to move from generic discussions to more site specific. A big distinction between this and the Nirex process is that the site identification process will not be driven by geology. A willing host community and a safe site will both be required for the site identification process and beyond. More information on the Nirex process is published on the Partnership's website (www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

Learning from the Thorp Inquiry. There was some discussion as to whether there could be learning for this process from the Thorp Inquiry, particularly around potential impacts and infrastructure requirements. The NDA undertook to look into this and circulate a link to the relevant report.

3.4 Comments on the Weighting Process

It was emphasised how this approximate weighting process was not a precise exercise, as little time had been spent clarifying what was meant by each key issue and showing the connections and overlap between different issues listed. It was also carried out in a snapshot of time, views may change over the next 6 months. It does however give a rough sense of weight given to the issues listed by the people in the room on the day.

All of the issues raised are relevant to the work of the Partnership but some are of immediate relevance, others are relevant in the future and others will only be relevant if the Partnership decides to proceed in the MRWS process.

The Programme Manager informed participants that the Partnership carried out a similar exercise in order to develop its criteria and corresponding work programme. Reassuringly, participants had identified very similar issues but there are some interesting nuances for the Partnership to look at. The issue given the highest weighting was communication and engagement with communities: The Partnership has recognised the significance of this and so has developed a specific Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) Plan which is available on the website www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk

4. The Partnership

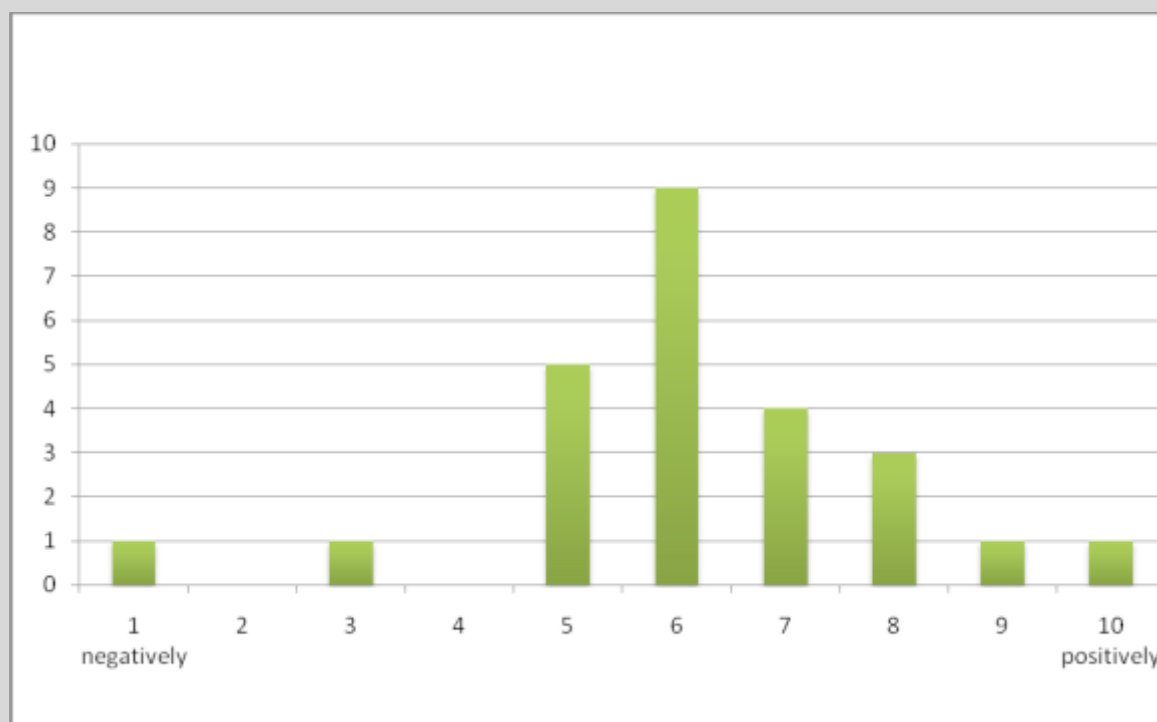
4.1 Introduction. Stakeholders were asked to complete a short questionnaire as individuals (see section 4.2 for results). The group then discussed the questions in a plenary session, focusing on the credibility of the Partnership. Questions asked were;

- 1) Generally, how do you feel about the establishment of the Partnership to date?
- 2) What do you think the most important jobs of the Partnership are at this stage?
- 3) How important do you feel that Public and Stakeholder Engagement should be to the Partnership?
- 4) What advice would you give to the Partnership on this (PSE)?
- 5) How satisfied are you that the Partnership is credible?
- 6) Overall, how confident are you in the Partnership, as it exists right now?

Sections 4.3 to 4.8 give a commentary on the results from the individual worksheets and a summary of points raised in the following plenary discussion.

4.2 Individual Worksheets. The transcribed results from the individually completed worksheets are provided below in grey boxes.

Qu1) Generally, how do you feel about the establishment of the Partnership to date?



Why is that?

Comments accompanying a score of 1

- CBC jumped the gun and exposed its interest without consultation. Perception at outset that 'local' interests were not considered and their views ignored

Comments accompanying a score of 3

- Too much 'playing around at the edges' and ignoring of major aspects eg delaying BGS survey

Comments accompanying a score of 5

- Early days in the process
- I don't have sufficient knowledge to comment either way
- Not enough knowledge/ experience of the Partnership to make a judgement

Comments accompanying a score of 6

- It is a good idea but it is early in the process and it remains to be seen if the promises are fulfilled
- It won't affect my personal life and it won't affect my professional life for several years
- Do not know how/ how long ago established. Do not feel all relevant organisations are on board i.e. PCT, EA etc
- Have we got the right people in the right posts
- Attending this workshop was first time I had heard of it
- Unsure where it is going at this moment
- Do not know about it in depth as this is my first meeting
- Not published enough in the area. Still sending out leaflets
- Don't really know enough about it to make a decision

Comments accompanying a score of 7

- The establishment of the Partnership is in itself a step towards full and proper consideration of the issues
- Today's meeting, info and website/ media coverage
- Partnership seems representative of local groups

Comments accompanying a score of 8

- Extremely important time for West Cumbria and public bodies/ elected representatives showing engagement
- Created early in process
- Clear message from West Cumbria as a whole recognises that there will be cross boundary issues wherever a facility may be located

Comments accompanying a score of 9

- It could have been done without the partnership - which would have made the process less transparent and collaborative

Comments accompanying a score of 10

- Managed to bring together councils etc and hopefully speak with one voice and objectives

Qu 2) What do you think the most important jobs of the Partnership are at this stage?

