

# westcumbria:mrws

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely

## Public and Stakeholder Engagement Round 2 Report

Document 157.1  
Adopted 24 May 2011

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## Executive summary

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### Background

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) is the name of the Government process to find a site for the geological disposal of the country's higher activity radioactive waste. The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership (the Partnership) was set up to make recommendations to Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council on whether they should move to the next stage of the process with the Government, without commitment to hosting a facility. The next stage would involve working with the Government to find potential sites for a facility.

### Public and stakeholder engagement

Public and stakeholder engagement (PSE) is central to the work of the Partnership. Given the sensitivity of the subject of radioactive waste management and in particular the history of this issue in West Cumbria, the Partnership felt it essential to engage as many people as possible in a variety of ways prior to giving its advice to the three Councils. As such, three rounds of engagement have been built in to the Partnership's Work Programme in order to inform, seek input and give feedback to the general public and stakeholder organisations in West Cumbria, the rest of Cumbria and beyond.

### Objectives

This report summarises the outputs from the Partnership's second round of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE2), which took place between November 2010 and February 2011. PSE2 objectives were for the Partnership to:

1. Demonstrate that public input has led to real changes.
2. Build understanding of the MRWS process and the Partnership's activity, including the implications of the British Geological Survey (BGS) study results.
3. Seek input from stakeholder organisations and the public on key topics:
  - a. How public and stakeholder views will inform the work of the Partnership.
  - b. Impacts and community benefits.
  - c. Community involvement in the siting process.
4. Understand stakeholder and public issues and information needs.
5. Provide a response to issues and adapt activity accordingly.

### Activities

As well as a significant amount of ongoing information giving (general media work, regular e-bulletins, the Partnership website and the delivery of newsletters to all households in West Cumbria), several 'strands' of engagement were undertaken during this period in order to seek input from the public and stakeholders:

- Community Drop-in Events: 10 one-day events held across Cumbria.
- Discussion Pack: consisting of an information booklet, DVD and response form.
- Residents' Panel: a one-day deliberative event with a group of residents from Allerdale and Copeland.

- Stakeholder Organisations Workshop: for organisations based in or near West Cumbria with an interest in the MRWS process.
- Other public input, including free phone number, freepost and contact email.
- Opinion Survey (by telephone).

## Key findings

Some of the main messages arising from PSE2 are outlined below. For full details on all of these and other issues please see the main report.

## Seeking input

- **Net support indicator:**<sup>1</sup> There are no clear arguments against the concept of using net support as an indicator of public support or opposition. There are, however, concerns about the method of gauging net support. There is a marked mix of opinion on the issue of a referendum before stage 4 or further investigations. Although the credibility of a referendum is clear in some people's minds, with several asking for this as a method of gauging support, several others point out that it would be meaningless unless carried out at a later stage in the MRWS process, after a possible decision to participate in the siting process and when more detail is available on issues such as impacts, benefits and siting. There are also some reservations about the use of net support in circumstances where there is a substantial percentage of people saying 'I don't know'. See section 3.
- **Impacts:** Most of the issues that people raised about possible impacts in PSE1 are raised again in this round of public and stakeholder engagement. This includes in particular the issues of health and safety, as well as uncertainties around potential economic impacts. People who support a facility as well as those who oppose a facility raise these issues. See section 4.
- **Community benefits**
  - Principle: The idea of receiving community benefits is felt by many people to be a necessary or expected compensation for the presence of a repository. However, some feel they are a bribe and a few think they would simply not be enough to outweigh the potential negative impacts of a repository. See section 4.
  - Specifics: It is generally felt that community benefits should be secured, and the highest proportion of these received, in advance of any construction to ensure that the Government follows through its commitments. People also generally tend to feel that areas closer to a facility should receive a higher proportion of the benefits. See section 4.
- **Community involvement in a siting process:**<sup>2</sup> There are no substantive challenges to the Partnership's suggested principles for community involvement.<sup>3</sup> However, the need for a clear forward process with well defined decision-making powers and processes is central to many responses in PSE2. This sits alongside the desire for more engagement and more information, although there is some tension between the call for more detail

<sup>1</sup> The partnership has looked at ways it could gauge the public's view on whether we should move to the next stage of the process. One of the proposed methods is a 'net support' indicator. **Net support** from the West Cumbrian public would mean that more people support participating in the siting process than oppose it. If net support does not occur, then the Partnership is saying that it could not recommend further participation in the process.

<sup>2</sup> This relates to how communities likely to be affected by a the potential siting of a repository would need to be involved in the more detailed process of looking for possible sites.

<sup>3</sup> See page 33 of the main Issues Report for these listed in full.

and more accessible information. The need for local awareness and acceptability of any forward process is key for many people. See section 5.

### **Building understanding**

- The nature of the BGS study appears to be partially understood. For example, some people realised for the first time that the BGS study only ruled out areas for the underground site not the surface site. In addition, the Nirex Inquiry is still a significant issue for many people. For example, some people are still unsure of how the MRWS process is different to the Nirex Inquiry. There are also repeated assertions from some people that the Nirex Inquiry has already ruled out all of West Cumbria as being suitable for a repository. See section 7.

### **Understanding issues and information needs**

- Overall, people want to continue to see clear, unbiased information and a transparent process for decision making. See section 8.

### **Overall levels of awareness and support for the process**

- Awareness of the Partnership's work and the MRWS process is increasing. At the same time, attitudes towards West Cumbria continuing its participation in the MRWS process remain relatively unchanged. See section 10.

### **Partnership response to issues raised in PSE2**

The Partnership spent some time reviewing the issues identified by the PSE2 process and responses to these issues were developed by various sub-groups or individuals on behalf of the Partnership. Responses include agreeing to consider specific issues or ideas in the design of the next round of public and stakeholder engagement, outlining how specific issues are or will be addressed in the Partnership's decision-making process, and confirming where issues will need to be considered further down the line, should the process continue. These responses are laid out in full in section 11 of this report.

## 1. Introduction

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### 1.1 The West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) is the name of the Government process to find a site for the geological disposal of the country's higher activity radioactive waste.<sup>4</sup> The background to this process is given in Appendix 1. More information is also available on the Partnership's website.<sup>5</sup>

The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership (the Partnership) was set up to make recommendations to Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council on whether they should move to the next stage of the process with the Government, without commitment to hosting a facility. The next stage would involve working with the Government to find potential sites for a facility.

The Partnership has a Steering Group to guide the delivery of its Work Programme and other operational issues as they arise on behalf of the Partnership. There is also a Public and Stakeholder Engagement Sub-Group (PSE Sub-Group)<sup>6</sup> which works with the Programme Manager to plan and deliver the suggested programme of PSE activity.

The Partnership is independently convened and facilitated by a neutral third party, community engagement company 3KQ Ltd.<sup>7</sup>

### 1.2 Public and stakeholder engagement

#### Public and stakeholder engagement (PSE)

Public and stakeholder engagement (PSE) is central to the work of the Partnership. Given the sensitivity of the subject of radioactive waste management and in particular the history of this issue in West Cumbria, the Partnership felt it essential to engage as many people as possible in a variety of ways prior to giving its advice to the three Councils. As such, three rounds of engagement have been built in to the Partnership's Work Programme in order to inform, seek input and give feedback to the general public and stakeholder organisations in West Cumbria, the rest of Cumbria and beyond.

#### PSE1

The Partnership's first round of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE1) took place from November 2009 to March 2010, and involved a variety of activities including: neighbourhood forums; a citizens' panel; a residents' panel; a stakeholder organisations workshop; and a large amount of information giving through media channels, leaflets, email and the Partnership website.

The objectives of PSE1 were primarily aimed at building understanding on both sides: public and stakeholders' understanding of the Partnership and the overall process; and the Partnership's understanding of key issues from a public and stakeholder perspective. For more detail on the PSE1 process and outputs, see the Partnership's PSE1 Report.<sup>8</sup> The

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<sup>4</sup> June 2008 White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely – A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal' (Cm7386).

<sup>5</sup> [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk) .

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix 2 for membership.

<sup>7</sup> [www.3kq.co.uk](http://www.3kq.co.uk) .

<sup>8</sup> Document 61 – PSE1 Report. See PSE section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk) .

Partnership's performance in terms of responding to key issues arising in PSE1 is also covered below in section 6 of this report.

## **PSE2**

The Partnership's second round of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE2) took place between November 2010 and February 2011. Its objectives were slightly different to those of PSE1. This reflected the fact that the Partnership had more information to share with the public, and also that it needed input from the community on specific topics. PSE2 objectives were for the Partnership to:

1. Demonstrate that public input has led to real changes.
2. Build understanding of the MRWS process and the Partnership's activity, including the implications of the British Geological Survey (BGS) study results.
3. Seek input from stakeholder organisations and the public on key topics:
  - a. How public and stakeholder views will inform the work of the Partnership.
  - b. Impacts and community benefits.
  - c. Community involvement in the siting process.
4. Understand stakeholder and public issues and information needs.
5. Provide a response to issues and adapt activity accordingly.