Engagement and Communication

- To inform public and partners about what the partnership is, what it will do and what the options are for disposing of higher level radioactive waste
- Engagement with stakeholders
- Public engagement
- Communication medium with communities
- To engage constructively with 'the community'
- Communications to all stakeholders
- Involve all levels of the community

- Ensure everyone in West Cumbria is kept up to date
- Listen to the people
- Listen to local groups
- To listen to feedback and act on it
- Need more clarity on what is proposed
- Raise awareness of the prospective management/ disposal of waste from Sellafield – with West Cumbria public
- Represent all views of West Cumbrian population
- Engagement with wider public
- To ask public/ stakeholders for their views
- Communicating the broad issues of the MRWS to the public (e.g. through schools, pubs, community groups, old peoples homes, shops, leisure centres etc)
- Communicate learning effectively to communities
- Be open to the public with information
- Engagement with the national process – partnership with Government
- Engage with a wide range of organisations to help them do the first two points (inform and communicate openly and work together in true partnership)
- Collection of ideas, wishes and worries to influence the process and decision
- To explain clearly the limit of the Partnership – there is obviously a great deal of misunderstanding about its remit – it is not a decision-making body
- Give honest and non-jargon responses
- Wide scale consultancy
- Education and awareness raising
- Take communities along with ongoing development
- Keep all relevant parties up to date interested and one common objective

Public Trust/ Credibility

- To gain the confidence and trust of all potential stakeholders and general public
- Demonstrate and prove public acceptance that the Partnership has community support/ credibility
- Have no pre-determined bias in any direction
- To ensure it is structured in such a way as to be reflective of the views of all agencies/communities
- To ensure that W Cumbria speaks with one voice and that Principal Authorities do not revert to previous ‘tribalism’
- Gaining public trust
- To be approachable
- Ensure everyone in West Cumbria is getting a fair deal
- To prove to the local community that the Partnership has not already made its mind up
- Work together in true partnership for the good of the local communities not just for their particular employer
- Needs to take on board more local organisations as stakeholders/ members
- Represent a united front on subject to Government etc.

Partnership’s Role in Decision Making Process

- To put the message out that CBC/CCC will not make decisions without the agreement of local communities
- Information gather to make an informed decision re participation
- To inform and communicate openly to ensure communities have the opportunity to make informed decisions
- Give balanced advice that is relevant to the majority, not just the vocal minority

- Make rapid progress towards the final decision stage of the process
- To ensure that the process does not become 'mired'; to ensure momentum
- To get the initial BGS survey going and hence remove some of the uncertainty
- To show in detail the next step(s)
- Needs to have more detail on impacts
- Clear decision making (no fudged recommendations)
- Gathering information to distribute
- Collecting and disseminating information
- Screening for potential sites (and knocking out those which are unsuitable due to constraints e.g. infrastructure/ flood risk/ biodiversity/ landscape/cultural heritage issues)
- To focus on problems now to provide early answers
- Define the democratic process for gaining a consensus
- Come up with and publicise a plan for completion of the work
- Establish clear Pros and cons
- Provide advice to relevant Authorities, especially members and Councillors
- Collation and agreement of response
- Identification & prioritisation of issues raised in that engagement
- Liaising with the developers of the three sites identified in the Nuclear NPS to discuss potential infra-structure sharing
- To make a balanced decision, based on what's best for West Cumbria

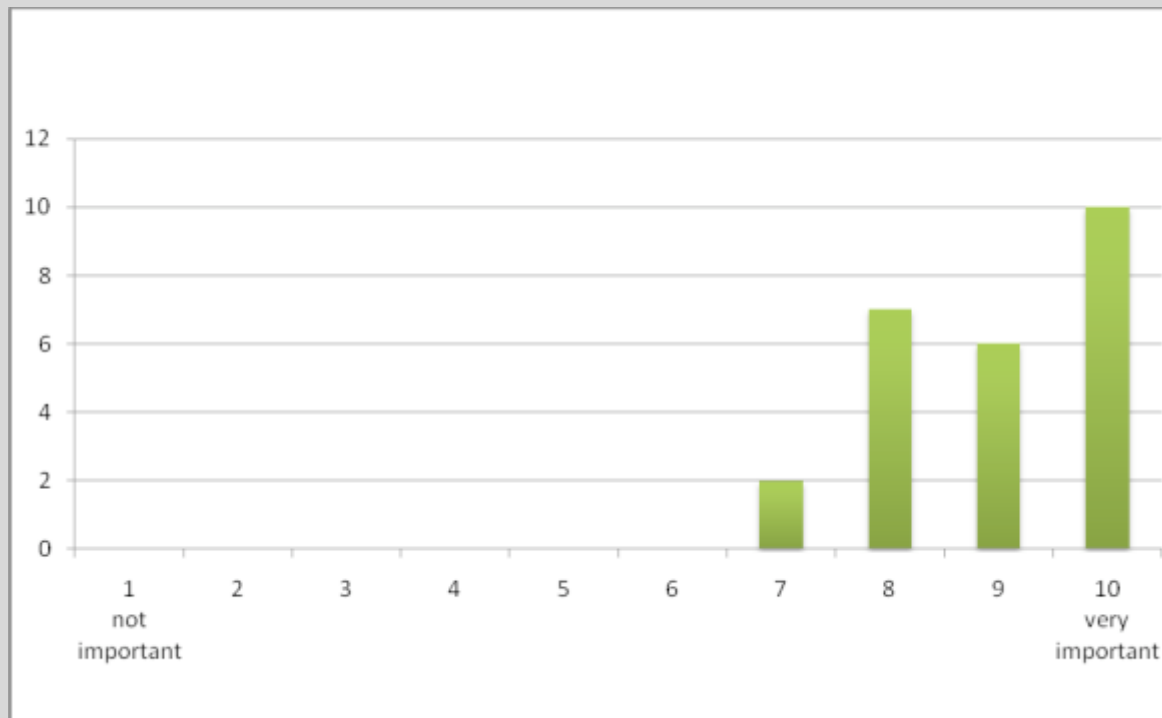
Community Benefits

- Benefit for local community
- Identify how to move forward with benefits package
- Make clear separation between 'community benefit package' and safety issues
- Start to develop thinking on community benefits and infrastructure required

Other

- Safety
- Stakeholder analysis for each potentially effected community
- Take on issues and no looking at these as negative
- Development of a vision for West and Cumbria taking account this challenge/ opportunity

Qu3) How important do you feel that Public and Stakeholder Engagement should be to the Partnership?