## **PSE2 activities**

PSE2 activities were delivered as an integrated plan of activities, between 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011.<sup>9</sup> As well as a significant amount of ongoing information giving (general media work, regular e-bulletins, the Partnership website and the delivery of newsletters to all households in West Cumbria), several 'strands' of engagement were undertaken during this period in order to seek input from the public and stakeholders:

- Community Drop-in Events.
- Discussion Pack.
- Residents' Panel.
- Stakeholder Organisations Workshop.
- Other public input, including free phone number, freepost and contact email address.
- Opinion Survey (by telephone).

The timing of these different strands of engagement and other relevant activities in PSE2 are shown below.

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<sup>9</sup> The original end date planned was 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011. This was extended by a week to enable additional Discussion Pack responses to be received.





**PSE3**

A third round of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE3) is currently planned for autumn 2011. PSE3 will include a formal consultation on the Partnership’s preliminary findings and advice to the three Councils, before they make decisions about whether to proceed further or withdraw from the process.

**1.3 PSE2 report**

**Purpose of this report**

This report (PSE2 Report) summarises the outputs from each PSE2 engagement strand. See Appendix 3 for the methodology used to summarise all input received. The report seeks to capture key issues arising from PSE2 in relation to each PSE2 objective, demonstrate how these issues are being responded to and reflect upon the next steps as the Partnership moves towards PSE3 and its recommendations to the three Councils.

### Assessment of issues

All of the PSE2 strands of engagement, with the exception of the Opinion Survey, were designed to collect qualitative information. In terms of reporting this means looking at what was said and how strongly this came across from the various strands of engagement rather than assessing absolute numbers. This naturally involves a degree of judgement being used in interpreting findings from each engagement strand. However, the audit process outlined in Appendix 3 was designed to ensure a consistent approach was taken, with 3KQ as a neutral third party overseeing the process and authoring the report. In terms of the Partnership's response to these issues, the emphasis is placed primarily on what was said rather than how many people said it, in line with its overall approach to gauging public and stakeholder support.<sup>10</sup>

In addition, all PSE2 inputs are also being reviewed for substantive comments relating to specific Partnership workstreams. These comments will be compiled and passed on to the Partnership's Technical Review Group<sup>11</sup> (TRG) for further consideration.

## 1.4 Geological study

Prior to PSE2 beginning, a high-level geological screening study was undertaken by the BGS – this is part of the process laid out in the Government's White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal'. The study used existing knowledge, applying basic geological exclusion criteria in order to rule out areas that definitely could not host an underground facility for obvious geological reasons. Should a site selection process go ahead in West Cumbria, increasingly more detailed geological and other assessments would have to be carried out. Areas ruled out by the initial screening may still be suitable locations for the surface facilities.

### Outcomes

A map showing the findings of the BGS study is shown below. If an area is screened out (shown in pink) it means that the geology at all depths is considered by the Government to be clearly unsuitable for this kind of disposal facility. If an area is not screened out it means that the Government considers that the geology at all or some depths needs further investigation to understand it better before reaching a view on its suitability. It does not necessarily mean that the geology is suitable.

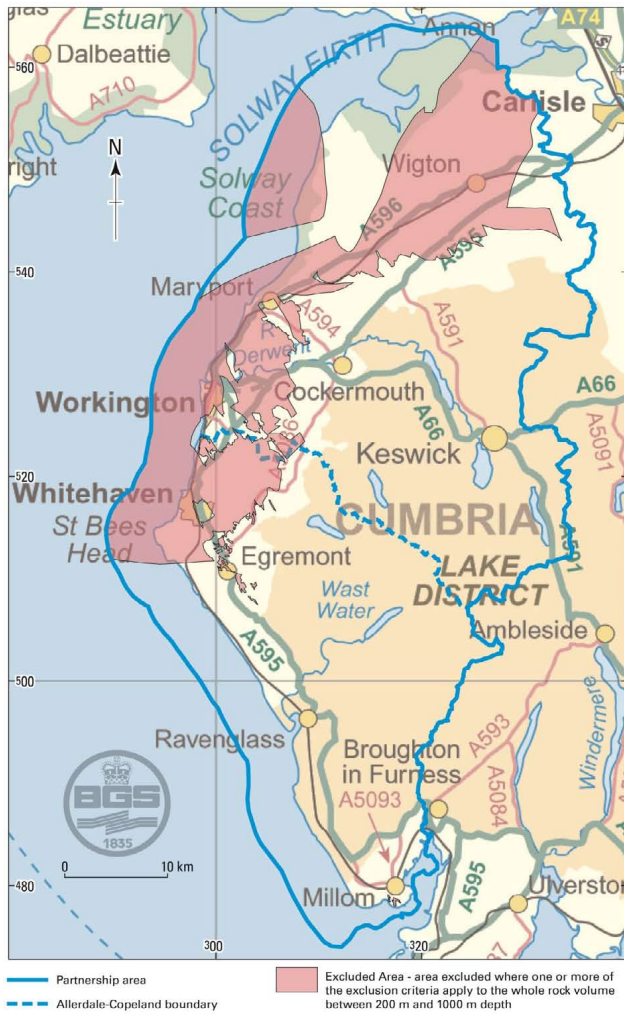
### Further details

More details on the BGS study can be found on the Partnership's website.<sup>12</sup> Various PSE2 engagement strands presented the BGS study results to participants and enabled reflection and input on these. Any issues arising from these discussions are summarised in sections 3 – 9 of this report.

<sup>10</sup> Document 74 – Discussion Paper – Credible Support and Decision Making about Participation. See Criterion 6 section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

<sup>11</sup> The Technical Review Group (TRG) has been set up to work on behalf of the Partnership to collate and analyse all of the work completed under its Work Programme, in order to help develop the Partnership's final thinking as it move towards developing its recommendations to the three Councils. The TRG consists of representatives from Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, Cumbria County Council, Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLEAF) and 3KQ.

<sup>12</sup> Documents 115 and 116. See Criterion 2 section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).



Geological mapping BGS © NERC. OS topography © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. 100017897/2010

## 2. Outline of PSE2 activities

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### 2.1 Introduction

The Partnership's second round of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE2) ran for a period of just over three months from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The focus for this second round of engagement was on continuing to raise awareness but also asking for feedback on specific topics being considered by the Partnership. Methods of engagement were identified which would allow the public and stakeholders to learn more about the MRWS programme and the Partnership, to input their opinions on key topic areas and to give feedback on how they would like to be engaged in the future.<sup>13</sup>

The following engagement activities were undertaken:

- Ongoing information giving:
  - e-bulletin every six weeks to subscribers.
  - Newsletters to all households in West Cumbria.
  - Media coverage and advertising.
  - Partnership website.
  - Other meetings and events.
- Seeking input through specific strands of engagement:
  - Community Drop-in Events.
  - Discussion Pack.
  - Other public input (including free phone, freepost and email contact).
  - Residents' Panel.
  - Stakeholder Organisations Workshop.
  - Opinion Survey (by telephone).

An outline of the methodology and coverage of each activity is given below.

### 2.2 Newsletters and e-bulletins

Two four-page newsletters were sent to people in West Cumbria (almost 78,000 households) and were also made available in places such as libraries and leisure centres. In addition, an e-bulletin has been sent out roughly every six weeks to people who have signed up for the Partnership's database (about 600 people during PSE2).

Articles were also published in a number of other publications including a three-page article in the Cumbria County Council magazine *Your Cumbria*, distributed to 236,000 households throughout Cumbria.

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<sup>13</sup> For more details on different methods of engagement see <http://www.involve.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/People-and-Participation.pdf>.

## 2.3 Media coverage and advertising

In the period from late October 2010 until early March 2011 the Partnership issued nine media releases. Media coverage in Cumbria included 50 articles in newspapers, six items on radio and four television news pieces. There were four pieces in national newspapers and the work of the Partnership was included in a programme on Radio 4. Most of these items were also covered online and there were a further 18 mentions on other websites. There were also 20 letters on the subject in local newspapers including five letters by the Partnership.

The Partnership also placed large articles (about 1,800 words) about the MRWS process and opportunities for people to find out more and get involved in each of the eight main Cumbrian papers with a total circulation of over 150,000.

## 2.4 Partnership website

The Partnership website ([www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk)) was redeveloped in mid-October 2010. This now includes pages providing an overview of the Partnership, the MRWS process and the issues involved; details about the Partnership's public and stakeholder engagement programme and how people can get involved; a Question and Answer section; news releases; and an extensive documents section.

By 21<sup>st</sup> March there had been more than 4,600 visits to the site of which more than 1,600 were new visits and the remainder return visits. This is in addition to the approximately 10,000 visits to the old site. Visits to the site peaked in the weeks that the two newsletters were delivered.

The Partnership also started using social media during PSE2. Activity has so far been fairly low with 50 people following the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership Facebook page and 40 followers on Twitter (@WestCumbriaMRWS).

## 2.5 Other events and meetings

There was a Partnership exhibition stand at Dunmail Park in Workington. This followed an exhibition stand at the Whitehaven Festival during the summer. Visitors to the Dunmail Park stand took away 230 leaflets, 78 people entered a quiz about the MRWS process and 86 completed comments cards (of which 58 people also signed up for the e-bulletin).

The Partnership has given presentations and answered questions at the Lake District National Park Partnership meeting (7<sup>th</sup> September) and the Lake District National Park

The screenshot shows the website's layout. At the top right, there are social media icons for Twitter and Facebook, a search bar, and contact information: 'Call us 0800 048 8912 or email [contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk](mailto:contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk)'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Overview', 'Getting Involved', 'Q&As', 'News', 'Documents', and 'Useful Links'. The main content area has a 'Contact us' section with a welcome message and a 'Getting involved' banner featuring a photo of people in a meeting. Below this, there are sections for 'Latest News', 'Next', and 'Recent' updates, and a 'Newsletter' sign-up button.



Strategy and Vision Committee (27<sup>th</sup> October). Presentations were also given to Carlisle Rotary Club, The Rotary Club of Morecambe and Heysham, and Lancaster University Engineering Society during the PSE2 period.

At the suggestion of Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC), a member of the partnership met representatives of Gosforth and Ponsonby Parish Councils in order to give more information about the Partnership's views about community involvement in Stage 4, and to hear their views and concerns. In particular, there was some discussion about what these parish councils saw as desirable elements of a forward process.

## 2.6 Community Drop-in Events



### Process

10 one-day events were held across Cumbria in November and December 2011. Three events were held in each of the West Cumbrian Districts of Allerdale (in Workington, Wigton Keswick) and Copeland (in Millom, Calderbridge, Whitehaven), as well as one in each of the other four Districts of Cumbria (in Penrith, Kendal, Barrow, Carlisle).

The events were open to the general public and were widely advertised through all of the Partnership's regular information giving channels (see 2.2 – 2.5 above), as well as more targeted contact to parishes, neighbourhood forums and schools.

### People

Each event was hosted by an independent facilitator from 3KQ and consisted of four main elements: an exhibition outlining process background and key topics for discussion; the presence of specialists such as the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), the Environment Agency (EA) and the BGS; presentations and Q&A sessions; and opportunities to respond via questionnaires and Post-it

note comments on flipcharts. In general one or two members of the Partnership were also present at each event. They participated in the presentation sessions every two hours and were available to answer questions throughout.

The number of people attending each event varied from 19 (Workington) to 78 (Kendal). In total, 483 people attended, with a total of 248 questionnaires returned and 166 additional written comments received.

### Participation

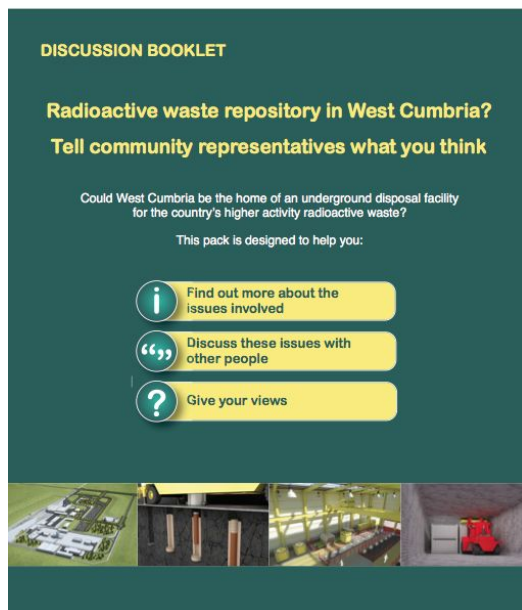
Members of the public attending the events were encouraged to participate in whatever manner suited them. This included picking up information, discussing questions or issues with specialists, and feeding back views. On average participants spent approximately 45 minutes at events, some as much as two or three hours and very few less than 20 minutes. This may be considered a good level of engagement and attention for this kind of event.

### Product

A full report of the Community Drop-in Events<sup>14</sup> is available in the Documents section of the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

## 2.7 Discussion Pack

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### Process

The Partnership produced a pack consisting of an information booklet, handouts, a DVD and a response form designed for groups of up to 10 people to discuss and feed back on key issues. An online response system was available as well as a freepost address. The pack was designed to inform people about the Partnership, its work and the BGS study, as well as to seek views from members of the public on three key issues: how to use public views to decide whether to proceed; impacts and community benefit; and community involvement in the siting process.

<sup>14</sup> Document 132. See PSE section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

## People

Almost 1000 Discussion Packs were sent out. 660 people took part in 77 discussion sessions. There was an approximately 50:50 split between men and women across respondents, and nearly half of all those participating in a discussion were 17 or under. With the use of intermediary organisations (ACT, AWAZ, Connexions, Cumbria CVS, Cumbria Farmers Network, Trades Hall Centre), certain groups such as young people, the farming community, BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) groups and so on, were particularly targeted with the aim of including less frequently heard voices. Many more people will have read the information although not submitted views.

## Participation

The Pack had a large information-giving element and enabled discussion of key issues in surroundings familiar to participants. Discussions were designed to be run without direct support or involvement of Partnership members or specialists, although several of the sessions were facilitated by intermediary organisations that had briefing in the process and the use of the Pack.

## Product

A full report on the Discussion Pack responses<sup>15</sup> is available in the Documents section of the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

## 2.8 Residents' Panel

### Process

The Partnership commissioned Vision Twentyone<sup>16</sup> to convene a one-day deliberative event with a cross section of residents from Allerdale and Copeland. The objectives of the event were to:

- Clarify understanding of the process and identify any areas of public confusion.
- Identify local feeling in the event that the underground part of a facility is located within the boundary of the Lake District National Park.
- Determine how community benefits might be allocated, both geographically and over time; identifying key decision-making factors.
- Establish what would inspire confidence that the Partnership act in an open and transparent manner when presented with polarised views.

The event was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011, at The Copeland Centre in Whitehaven and consisted of a mix of presentations, Q&A sessions, small group discussions and plenary sessions. Participants received £60 each for taking part in the workshop, and to cover travel expenses. This is a standard incentive for this kind of deliberative event or focus group.

### People

23 Allerdale and Copeland residents recruited from the Cumbrian citizens' panel confirmed attendance and 16 people attended the event (seven dropped out due to illness or adverse weather). These were a mix of ages, eight from each borough, nine men and seven women. A number had been involved previously in the PSE1 Residents' Panel session.

Partnership members were present throughout the day to present information and answer questions. A facilitator from 3KQ was also present to contribute to discussions on the overall engagement process.

<sup>15</sup> Document tbc. See PSE section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

<sup>16</sup> [www.vision21.org.uk](http://www.vision21.org.uk).



## Participation

As several participants had taken part in the previous Residents' Panel as part of PSE1, this event delved further into the detail of some of the more difficult issues the Partnership is currently considering, such as the detail of a potential siting process, distribution of community benefits and drivers of public confidence.

## Product

The full report from the Residents' Panel<sup>17</sup> is available in the Documents section of the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

## 2.9 Stakeholder Organisations Workshop

### Process

A one-day workshop for stakeholder organisations was held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the Hunday Manor Hotel near Workington. The objectives for the workshop were:

- To demonstrate how public input has led to real changes.
- To build understanding of the MRWS process and the work of the Partnership, including the results and implications of the initial geological screening study.
- To seek views from stakeholder organisations about the MRWS process, in particular on three key issues:
  - How to use public views to decide whether to proceed.
  - Impacts and community benefits.
  - Community involvement in the siting process.

### People

Approximately 220 organisations were invited, based on the criteria that they were based in or near West Cumbria and had an interest in the MRWS process. Those organisations invited were also asked to suggest other invitees. 18 participants representing 17 organisations from a mix of sectors took part in the workshop. The workshop was also attended by five Partnership members and six observing members, who were present to answer questions and in some cases present information on specific topics.

### Participation

The morning session included presentations and Q&A on Partnership activities and the BGS study results. The afternoon focused on participants discussing three issues (those outlined in the third objective above) with Partnership members. In parallel, the BGS representative ran a 'stall' where participants could ask questions and have detailed one-to-one discussions about geology.

### Product

A full report of the Stakeholder Organisations Workshop<sup>18</sup> is available in the Documents section of the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

## 2.10 Other public input

### Process

As well as more formalised strands of engagement, the Partnership received input from the general public in PSE2 through two ongoing mechanisms: a free phone number and written contact via email or the freepost address. There was also an exhibition stand in Dunmail Park Shopping Centre for a day where people could take away information and fill in

<sup>17</sup> Document 152. See PSE section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

<sup>18</sup> Document 137. See PSE section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

comments cards. The Partnership operated a Facebook page and a Twitter account but these methods of engagement have not proved to be particularly successful: whilst information has been provided through the Facebook page there has been little interaction.

### **People**

The free phone number had 22 callers with substantive comments, fairly evenly spread across Cumbria. Many more – perhaps up to 100 – called requesting information and Discussion Packs, asking straightforward questions, or simply registering attendance at Partnership meetings. 41 substantive comments were received to the central email address and the freepost address during PSE2. At the Dunmail Park exhibition, around 200 people came to the stand to talk or read the material and 86 people returned comments cards.