Qu 4) What advice would you give to the Partnership on this (PSE)?

Open, Honest and Transparent

- Be straight and honest
- Need to be open and transparent
- Make sure the PSE is open honest and transparent
- Transparent
- Be visible and transparent, no hidden agenda
- Honest
- Have a fair and transparent way to choose locations and sites
- Upholding 'transparency'
- Not to assume that silence is acquiescence by communities/ local populations
- Don't take things for granted as total agreement by all.
- Needs to show all agencies signed up to proposals – before consulting
- Need to avoid being seen as camouflage for a 'done deal'
- Dispel, what is amongst some sections already assumed, that the Partnership is of a predisposition to approve geological disposal in West Cumbria

Ensure Engage with All Sections of the Community

- The only public engagement to date has been through the leaflet. A large area of Copeland still has not received it.
- Work closer with local reps
- Clear effective strategy for targeting all groups
- Engage with the community
- Use unconventional means of communication – e.g. through schools, pubs, community groups, old people's homes, shops, leisure centres etc
- Do not just speak to high level people engage with community individuals to get the right message across
- Where possible all stakeholders consulted

- If public engagement not reaching all parts of the boroughs is to be the norm the Partnership is doomed to mistrust by the public
- Message needs to reach all community leaders at all tiers and through other channels – youth groups etc
- Keep the public up to date with progress
- Need to engage with full range of public and stakeholders
- Gain the trust and confidence of the community
- Take interest groups/ NGOs seriously. Many have expertise in both identifying constraints, AND communicating with people you may not otherwise reach
- Don't expect those supportive of having a repository nearby to actively engage or make their views known

Advice on How and When to Engage

- Regular meetings
- Keep at it – little and often
- Don't hold the meetings on a Friday
- Local community need to have input early on
- Hold regular workshops
- Don't just use leaflets. People throw them away without reading them

Advice on Communications

- Make it clear why no organisations such as CORE/ Greenpeace involved
- Clear explanations
- Communicate regularly and effectively
- Be neutral in all communication
- Don't assume that all relevant information and facts are known in the communities
- Use as wide a range of opportunities as possible – TV and radio debate early in process to raise awareness
- Keep outlining the message
- Explain clearly the remit of the Partnership – there is obviously a great deal of misunderstanding about its remit – it is not a decision-making body
- Keep regular updates flowing
- Remember its not just the internet – not everyone has access. Develop a comms plan
- Clear message that it exists to represent the communities views
- Test that information provided has been received and understood
- To prove to the local community that the Partnership has not already made its mind up
- Needs to have more information
- Common message to all parties
- Balanced
- Keep informing people at every step of the way
- Communication strategy
- Be aware of historic perception of past process
- Always communicate results, decisions
- Good feedback

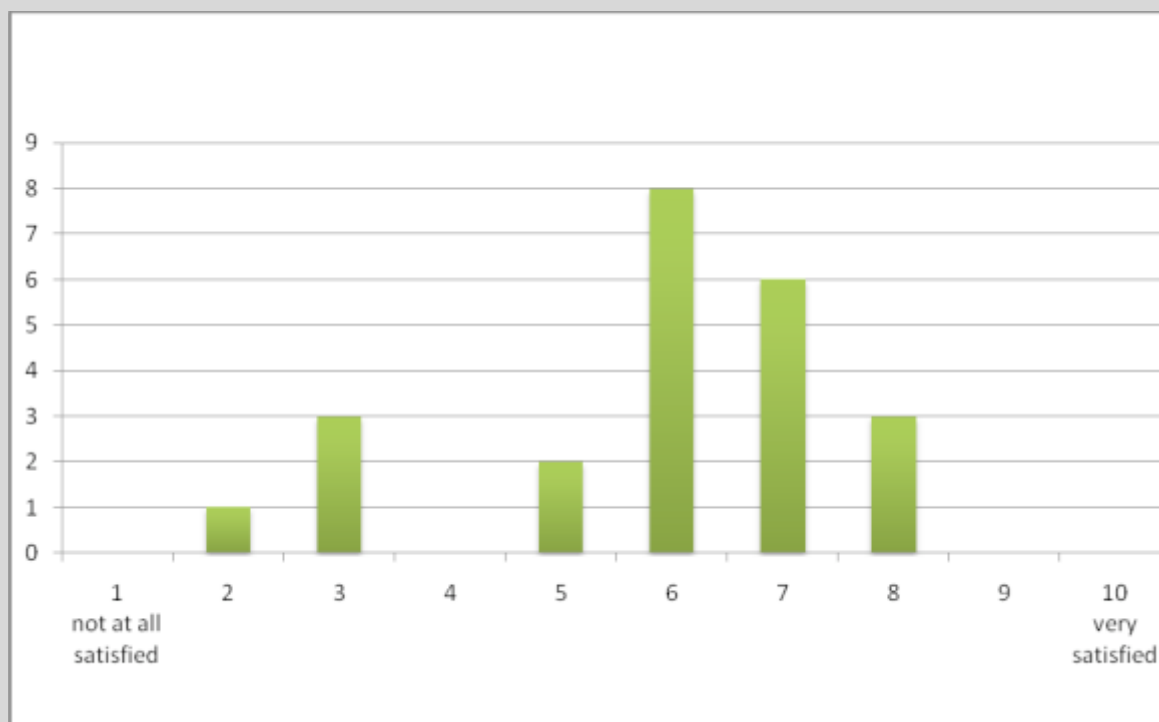
Siting Issues

- Identify the likely site of the repository and target your comms there
- Make it clear that a site will not necessarily be near Sellafield

Other

- If consultancy required then ask for it

Qu 5) How satisfied are you that the Partnership is credible?



Why is that?

Comments accompanying no score

- Not enough experience of the Partnership to form a judgement
- It is to me, but I know about it. So few of the public are aware of it that I cannot know whether they perceive it as credible

Comments accompanying a score of 2

- Because some, mainly environmental, groups have already written off the process as rubber stamping and local groups don't feel they are being involved at early enough stage

Comments accompanying a score of 3

- Because of the non-engagement (so far) of potential host communities
- It has got to improve its performance. It must take the public and small stakeholders along the path that no decision will be made without their consent
- There is a perception that elements of the Partnership have already reached any decisions that they are required to make

Comments accompanying a score of 5

- As this is my first real involvement in the Partnership I am not sure I am qualified to comment
- I don't know enough about it to make a decision

Comments accompanying a score of 6

- Still needs to demonstrate conclusively that its existence is not predicated on a specific outcome
- It depends if it can influence decision making or becomes a toothless talking shop
- Not sure that there is enough community representation
- Not enough information/ awareness of what it is (attending this workshop was the first time I had heard of it)
- Not sure the right people are in post
- Do not feel has wide enough representation

- A feeling that the issue has been on the agenda for a long time and a perception that minds are already made up and that Partnership might be about a hard sell. Current activity will allay this if message is clearly and widely put

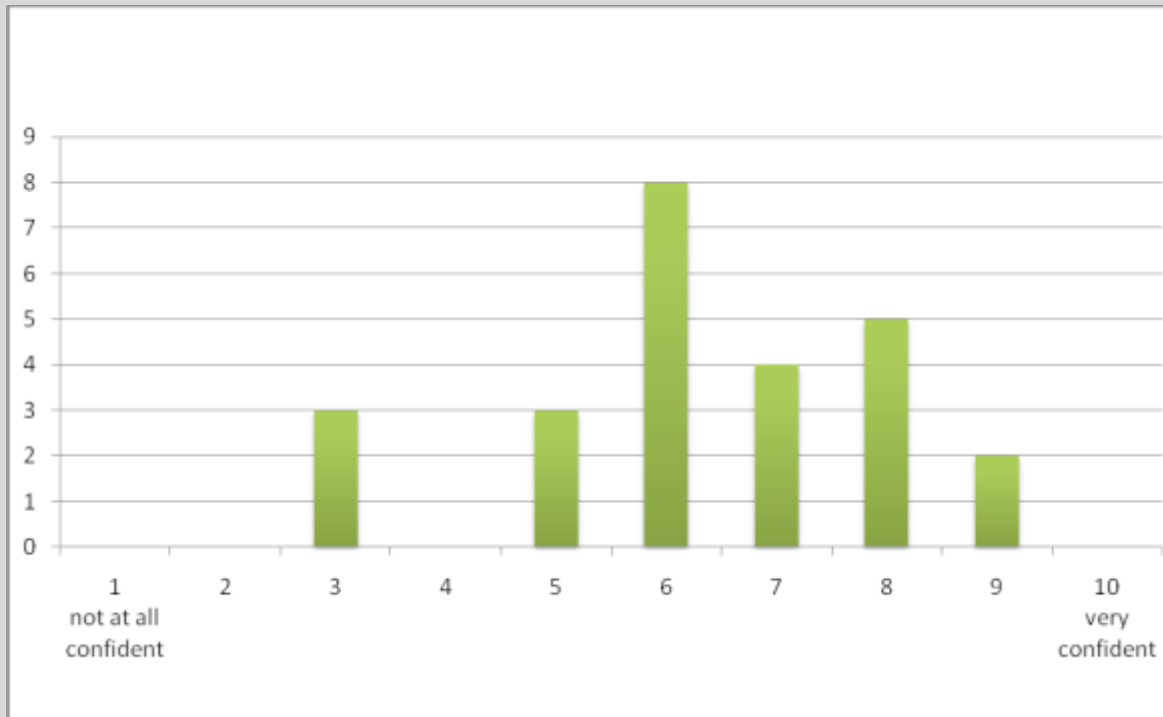
Comments accompanying a score of 7

- At the moment seems to be working
- In my own mind believe it to be credible but have heard comments today that have put little bit of doubt
- A good start
- If it is representative, sounds like it almost is
- Group's credibility should be demonstrated as process goes on
- Appears to have wide representation if all active members. Is private sector covered well enough?

Comments accompanying a score of 8

- Good mix of interest groups
- It has been so far
- It is going about its business in a professional manner

Qu6) Overall, how confident are you in the Partnership, as it exists right now?



Why is that?

Comments accompanying a score of 3

- The Partnership does not represent a wide enough range of views through NGOs etc – whilst it might be difficult to engage with them surely with an open ended budget and limited time constraints it is not impossible
- From its past performance

Comments accompanying a score of 5

- It is fully representative, are members fully engaged?
- I don't know enough about it to make a decision
- It doesn't have a clearly defined purpose or plan

Comments accompanying a score of 6

- Because of the non-engagement (so far) of potential host communities
- Still needs to demonstrate conclusively that its existence is not predicated on a specific outcome
- As above but reassured that a) it exists and b) it recognises importance of engagement and is actively pursuing this (via community presentations/ leafleting etc)
- Time will tell
- All parties need to be singing from the same hymn sheet
- It needs to take a step back and look at things from everyone's point of view
- Not sure the right people are in post
- Needs to expand membership

Comments accompanying a score of 7

- A good start
- It appears to be the correct mix of people
- From my limited knowledge. I would think it has all the right intentions and it has started off positively

Comments accompanying a score of 8

- It seems to have a good skills base
- Early days but impressed with what seen to date
- All interested groups are represented at this stage
- No evidence to contrary
- I have knowledge and engagement with the MRWS process (today's event as an example)

Comments accompanying a score of 9

- Good range of organisations, representative. Taking every step to engage as widely as possible
- It seems inclusive, collaborative etc. (harder to sustain, I suspect, as we get further down the line towards a conclusion)

4.3 Establishment of the Partnership. Many of the answers from the individual worksheets showed that stakeholders didn't yet feel they had enough knowledge or experience of the Partnership to make a judgement about the establishment of the Partnership to date. There were a few comments made recognising that the fact a Partnership has been formed at all is a positive thing. A concern was raised that some local interests were not adequately considered when the initial Expressions of Interest in the MRWS process were made.