### **Participation**

The free phone number provides a central focus for people to ask for information and feed their views in. Similarly, the email and freepost address provide a simple channel of input, particularly if people wish to give longer comments. At the exhibition, most people were willing to engage in a brief discussion, read the material, and leave brief comments.

### **Product**

3KQ has kept a log of public input via phone, email and freepost.

## **2.11 Opinion Survey**

### **Process**

The Partnership commissioned Ipsos MORI<sup>19</sup> to undertake a survey in Cumbria in order to gauge the current level of support for West Cumbria continuing its participation in the MRWS process, as well as examining underlying attitudes and awareness. This survey was the third of its kind undertaken as part of the Partnership's PSE process, enabling emerging trends to be tracked over time. It was carried out between 10<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The previous two surveys were carried out in November 2009 and February 2010.

### **People**

1,283 residents were surveyed across Allerdale (472), Copeland (452) and the rest of Cumbria (359). All interviewees were over 16.

### **Participation**

The survey took the form of a telephone interview in which Ipsos MORI worked to a set script to ensure all interviewees were asked exactly the same set of questions. Interviewees were randomly selected using 'random-digit dialling'<sup>20</sup> techniques and quotas were set to ensure the surveyed sample was demographically (age, gender, working status) representative. This is a commonly used approach for measuring public opinion.

### **Product**

A full report on the Opinion Survey<sup>21</sup> is available in the Documents section of the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

## **2.12 PSE2 coverage**

Although PSE2 activities were primarily focused on West Cumbria, opportunities to engage were advertised and made available to residents and stakeholders across the rest of Cumbria; input was also received from outside the county in some cases. As outlined in the

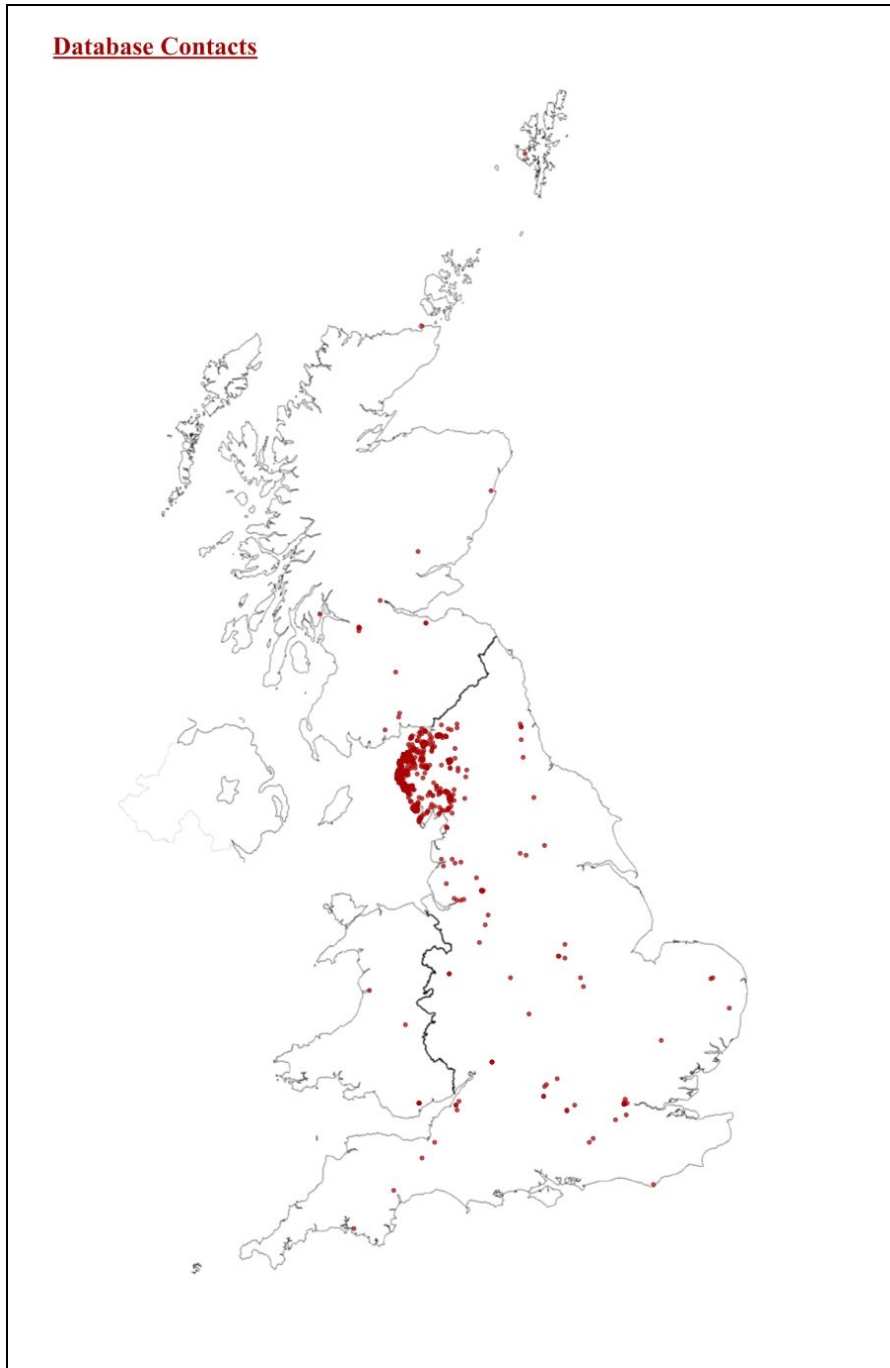
<sup>19</sup> [www.ipsos-mori.com](http://www.ipsos-mori.com).

<sup>20</sup> This involves generating a phone number by randomly adding the last set of digits to known valid area codes and exchange numbers to produce a telephone number. Other than the approximate geographical location of this number based on the area code and telephone exchange, nothing else is known about the number. (From Ipsos MORI)

<sup>21</sup> Document tbc. See PSE section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

sections above, every household in West Cumbria received information about the Partnership and the MRWS process twice during the PSE2 process, and wider coverage was achieved through media work, the Partnership website and targeted contact with, for example, parishes across Cumbria.

The map below shows the current distribution of contacts on the Partnership's contact database.



Currently 1085 contacts on Partnership database

### **Representativeness**

None of the more qualitative strands of engagement carried out by the Partnership in PSE2 necessarily provide a representative measure of public opinion across West Cumbria and beyond. They were designed to provide enough variety and coverage of engagement

activity to hear all of the arguments and to inform as many people as possible of the Partnership's work, whilst the Opinion Survey provides the Partnership with quantitative information that is statistically representative of public opinion.

## **2.13 Engagement with specific groups**

### **NGO engagement**

Engagement opportunities are open to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the same way as other organisations. NGOs attended most of the community drop-in events, in many cases bringing their own information to give to attendees and, in some cases, placards campaigning against the discussions. Two NGO representatives attended the Stakeholder Organisations Workshop. Various community groups that are, or might be, defined as NGOs submitted comments to the Discussion Pack and central email and freepost address.

However, it is fair to say that there has been a distinct reluctance from some NGOs to get involved in Partnership engagement. Reasons provided are varied but include: a disagreement with the focus on geological disposal, concerns over the membership and operation of the Partnership, and a major concern over how progressing disposal plans may enable new nuclear reactors to be built. A formal invitation to Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and CORE was issued to meet during PSE2 but was not taken up. Channels of communication are kept open via the Partnership's facilitators.

### **Youth engagement**

One of the messages arising from PSE1 was the need to engage with all sections of the community, in particular certain groups such as younger people. In response to this, an effort was made to engage more with these groups through the PSE2 process, primarily through the targeted use of the Discussion Pack.

As well as inviting nearby schools to the Community Events and letting schools across Cumbria know about the Discussion Pack directly (of which approximately 15 Cumbrian schools and colleges requested packs), several discussion sessions were run with school groups by Connexions. Well over 300 young people participated in the Connexions Discussion Pack sessions. The feedback was that very few had previously heard about the process, and that, although facilitators had to work hard in some cases to engage participants, the level of input was good overall.

### **Cockermouth School**

Cockermouth School represents a unique case in the PSE2 process. Using the Discussion Pack materials, they developed their own programme of engagement for Year 7 – 10 pupils centred around the potential for a repository being sited in West Cumbria. This included a day of activities for Year 8 pupils involving role play from different points of view, two tailored science lessons for Year 7 – 10 pupils and finally an online survey, in which 624 pupils participated.

## 2.14 Issues arising from PSE2

All of the input from PSE2 (as well as the Partnership's response to PSE1) has been analysed and key issues are grouped under the following headings below in the next eight sections of this report:

### Section 3-5 – KEY TOPICS

- a: How public and stakeholder views will inform the work of the Partnership (PSE2 Objective 3a).
- b: Impacts and community benefits (PSE2 Objective 3b).
- c: Community involvement in the siting process (PSE2 Objective 3c).