4.4 Membership of the Partnership. The group then discussed the membership of the Partnership, especially the concerns of some that there is a lack of environmental and health NGO representation. The Partnership currently has an open invite to environmental NGOs to join and there are ongoing discussions with them as to how they can become involved, although some stakeholders do not feel they should be given 'special treatment'. The Partnership's membership is evolving as the discussions move on and the Partnership's Steering Group is keen that organisations that may wish to join the Partnership make them aware of this to ensure their perspective is covered in discussions. Other organisations with less interest or time availability will be involved using less intensive engagement methods.

4.5 Priority Jobs for the Partnership. The most important jobs of the Partnership listed on individual stakeholders' worksheets fell mostly into four categories;

- Engagement and communication;
- Public trust in and credibility of the Partnership;
- The Partnership's role in the decision-making process;
- Community Benefits.

4.6 Public and Stakeholder Engagement Advice. Stakeholders felt that it was important that the Partnership is open, honest and transparent about all its activities and decision-making process. The issue of funding came up in this discussion and it was clarified that DECC pays for all of the Partnership's costs, not the local authorities. Stakeholders were concerned that the Partnership needs to engage with all sections of the community including hard to reach groups and young people. The PSE Plan (document 15 on www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk) shows the range of engagement that the Partnership is currently doing or planning. Further suggestions were made on how and when to engage and on communications explicitly.

4.7 Credibility of the Partnership. When asked to score how satisfied they are that the Partnership is credible, participants gave quite a range of scores. Participants' concerns about the credibility of the Partnership centred around the lack of breadth of representation on the Partnership and some peoples' perception that minds of Partnership members are already made up. The Partnership's Steering Group acknowledged that a clear message needs to go out to the community that they have not made any decisions or recommendations yet as they don't know what the feedback from the public and stakeholders will be: If the feedback is more negative than positive then the Partnership will reflect this in its reporting back to the local authorities.

A concern was also expressed that West Cumbria is the only area in the country that has expressed an interest in the MRWS process at this stage, this could lead to concern that the existence of the Partnership is predicated on a specific outcome. It was also acknowledged that the credibility of the Partnership will be linked to the ability of the Partnership to influence government, nationally and locally, and the perception of this.

Participants who were more satisfied that the Partnership is credible gave its wide representation and that it had made a good start as reasons for their satisfaction.

The facilitator asked the participants what they felt the Partnership should **do** in order to improve its credibility. Comments raised in plenary were that the Partnership should;

- Ensure it engages widely so that everyone in the area is knowledgeable on the issue and people feel involved and represented
- Manage perceptions by explaining why the Partnership sees itself as credible and being careful of its words and behaviour about the possibility of proceeding in the Government's MRWS process
- Continue to work to include wider interest groups such as NGOs, tourist interests (e.g. B&Bs) and those that are socially excluded/ hard to reach groups, so that it can be confident that the outcomes of the process will fairly reflect the spectrum of views

4.8 Participants' Confidence in the Partnership. Bearing in mind all of the previous comments about its membership, engaging widely, openness and transparency and being truly open to all possible outcomes, stakeholders appeared to be cautiously optimistic about the Partnership and acknowledged that it was still early in the process.

5. Comments Board

5.1 Introduction. Participants were encouraged to write any additional comments they hadn't had an opportunity to input during the meeting onto a Comments Board. These are captured below:

5.2 All NGOs are different. Don't tar them with the same brush. A couple of people used the term 'NGO' as synonymous with non-co-operation. This is not necessarily the case. NGOs are not all the same as FoE, Greenpeace etc.

5.3 Other organisations to invite:

- Friends of the Lake District
- Natural England
- SLACC (South Lakes Action on Climate Change)
- Cumbria Tourist Board

5.4 Go to local events, markets, fetes, supermarket. Look at other organisations that go out and meet the public and how they do it (fire, police etc)

5.5 Need to engage people at a more local level. Need to go to where people are – shops, pubs, events etc.

5.6 Need communications strategy to identify who needs to be reached and work with them. Need to work with organisations trying to engage people – age concern, unemployed, CBS (many organisations work with CBS so good organisation to engage), housing, community groups.

6. Way Forward

6.1 Workshop Report. The report from this workshop will be circulated around the attendees to check for accuracy before being made public on the Partnership's website, along with the outputs from other strands of PSE.

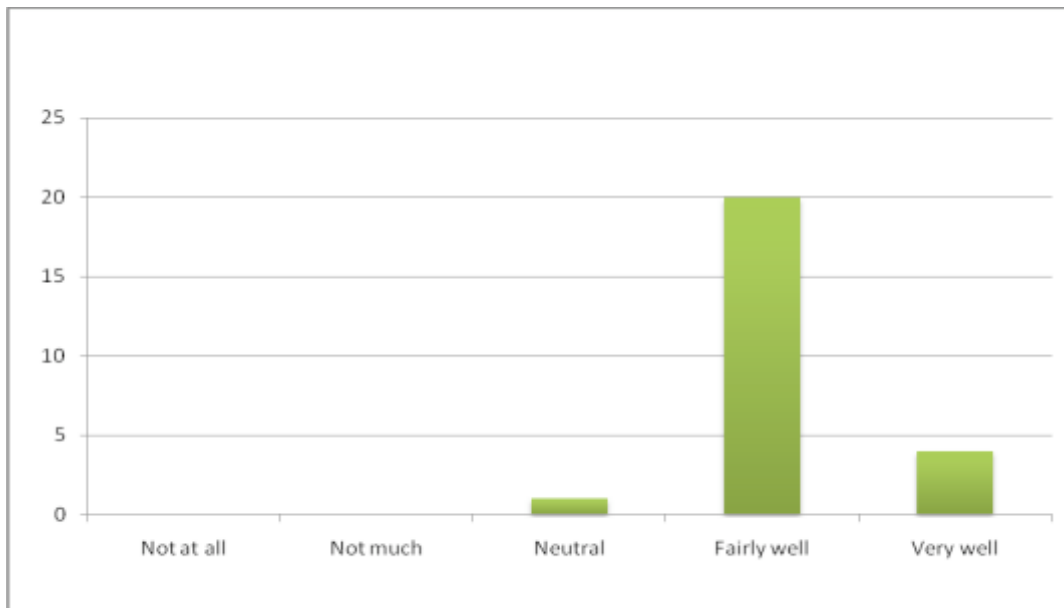
6.2 Future PSE. It is anticipated that the Partnership will run this workshop again in each of the rounds of PSE. This means that it would be run once to discuss the results of the British Geological Survey screening study findings, and once more before the Partnership makes its final recommendations to the Principal Authorities.