**Section 6 – DEMONSTRATE** that public input has led to real changes (PSE2 Objective 1).

**Section 7 – BUILD UNDERSTANDING** of the MRWS programme and the Partnership's activity, including the implications of the BGS study results (PSE2 Objective 2).

**Section 8 – UNDERSTAND** stakeholder and public issues and information needs (PSE2 Objective 4).

**Section 9 – OTHER ISSUES** arising from PSE2.

**Section 10 – CURRENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT** for continuing discussions with the Government.

### 3. KEY TOPICS: a) How public and stakeholder views will inform the work of the Partnership

PSE2 Objective 3a

#### Overview

The Government stated in its White Paper that any decision to enter the siting process for a geological disposal facility (GDF) must have ‘credible’ local support.<sup>22</sup> The Partnership is currently thinking through the ways in which to use public and stakeholder views in guiding its advice to the Councils. A fuller description of this can be found in Appendix 4 (which shows the information given to Discussion Pack, Stakeholder Organisations Workshop and Community Events participants about this topic) and in document 74 on the Partnership’s website,<sup>23</sup> but essentially the Partnership’s proposals are as follows:

- **Net support** from the West Cumbrian public, which means that more people support participating in the siting process than oppose it. If not, then the Partnership is saying that it could not recommend further participation in the process. The current proposal is that the Partnership will conduct an independent telephone survey to gauge public opinion, once it has completed its work. This survey would use a large enough sample size to make the results statistically robust and representative.
- **Broad support** from the key organisations engaged by the Partnership, such as local councils, community interest groups, parish councils, and so on. This is subjective.
- Evidence that **concerns raised have been or will be addressed**, including providing an explanation if specific concerns have not been addressed.
- Evidence that **reasons for opposing or supporting the recommendation have been identified**, understood and taken into account in reaching our conclusions.

Participants at the Community Events, Discussion Pack sessions and Stakeholder Organisations Workshop were specifically asked the following questions on this topic:

1. What do you think about the indicators we have suggested? Please explain if you particularly agree or disagree with any of them.
2. Are there any other indicators that you think should be considered to judge how well we have used public views in making our final recommendations?

An analysis of the responses to these questions and any other relevant points from the whole PSE2 process is given below.

#### Points arising from PSE2

**Overall response to the Partnership’s proposed indicators.** There is a mix of opinions over the Partnership’s proposed indicators. Some feel that they look sensible but want further detail on how they would be used in practice (for example in relation to methodology). Others suggest specific ways of measuring support, in particular a referendum (see below re other methods).

Overall there is clearly a need for any process of gauging public and stakeholder views to be transparent. People want to know if and how the indicators will be weighted against each other (particularly how broad and net support will be reconciled with each other) and, related to this, guarded against manipulation towards a particular outcome. There is some concern from people outside West Cumbria that their views appear less important despite the wider

<sup>22</sup> See paragraph 6.22 of the White Paper: “Government will want to be satisfied that a Decision to Participate is credible. Credibility might be demonstrated on the basis of a local consultation process applying established local good practice.”

<sup>23</sup> Document 74. See Criterion 6 section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

impacts a potential repository would bring to the rest of the county, and one suggestion from the Discussion Pack is that net support could be widened to cover the whole of Cumbria.

Another clear message is that people want to feel they have enough information to make an adequately informed decision. One Discussion Pack group suggested the Partnership could commission separate research to assess the extent to which people were informed and able to respond, and the effectiveness of Partnership communication methods.

**Concept of net support.** There are no clear arguments against the indicator of net support, although there are some concerns about how exactly it is applied and the methodology for gauging it (see below). Participants in the Community Events in particular had a mix of views, with some feeling it was appropriate for the Partnership to follow public opinion and others concerned that it was too early in the process for the Partnership to bind itself to residents' views.

Several of the Discussion Pack groups discussed the merit in counting people who say 'I don't know' – some feel it is OK not to do so, whilst others feel a high number of people saying 'I don't know' would be a worrying indicator that members of the public felt they lacked information. There are more specific concerns that a small number of people feeling strongly in favour or against continuing with the process could take precedence over a silent majority of people who don't know.

**Method of gauging net support.** There are some concerns over a telephone survey as a method for measuring levels of support in terms of representativeness (e.g. sample size too small, skewed by households that only have a mobile phone) and, again, the level of information required for the public to make an informed decision.

Several people feel that a survey should judge levels of awareness as well as people's support or opposition, so that the Partnership has a sense of how much people know before they express their view.

Some Community Events participants thought there might be a danger that residents could interpret a survey as asking: 'Do you support or oppose *the facility?*' as opposed to: 'Do you support or oppose undertaking further investigations, without commitment?'

There are further concerns that results may be biased if survey results are not disaggregated in relation to areas screened in or out by the BGS study.

**Suggestions of other methods.** There is a marked mix of opinion on the issue of a referendum before stage 4 or further investigations. Although the credibility of a referendum is clear in some people's minds, with several asking for this as a method of gauging support (for example the Cockermouth School survey clearly favour a postal vote or a 'real vote' similar to an election), several others point out (particularly after the chance to deliberate on the issue) that it would be meaningless unless carried out at a later stage in the MRWS process, after a possible decision to participate in the siting process and when more detail is available on issues such as impacts, benefits and siting.

There is also a suggestion that other methods of engagement such as citizens' juries should be considered to allow for fuller public debate and investigation.

**Response to other proposed indicators.** The only clear response to these indicators comes from the Discussion Pack responses. There is a feeling that more clarity is needed



on what exactly they mean and how they will be applied in practice. Some respondents, for example, want more detail on how the Partnership will analyse and interpret comments in order to gauge broad support and want reassurance that the organisations involved are representative of all members of the community.

**Including specific groups.** In the context of the future legacy of a potential repository, the need to engage more with the younger generation and to continue to engage with them if the process continues is a strong necessity in some people's minds. Some people would like the Partnership to demonstrate that particular views have been taken into account, such as groups strongly opposed, those within the nuclear industry, and those who live and work in West Cumbria, balanced with those who live and work in the National Park.

### Issues requiring response from the Partnership

The points below are issues for consideration by the Partnership. Words written *like this* show the group/s or individual/s who were responsible for developing a response to each issue on behalf of the Partnership.

- 3.1 The application of any indicators used needs to be based on a transparent and fully considered process, including clarity over the fact that they will not be weighted against each other. **Technical Review Group<sup>24</sup>**
- 3.2 Whilst no one has really suggested an alternative for net support, there are concerns about the *method* used to gauge it. Any method used for gauging net support, in particular a telephone survey, will need a clear justification, and demonstration that other methods have been considered. This should include the Partnership's views on the use of a referendum. It should also address concerns about the potential for bias (for example from those areas screened in or out by the BGS study) and about the credibility of net support if there is a large number of people saying 'don't know'. **Technical Review Group, with support from PSE Sub-Group**
- 3.3 Levels of awareness should continue to be measured alongside levels of support. Consideration needs to be given to asking additional questions to assess levels of awareness. **PSE Sub-Group**
- 3.4 The Partnership needs to ensure it has looked at the full range of organisations to be included in gauging broad support and provide clarity over how those views are used. **PSE Sub-Group**
- 3.5 Other methods of engagement such as citizens' juries could be borne in mind for use in the PSE3 consultation as the Partnership moves towards forming its advice to the Councils. **PSE Sub-Group**
- 3.6 The Partnership needs to clarify why it is only applying the net support criteria to West Cumbria. **PSE Sub-Group**

**Responses to these issues are given in section 11 of this report.**

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<sup>24</sup> The Technical Review Group (TRG) has been set up to work on behalf of the Partnership to collate and analyse all of the work completed under its Work Programme, in order to help develop the Partnership's final thinking as it move towards developing its recommendations to the three Councils. The TRG consists of representatives from Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, Cumbria County Council, Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLEAF) and 3KQ.



## 4. KEY TOPICS: b) Impacts and community benefits

PSE2 Objective 3b

### Overview

**Impacts.** As part of its Work Programme, the Partnership is considering the potential impacts, both positive and negative, that having a GDF in West Cumbria might bring. The Partnership is therefore in the process of gathering research into three domestic and three international projects, to consider lessons learned and how communities have reacted. These projects are:

- UK – Channel Tunnel, Sizewell B, and an ‘energy from waste’ plant in Cheshire.
- International – Sweden, France and Finland (all nuclear sites for waste disposal).

The Partnership is also considering what is important to members of the public and stakeholder organisations in West Cumbria, and Cumbria more widely.

Towards the end of PSE2 the Partnership, via a contractor, delivered a specific piece of research to understand the potential impacts of a facility on peoples' perceptions of the area. This was not framed or delivered as a strand of PSE as it was bounded around impact on perceptions only, and was delivered via a separate contractor to inform the Partnership's view specifically on this topic. The full report is available as document 168 from the Partnership's website<sup>25</sup>.

**Community benefits.** With regard to community benefits, the Government has already stated in its White Paper that any area in which a GDF is sited would expect some kind of community benefits package, but exactly what this might be and when it might happen is not yet clear. The Partnership has commissioned research into the kinds of community benefits packages that have been agreed overseas.