7. Evaluation Report

A total of 25 completed evaluation forms were collected

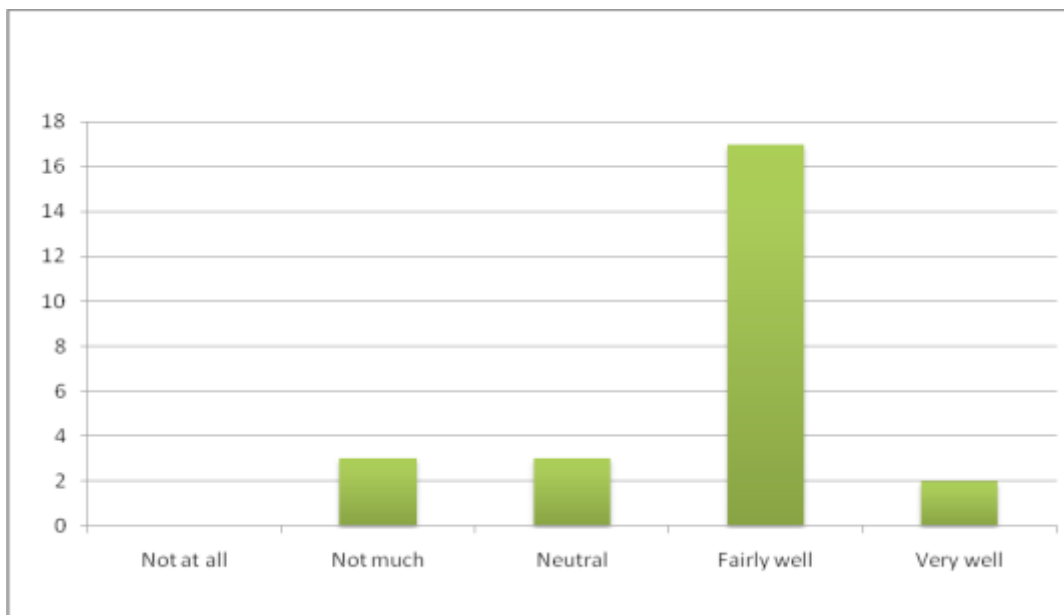
Qu 1a) To what extent did we achieve our objective:

To help stakeholder develop their understanding of the MRWS process, the national context and how it is being managed in West Cumbria?



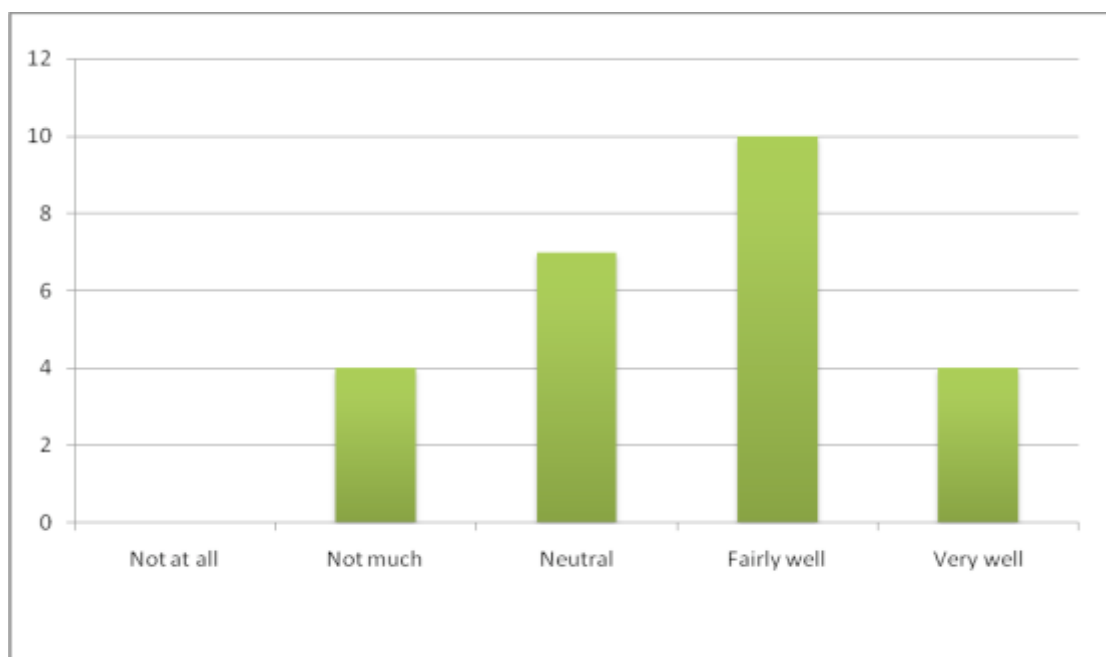
Qu 1b) To what extent did we achieve our objective:

To build the Partnership's understanding of stakeholder organisations' views about the MRWS process?



Qu 1c) To what extent did we achieve our objective:

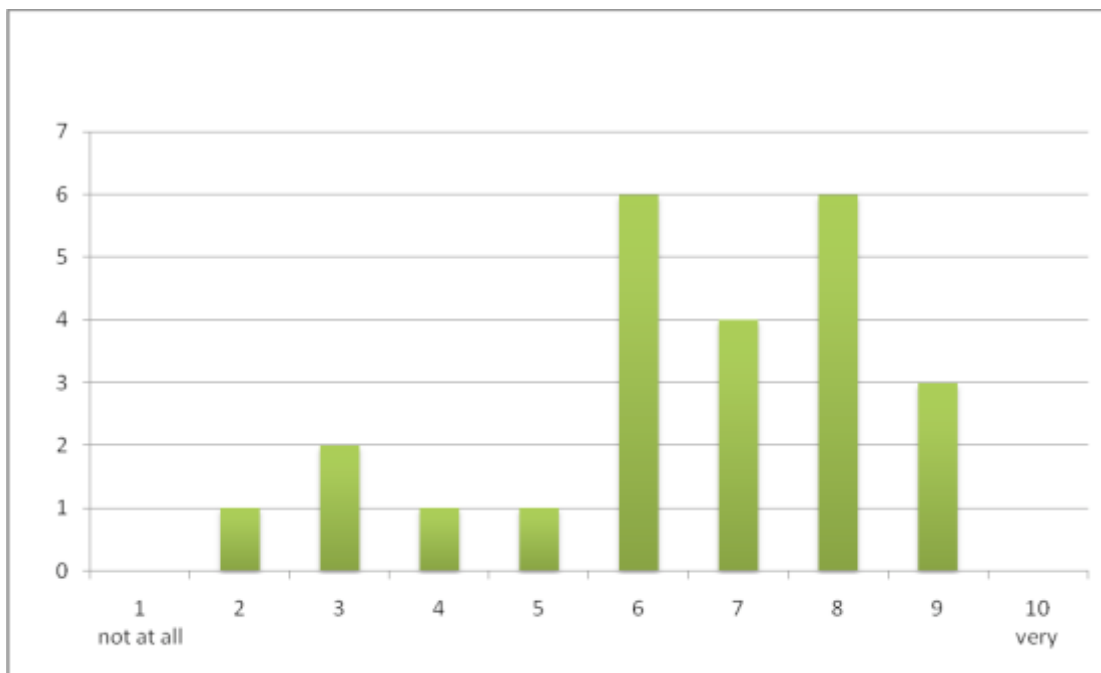
To get feedback on the Partnership's work to date and plans ahead, particularly the Terms of Reference, criteria, work programme and PSE Plan?



Qu 2) Where would you like to have spent more or less time?

- How the partnership works – work streams etc
- The whole event could have been done in a morning – not sure it really was worth a whole day of people's time – overall cost of peoples time!
- Partnerships work to date
- More time on the key issues especially the ones with the highest merit
- Whitehaven
- Perhaps more on where the Partnership saw its future
- More information sent out before the meeting would have been helpful
- Better involvement personally
- Well organised, local groups i.e. Parish Councils
- The ToR/ Partnership discussion was weaker than the morning session – more opportunity for input into general issues.
- I felt the PM session was essentially repetition of what had gone on in the morning
- Lost the will to live at round about 14.30 after that period there tended to be mainly repetition of what we had done in personally completing forms
- Right amount
- Seemed about right
- ?
- N/A x2

Qu 3) Looking ahead, how confident are you in the Partnership?



Comments accompanying a score of 3

- I have heard nothing today which convinces me that the Partnership leadership will change its facts

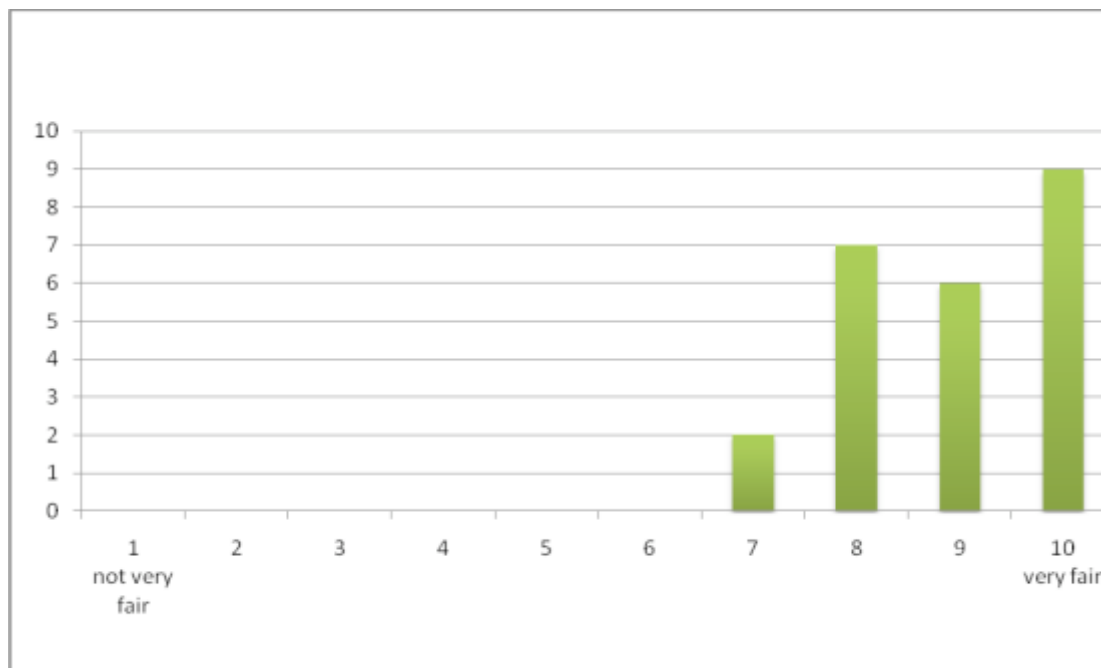
Comments accompanying a score of 6

- Still needs to establish independent credentials
- Need to know more
- As long as we can get wider inclusion of parties i.e. Green NGOs
- As long as Government will listen
- I believe that it is progressing in an appropriate manner

Comments accompanying a score of 7

- I don't think it is a complete Partnership as yet

Qu 4) To what extent was the meeting run in a fair and unbiased way?



Comments accompanying a score of 8

- N/A

Comments accompanying a score of 9

- Everyone was allowed to express their views

Comments accompanying a score of 10

- Facilitator did a good job
- Good

Qu 5) Is there anything else you would like to say about the event?

- Well done facilitators
- Good day
- It was a pity that more did not attend and that the facilitator had to draw so many teeth with obvious reluctance by some to speak
- Afternoon session hard going, energy/ interest low on my table
- A good initial event but until the preferred location of the repository is known such an event can only ever be a general talking shop which doesn't address the issues of concern to the affected community.
- Good luck!
- No

8. 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
PCT	Primary Care Trust
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 4 December 2009 workshop

West Cumbria MRWS Partnership – Stakeholder Organisation Workshop Agenda for 4th December 2009

Objectives:

1. To help stakeholders develop their understanding of the MRWS process, the national context and how it is being managed in West Cumbria.
2. To build the Partnership's understanding of stakeholder organisations' views about the MRWS process.
3. To get feedback on the Partnership's work to date and plans ahead, particularly the Terms of Reference, criteria, work programme and PSE Plan.

Session timings are approximate; short breaks will be taken in the morning and afternoon.

Time	Item	Notes
0930	Arrivals and Registration	
1000	Welcome, purpose and agenda for the day	
1015	<p>Context: Short presentations from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Energy and Climate Change • Local Government • The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership <p>Questions and discussion</p>	<i>The intention of this session is to give everyone a chance to hear some background information about MRWS and the prospect of a repository being considered in West Cumbria, and then ask questions to better understand the context.</i>
1150	<p>Identifying Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the issues to address? • Which issues need to be resolved or understood better, before a decision whether to participate or not can be recommended? 	<i>Interactive discussion identifying and recording additional key issues that the Partnership should be aware of and respond to.</i>
1300	LUNCH	<i>Informal networking</i>
1400	<p>The Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress so far (<i>Terms of Reference, Work Programme</i>) • Looking ahead (<i>Public and Stakeholder Engagement</i>) <p>Questions and discussion</p>	<i>Small group and plenary discussion giving guidance to the Partnership on how it can best operate and how other stakeholders might assist.</i>
1530	Outstanding Questions/Issues	<i>Have we missed anything?</i>
1545	Next Steps	<i>Outlining the next steps in the programme and opportunities for further involvement.</i>
1600	Close	

Appendix 2 – Organisations invited to attend the Stakeholder Organisations Workshop, 4th December 2009

Organisation

Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT)
Allerdale and Copeland Disability Association
Allerdale Borough Council
AMICUS
Barrow Borough Council
Business Link
Capita Symonds
Carlisle City Council
Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Civil Nuclear Police Authority
CN Group
Cockermouth Area Partnership
Connexions Cumbria
Copeland Borough Council
CoRWM
Cumbria Association of Local Councils
Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Cumbria Community Foundation
Cumbria Constabulary
Cumbria County Council
Cumbria Fire and Rescue
Cumbria Police Authority
Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA)
Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership
Cumbria Strategic Partnership
Cumbria Tourism/ Cumbria Tourist Board
Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment (CORE)
DECC
Department of Transport, Dangerous Goods Division
Distinguon & Howgate Partnership
Dumfries & Galloway Council
Durham County Council
Eden District Council
Egremont & Area Regeneration Partnership
Egremont Town Council
English Heritage
Environment Agency
Five Rivers Partnership
Food Standards Agency
Friends of the Lake District
GMB/Unite
GONW
Greenpeace
Haile & Wilton Parish Council

Highways Agency
HSE Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Invest in Cumbria
Isle of Man Government
Jobcentre Plus
Keswick Area Partnership
Lakes College West Cumbria
Lakes District National Park Authority (LDNPA)
Lancashire County Council
Learning & Skills Council
Low Level Waste Repository Ltd
Maryport Area Partnership
MP for Copeland
MP for Penrith & Border
MP for Workington
National Farmers Union
National Trust
Natural England
NDA
Network Rail
NHS Cumbria
North Allerdale Development Trust
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals University Foundation NHS Trust
North West Development Agency
North Yorkshire County Council
Northern Trades Union Forum (TUF)
Northumbria County Council
NuKlear21
NuLeAF
Older Peoples Forum
Port of Workington Authority
Prospect Union
Regen NE Copeland
RSPB
Scottish Borders Council
Sellafield Ltd
South Copeland Area Partnership
South Lakes District Council
South Whitehaven Area Partnership
South Workington Area Partnership
Third Sector Forum
University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN)
University of Cumbria
West Cumbria & North Lakes Friends of the Earth
West Cumbria Business Cluster
West Cumbria Development Agency (WCDA)
West Cumbria Development Fund (WCDF)
West Cumbria Have Your Say Forum
West Cumbria Industries Group

West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group
West Cumbria Strategic Partnership
West Cumbria Vision
Western Lake District Tourism Partnership
Whitehaven and District Trades Council

Appendix 3 – Attendees and Apologies for 4 December 2009

Rhuari Bennett	3KQ, West Cumbria MRWS Partnership Programme Manager	
Jeff Downham	Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT)	
Mary Bainbridge	Allerdale Trades Council	
John Tear	AMICUS	
Jocelyn Holland	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	
Kevin Freeman	Civil Nuclear Constabulary	
Anne Wilson	Cockermouth Area Partnership	
Fergus McMorro	Copeland Borough Council	Member of Partnership Steering Group
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council	Member of Partnership Steering Group
Leila Cox	Copeland Borough Council	
Brian Clark	CoRWM	Observing Member of the Partnership
Mark Dutton	CoRWM	Observing Member of the Partnership
Dave Polhill	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	
Geoff Smith	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	
Chris Shaw	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	Member of Partnership Steering Group
Stewart Kemp	Cumbria County Council	Member of Partnership Steering Group
Mike Smith	Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service	
Brian Forster	Cumbria Police	
Kate Wilshaw	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
Bruce Cairns	DECC	Observing Member of the Partnership
Andrew Craze	DECC	
Danny Vince	Department for Transport	
Frank Hollowell	Distington & Howgate Partnership	
Simon Walker	Egremont & Area Regeneration Partnership	
Andrew Davison	English Heritage	
Gavin Thomson	Environment Agency	Observing Member of the Partnership
Michael McKinley	Five Rivers Partnership	
Tony Nisbet	GMB Northern	
Peter Kane	GMB/ Unite	Member of Partnership Steering Group
Joel Tagg	Government Office for the North West	
Steve Hunter	Haile & Wilton Parish Council	
Sohail Ashraf	Health Protection Agency	
Rob Allison	Lake District National Park Authority	
Steve Bradley	Living Environment Thematic Group, LSP	
Elizabeth Atherton	NDA	Observing Member of the Partnership
Alun Ellis	NDA	
Tony Norris	North Yorkshire County Council	
Peter Robinson	NuKlear 21	
Alan Hurton	Regen NE Copeland	
Penny Lees	West Cumbria Business Cluster	

Facilitation Team

Richard Harris	3KQ (Facilitator)
Helen Ashley	3KQ (Report Writer)
Carl Reynolds	3KQ (Support facilitator)
Jane Dalton	3KQ (Support facilitator)

No **Members of the Public** attended the meeting