A fuller description of the work that is being done in both of these areas, and the feedback that is being sought, can be found in Appendix 5 (which shows the information given to Discussion Pack, Stakeholder Organisations Workshop and Community Events participants about this topic).

Participants at the Community Events, Discussion Pack sessions and Stakeholder Organisations Workshop were specifically asked the following questions on this topic:

1. Are there any impacts that you feel strongly about or that you think we have missed?<sup>26</sup> Please explain.
2. What do you think about the idea of receiving community benefits for having this kind of facility in West Cumbria?
3. What kinds of benefits would you want us to have in mind in our discussions with the Government?

An analysis of the responses to these questions and any other relevant points from the whole PSE2 process is given below.

### Points arising from PSE2

**Impacts.** By far the biggest concerns for those who are opposed to a possible GDF are safety, health and security, both in relation to a potential site and the surrounding communities. For many PSE2 respondents these are the most important issues that they

<sup>25</sup> Document 168. See Criterion 3 section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

<sup>26</sup> See list of impacts in Appendix 5.

would want to see addressed. People, particularly in areas where there are a large number of visitors, also wanted to ensure that thought is given to the possible impacts on tourism as a key industry, particularly in relation to the potential negative effects of a repository on the environment and on perceptions of the area. Several people want evidence that particular aspects such as terrorist threats and the risk of leaks or “incidents” have been considered and some state that this factor should override community benefits.

The issue of perception is mentioned by a number of people responding to PSE2. Some people are concerned that West Cumbria is the assumed location for a repository, that the building of a repository will “happen here anyway” and that it has already suffered enough stigma as a result of the nuclear industry. Others feel that the nature of what goes into a repository might affect people’s perceptions of it, for example whether or not military waste, health service waste and waste from new build stations would be included.

Other issues of concern mentioned include the potential impact on the environment, particularly in terms of visual impact, as well as construction impacts (noise, dust, what happens to the spoil), and traffic increases in the construction and operation periods, both close to a potential site and across the rest of the county.

Impacts where there is more uncertainty include the effect on the economy, jobs, house prices, population fluctuations and wider infrastructural changes. In the case of the overall economy, some people think the impacts could be positive (for example, new jobs, increased spend from new workers in the area, attracting new investment) whilst some have concerns that there will be an increased reliance on the nuclear industry, that the tourism industry will suffer and that new business may be discouraged from locating in the area. The need to allocate any new jobs to local people comes out of the Discussion Pack responses in particular.

The idea of a repository being located within the boundary of the National Park was one of the topics discussed in the Residents’ Panel session. Perhaps not surprisingly, some people said they would be concerned about the visual impact. There were varying views on whether it would be damaging to peoples’ perception of the National Park or potentially enhance tourism.

The impact of not having a GDF, both on West Cumbria and on the local economy was mentioned as a consideration, as most of the waste would be likely to remain in West Cumbria in the short to medium term regardless.

**Concept of community benefits.** There is a range of views about the idea of community benefits. Many people feel that community benefits are a necessary or expected compensation for the presence of a repository, some feel they are a bribe and a few think they would simply not be enough to outweigh the potential negative impacts of a repository.

There are strong and widespread concerns that any benefits need to be agreed in advance and secured – this includes any benefits received in the short term, but also any ongoing or longer-term community benefits. However, there are also a few concerns that raising the issue of community benefits at too early a stage might skew the process in favour of siting a GDF in West Cumbria.

**Specifics of community benefits.** A number of different types of benefit are suggested as important for the Partnership to bear in mind, including:

- Transport infrastructure (high on the list for many people – particularly roads and rail, links to national infrastructure, possibly an airport or port).

- Job creation and local industry development (again mentioned a lot – for example a focus on developing specific industries to diversify the economy, supporting new or struggling businesses, encouraging relocation to West Cumbria).
- Investment in skills, training and targeted research and development (R&D), including specific suggestions of grants for local students and non-nuclear training.
- Wider infrastructure such as housing, schools and health facilities, as well as specific amenities such as retail facilities, tourist attractions, sport and leisure facilities, (particularly mentioned by Discussion Pack groups).
- Lower or subsidised council tax or utilities.
- Community fund – for example money set aside specifically for a host community or communities.
- Direct payments to residents.
- Central West Cumbria fund.
- A combination of several of the above, often focused around a mix of infrastructure and specific local facilities.
- The Cockermouth School survey particularly highlights improved infrastructure (housing, transport etc), reduced utilities prices and the development of skills and education as important potential community benefits. In terms of more specific areas for funding and development, the survey shows renewable energy, local business training and expertise, and environmental research as suggested areas for development.

In terms of the physical distribution of community benefits, people generally feel that areas closer to a facility should receive a higher proportion of the benefits. However, there is concern, particularly from Discussion Pack respondents, that the rest of Cumbria is assured of benefits, perhaps through a needs or impact-based assessment.

The majority of people tend to feel that the highest proportion of community benefits should be received prior to construction to make sure that the Government follows through on its commitments, to enable sustainability and to provide up front opportunities for training or awareness raising (bearing in mind concerns from a few people regarding premature commitment to a facility). During construction, operation and after closure, views varied as to whether projects would be self-sustaining further down the line or would need continued access to funding, for example to advance training and technology. There are some who feel that benefits should be available for the life of the facility or perhaps beyond. The Cockermouth School survey shows that respondents would clearly like benefits to continue either until there is no more waste being added or until the waste reaches a low level of radioactivity.

Decision-making factors suggested for the allocation of community benefits (discussed by the Residents' Panel) include:

- Distance from the site – those closer should receive more of the benefit.
- Needs assessment – those communities who would benefit most should receive more.
- Accessibility and infrastructure – specifically road and rail, and accessibility of the area.
- Education and skills – creating opportunities for residents to access any new jobs.
- Environmental impact, primarily focusing on visual impact.
- Based on a community, not individuals.
- Sustainability as an underpinning principle, avoiding reliance on community benefits.

The Cockermouth School survey shows that respondents tend to think a public vote would be the best way to make decisions about which community benefits would go ahead, followed by local government/Cumbria County Council (the other two options were local businesses and central government). Discussion Pack respondents expressed the desire that any community benefits would not get lost in bureaucracy, but that they would be fairly distributed to the benefit of everybody.

**Other issues related to this topic.** Some people want reassurance that the waste going into the repository would be retrievable and constantly monitorable. Others question whether clarity on these two issues would impact overall perceptions about a potential repository.

### Issues requiring response from the Partnership

The points below are issues for consideration by the Partnership. Words written *like this* show the group/s or individual/s who were responsible for developing a response to each issue on behalf of the Partnership.

- 4.1 Most of the issues that people raised about possible impacts in PSE1 are raised again in this round of public and stakeholder engagement. In particular, the issues of health and safety, and uncertainties around potential economic impacts, need to continue to be reflected strongly in the Partnership's considerations. **Impacts Sub-Group**
- 4.2 It should be noted that there is a range of public attitudes towards community benefits, including those who see them as positive compensation, those who see them as a bribe and those who believe they would be insufficient compensation. If the Partnership recommends a decision to take part in the search for somewhere to locate a GDF it will need to set out why it believes these benefits would be justified. In addition, the Partnership should bear in mind the general desire for advance agreement of community benefits balanced with concerns over premature commitment to a facility. **Community Benefits Sub-Group**
- 4.3 The Partnership should bear in mind the potential community benefits suggested by PSE2 respondents, and the decision-making factors for the allocation of community benefits as suggested by the Residents' Panel. In particular the various views on the geographical distribution and timing of benefits should be considered. **Community Benefits Sub-Group**
- 4.4 The Partnership should consider the impacts of retrievability and monitorability on public perceptions. **Technical Review Group**

**Responses to these issues are given in section 11 of this report.**

## 5. KEY TOPICS: c) Community involvement in the siting process

PSE2 Objective 3c

### Overview

If West Cumbria does decide to take part in the process for finding potential sites, there would need to be a process for initial identification of potential sites that might be suitable for a facility. The Partnership thinks that it is essential to consider how this process might work before recommending whether or not a decision to participate in the Government's siting process should be taken. A fuller description of this can be found in Appendix 6 (which shows the information given to Discussion Pack, Stakeholder Organisations Workshop and Community Events participants about this topic) and in document 75 on the Partnership's website.<sup>27</sup> Essentially the Partnership is suggesting that:

- The next steps for narrowing down potential sites could involve: identifying a long list of potential sites; carrying out desk-based studies to produce a short list of sites; and carrying out surface-based investigations at agreed sites (for example drilling boreholes).
- There should be certain principles to guide how the public is involved in a siting process. Some of the principles suggested by the Partnership are: identify and involve affected communities as early as possible; take proper account of the views of local people and use local knowledge and expertise; and only continue with the process for choosing a site if there is enough local support.

Participants at the Community Events, Discussion Pack sessions and Stakeholder Organisations Workshop were specifically asked the following questions on this topic:

1. What needs to happen to involve the community if the process to find a potential site in West Cumbria continues?
2. What kinds of things other than geological suitability should be considered when looking for a potential site, if the process continues?

An analysis of the responses to these questions and any other relevant points from the whole PSE2 process is given below.

### Points arising from PSE2

**Community involvement.** The Partnership's suggested principles for community involvement tend to be met with the response that they are fine, but nothing unexpected. One individual suggests that the principles could also address the issues of empowerment, ownership of the process, and decision-making power.

The definition of community is a key issue for many people, particularly the need to move away from a purely geographical view of community and to recognise there could be several geographical communities potentially affected, which may not always be easy to define. The involvement of specific groups in engagement around a siting process is suggested, in particular younger people. Several people also want to know how views from different communities will be weighted.

The desire for a clear, easy to understand process is very strong across the board, for example in relation to where the decision-making power lies, who has genuine power of veto, who actually makes the final decisions about siting and on what basis. This sits alongside the desire for more and ongoing engagement with the public and an honest presentation of the issues with, for example, the presentation of clear evidence both in favour and against.

<sup>27</sup> Document 75. See Criterion 5 section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

In this context, a number of people suggest that the majority of the local population are still unaware of proposals for a GDF, although the quantitative evidence (see section 10) gives a different picture.

Specific concerns raised at the Gosforth and Ponsonby Parish Councils meeting include the desire that:

- Any partnership set up after a decision to participate by the Principal Authorities should not be called a Community Siting Partnership until potential host communities have been identified and involved.
- Any process for identifying potential sites should enable potential host communities to make their own informed decisions about whether they wish to participate.

The Cockermouth School survey shows that most respondents would like local people living in Cumbria to have the most say over where a site might be located.<sup>28</sup>

Respondents to PSE2 point out that it is difficult to motivate people to engage until more detail is known. Some people have suggested specific ideas for improving levels of engagement, including more direct input from the public on key issues. In particular Discussion Pack respondents who referred to the public's interest in engaging with this process broadly feel that involvement levels will increase as, and if, the project progresses. This might be due to both increased awareness over time and because people would feel that the issues are more pressing and substantive. A number feel that a key stage for getting people engaged would be if or when a list of potential sites is announced. The value of community access to independent advice is mentioned in a number of Discussion Pack responses, as well as some suggestions that visits to similar existing facilities might be useful.

**Siting considerations.** Several siting issues to consider beyond geology are suggested, including:

- Health and safety (including proximity to housing and schools – away from areas of high population density where possible).
- Long and short-term positive and negative socioeconomic impacts (for example impact on current land use, particularly farming, and on local tourism).
- Transport impacts (including minimising the distance any waste has to travel/proximity to Sellafield).
- Environment, particularly the potential visual impact on the surrounding area.
- Impact on future generations (and community awareness of this).
- Construction impacts (i.e. minimising these and looking for sites where these would cause least damage).
- Level of local acceptance and support.
- Interaction with other programmes (e.g. Britain's Energy Coast, new nuclear build).
- Heritage impacts above and below ground.
- Climate change impacts above and below ground.
- Energy and transport infrastructure.
- Risk assessment (including terrorism, transport, leaks).

<sup>28</sup> Other options were people born in Cumbria, anyone British, tourists, local businesses, people living within 10 miles of the site (this was the second most popular choice) and people living within 25 miles of the site.



The Residents' Panel was asked to consider the possibility of part of the underground part of a repository being located within the boundary of the National Park. Participants were asked to express an opinion on whether they would support a decision to participate in a siting process prior to this discussion and following it, on the basis that part of the underground site would fall within the boundary of the National Park. On detailed deliberation of the issues, two people previously expressing support changed their minds, one becoming uncertain about whether they support or oppose, and one opposing.

**Other issues relating to this topic.** The need to consider tomorrow's waste is an issue for some people – for example a nuclear repository may need to evolve in the same way as nuclear power might. Related to this, a strong message particularly coming out of the Discussion Pack sessions is the importance of bearing in mind the potential impacts on future generations and continuing to involve people throughout the lifespan of the process.

The whole idea of discussing a siting process at this stage is of major concern to a few people because of being asked to talk about a more detailed stage of the process when the process might not get that far. A few also feel that continuing to discuss abstract principles is not acceptable, stressing that now is the time to involve potentially affected communities in the more detailed discussions.

### Issues requiring response from the Partnership

The points below are issues for consideration by the Partnership. Words written *like this* show the group/s or individual/s who were responsible for developing a response to each issue on behalf of the Partnership.

- 5.1 There is a suggestion that the Partnership should more directly address the issues of empowerment, ownership of the process, and decision-making power in its suggested principles for community involvement. **Technical Review Group**
- 5.2 Whilst definitions of 'host community' and 'wider interests' exist in the White Paper, there are concerns about what these might mean in practice if a siting process goes ahead. Additionally there is concern that any definition of community must be broader than simply a geographic boundary. Clarity is also sought over how the views of these different communities will be weighted. **Technical Review Group**
- 5.3 People want more detail on what a potential siting process might look like, particularly in relation to where the decision-making power lies, who has genuine power of veto, who actually makes the final decisions about siting and on what basis. **Technical Review Group**
- 5.4 There is a call for more engagement and more information across the board as the process continues. **Technical Review Group/PSE Sub-Group**
- 5.5 The siting considerations suggested by PSE2 respondents should be clearly taken into account in the Partnership's deliberations. **Technical Review Group**
- 5.6 The Partnership should consider the following concerns: any partnership set up after a decision to participate by the Principal Authorities should not be called a Community Siting Partnership until potential host communities have been identified and involved; any process for identifying potential sites should enable potential host communities to make their own informed decisions about whether they wish to participate. **Technical Review Group**

**Responses to these issues are given in section 11 of this report.**

## 6. DEMONSTRATE that public input has led to real changes

PSE2 Objective 1

### Overview

One of the issues coming out of PSE1 was the need for the Partnership to demonstrate where and how public input had made a difference in the process so far. The Partnership committed to publishing a list of changes made as a result of PSE1, both to demonstrate to members of the public that it is worthwhile inputting into the process and to ensure that there is a clear mechanism for taking forward public concerns and comments arising in the PSE process.

### Progress

The primary indicator of how well this objective has been achieved is whether or not these responses to PSE1 have been carried through to actions.

Document 73 on the Partnership website<sup>29</sup> shows the current status of all Partnership responses to PSE1 input. It shows that of 83 responses made by the Partnership, there are no overdue actions. The majority of actions are either complete or underway, with the exception of 13 responses that fall into the 'pending' category, i.e. either have a future date assigned or are in the process of being resolved.

The only strand of engagement to specifically cover this objective was the Stakeholder Organisations Workshop, in which participants were given feedback about some of the key changes made as a result of public input so far (see table below):

Public concern	Partnership response
Concerned about ethics and security.	Added tasks to Work Programme covering these two issues. There was an independent presentation from Professor Andy Blowers on the ethical implications of the MRWS process. In relation to security the regulators presented on their processes for regulating security, including the requirement for a site security plan.
Concerned about impact on tourism.	Commissioned independent research to identify the impact of a potential facility on people's perception of Cumbria, in particular tourists and potential investors. In addition, Cumbria Tourism was invited to join the Partnership and has since become a full member.
Need to understand pros and cons.	Inviting, and paying for, alternative views, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pete Roche – to critique the NDA's assessment of the inventory.</li> <li>• Professor Andy Blowers (see above).</li> <li>• Professor Stuart Haszeldine – to critique the NDA's plans for research and development.</li> <li>• Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates – to provide challenge and scrutiny on the scientific and technical uncertainties.</li> </ul>
Raise awareness more.	Doubled investment in communications and ensured that there are a variety of mechanisms for people to hear more about the process and feed in their views.

<sup>29</sup> Document 73. See PSE section in the Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).



## Other points arising from PSE2

In terms of messages coming out of PSE2, a number of people are positive and encouraging about the engagement activities being undertaken by the Partnership. However, some people are particularly concerned that views opposed to geological disposal and to the MRWS process are not being sufficiently taken into account; others are concerned that politics will override the consultation process in the end.

Transparency of process is something people want to see across the board, and some responses to the Discussion Pack mention this in relation to being able to see how their views have been taken into account.

## Issues requiring response from the Partnership

The points below are issues for consideration by the Partnership. Words written *like this* show the group/s or individual/s who were responsible for developing a response to each issue on behalf of the Partnership.

- 6.1 In order to continue demonstrating how public input is being taken on board the Partnership should:
- Continue to keep the table of responses to PSE1 input up to date. **Programme Manager**
  - Create a similar table of responses to show what is done with PSE2 input. **Programme Manager**
- 6.2 There remain concerns that opposing views and the reasoning behind these views are not sufficiently being taken into account. **Technical Review Group and PSE Sub-Group**

**Responses to these issues are given in section 11 of this report.**

## 7. BUILD UNDERSTANDING of the MRWS programme and the Partnership's activity, including the implications of the BGS study results

PSE2 Objective 2

### Overview

This objective implicitly formed part of all of the PSE2 activities, with the exception perhaps of the 'Other public input' engagement. Information was also available to all those who input through the Partnership website, e-bulletin and so on.

Building understanding is difficult to measure directly, especially in relation to specific events or discrete processes, as it is not always a tangible process and tends to happen over time. The strands of engagement in PSE2 provided a variety of depths of engagement, with varying amounts of information giving, interaction (for example with Partnership members, specialists and other stakeholders) and feedback opportunities.

### Points arising from PSE2

**Overall feedback.** Where feedback on levels of understanding as the result of a particular strand was sought (Stakeholder Organisations Workshop and Residents' Panel) the response was positive. It is more difficult to gauge how much people's understanding really increases where the question is not asked or where engagement is less interactive, for example with the Discussion Pack and Community Events, although, for example, the amount of interaction with specialists at Community Events can be used to help understand this. Participants at the Stakeholder Organisations Workshop and the Community Events were able to discuss the BGS study and other geological issues with a BGS representative, which people reported to be a very valuable part of the process.

**Integrity of the BGS Screening Study.** Across all the strands of PSE2, there is little direct question or challenge to the integrity of the BGS screening study. Those who express a view about the study's integrity have confidence that it had been done well and to an acceptable methodology (this question was specifically asked at the Stakeholder Organisations Workshop). This appears to be because firstly, it has not come up with any particular surprises, and secondly because it has been independently peer reviewed by two experienced reviewers on behalf of the Partnership, separately from the Government. However, it is worth noting that, in common with both peer reviewers, many people point out the limitations of the study at this stage. In particular some people – especially those opposed to the process – express surprise and sometimes anger that the study has not screened out the mid-Copeland area given what they believe to be an absolutely conclusive outcome to the Nirex Inquiry regarding geological suitability.

**The Nirex Inquiry.** Issues around the Nirex Inquiry arise in particular from the Community Events, Discussion Packs and Other Public Input strands. This includes some people being unsure of how this MRWS process is different to the Nirex Inquiry. Some people also question why this MRWS process is happening in the context of repeated assertions that they have heard that the Nirex Inquiry has already ruled out all of West Cumbria as being suitable for a repository. Stakeholder Organisations Workshop attendees suggested that there needed to be clarity over the area covered by the Nirex Inquiry and whether there is any information from the Nirex Inquiry that would be useful now to determine whether an area is excluded or not.

**Changes in understanding.** The Opinion Survey is designed to measure quantitative changes in stated awareness across the population. Although it cannot be used to analyse

changes in awareness as a result of each specific engagement activity, it does give an indicator which can be tracked against overall Partnership engagement activities over time. The latest survey suggests that communications and engagement activity has raised levels of awareness and understanding of the MRWS process in Cumbria. The outputs of the Opinion Survey are summarised in section 10 of this report.

**Specific points requiring feedback.** A few PSE2 respondents have asked for direct feedback or clarification over specific questions. 3KQ is in the process of compiling these and will respond where possible by referring people to the relevant document or section of the Partnership's website. There are a couple of additional issues, aside from those covered elsewhere in this report, requiring a response from the Partnership. These are outlined below.

### Issues requiring response from the Partnership

The points below are issues for consideration by the Partnership. Words written *like this* show the group/s or individual/s who were responsible for developing a response to each issue on behalf of the Partnership.

- 7.1 Some people realised as a result of the engagement process that the BGS study only ruled out areas for the underground site not the surface site, and that it would therefore make more sense to talk about 'sites' rather than 'a site'. This not only could have significant implications for the siting process and community involvement, but also suggests more work needs to be done to clarify this specific point in relation to the BGS study. **Communications Advisor**
- 7.2 The Nirex Inquiry is still a significant issue for many people. For example, there is still uncertainty over how this MRWS process is different to the Nirex Inquiry. There are also repeated assertions that the Nirex Inquiry has already ruled out West Cumbria as being suitable for a repository. **Communications Advisor**

**Responses to these issues are given in section 11 of this report.**

## 8. UNDERSTAND stakeholder and public issues and information needs

PSE2 Objective 4

### Overview

Again, this objective implicitly formed part of all of the PSE2 activities. It goes hand in hand with PSE2 Objective 2 (section 7 of this report). In order to effectively build understanding, the Partnership needs to be able to provide information and opportunities for engagement in an accessible, timely and transparent manner.

The PSE2 process was designed to enable people to participate in whatever way suited them, from looking at the Partnership's website or newsletter through to using the Partnership's materials in developing a process of engagement for a specific audience (as in the case of Cockermouth School).

All of the PSE2 engagement strands (with the exception of the Residents' Panel and Opinion Survey) were widely publicised through: the Partnership website; the Partnership newsletter (almost 78,000 distributed across West Cumbria twice); database contacts (approximately 600 at the time of PSE2); *Your Cumbria* magazine (distributed to 236,000 households throughout Cumbria), newspaper and radio coverage; and targeted contact with specific groups (including parishes, neighbourhood forums, schools).

### Points arising from PSE2

**Coverage of events.** A few people (inputting via the free phone number, contact email and freepost) are concerned that the Community Events were held in 'screened out' areas, missing out Cockermouth in particular.

**Level of information at events and in engagement materials.** Feedback shows that for many people, the strands of engagement they were involved in provided a good level of information and left them better informed, particularly where they were new to the process. However, others are concerned over there not being enough detailed technical information, or that the information the Partnership currently provides is not accessible enough.

**Balance of information at events and in engagement materials.** A number of people give positive feedback about the engagement process and materials, including comments that they were presented in a balanced way, that the DVD was useful, and that events were informative. However, some feel that the events and materials were biased or lacked detail. For example, this includes a few comments that the Discussion Pack was not clear enough about safety being the overriding factor, that the DVD had too many voices in favour, or that the process seemed like a public relations exercise.

**Outstanding information needs.** In several cases people are asking for a much clearer sense of how some of the forward processes might actually work, for example the siting process, use of indicators, and securing community benefits. Others want more information on specific topics such as: safety, traffic impacts, dust, noise, implications of siting under the National Park, alternative views (e.g. on geology, from those against geological disposal, from those in the nuclear industry), inventory, current management practices, what a site might look like, and toxicity of waste. The Cockermouth School survey shows that the majority of respondents would like more information before deciding whether or not they think a repository should be built if a suitable site is found.

The need for the Partnership to continue to provide clear, unbiased information to the public and to provide a transparent process for decision making comes across clearly from PSE2 strands. This is perhaps one of the strongest messages arising. Some people also say they

feel the Partnership still has a way to go in terms of making its language accessible and relevant, and that there is a need to be careful to provide all the facts where possible.

### Issues requiring response from the Partnership

The points below are issues for consideration by the Partnership. Words written *like this* show the group/s or individual/s who were responsible for developing a response to each issue on behalf of the Partnership.

- 8.1 The Partnership should continue to ensure that future events cover a balance of locations, both in terms of geography and in terms of the nature of the area (for example areas screened out and not screened out by the BGS study). **PSE Sub-Group**
- 8.2 There is tension between people wanting more detailed information and the call for more accessible information. This will need to be continually recognised in the drafting of future Partnership communications and engagement materials. **PSE Sub-Group**
- 8.3 Many people want more information on specific issues<sup>30</sup> in order to feel more comfortable expressing an opinion. **Communications Advisor**
- 8.4 Overall, people want to continue to see clear, unbiased information and a transparent process for decision making. **Communications Advisor and PSE Sub-Group**

**Responses to these issues are given in section 11 of this report.**

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<sup>30</sup> 3KQ is compiling a list of these issues mentioned in PSE2, some of which ask for direct response and others of which are mentioned as areas requiring more clarity or general information.

## 9. OTHER ISSUES arising from PSE2

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### Overview

This section covers any issues not covered by sections 3 – 8 above.

### Points arising from PSE2

**Geographical nuances.** When considering public and stakeholder input, the location of respondents needs to be taken into consideration. For example, in the case of the Community Events, although the events elicited a similar range of responses regardless of location, there were some notable exceptions that should be acknowledged:

- **Whitehaven:** More direct experience of the nuclear industry here and generally a supportive attitude towards the job creation and technical aspects of a potential GDF. This is tempered by a minority concerned about further nuclear development stifling tourism-based economic strategies.
- **Keswick:** Strong concern over the potential impact of a GDF on tourism and the National Park, as well as fears that West Cumbrian opinion may have a nuclear industry bias and therefore a less rigorous approach to risk assessment.
- **Outside West Cumbria:** More likely to view community benefits negatively and to ask for greater countywide involvement in a decision about whether or not to participate.

The nuances of concerns at different locations have implications not only for the consideration of public and stakeholder views in the Partnership's recommendations, but also in terms of specific local considerations that might need to be taken into account in a potential siting process.

**Participation levels.** There are comments on the 'usual faces' showing up at engagement events and a mismatch of participants versus the number of Partnership members present, particularly at the Stakeholder Organisations Workshop. The overarching issue of motivating people to engage and making it relevant to them comes out strongly across all of the PSE2 strands, and many people are still calling for more information and engagement, either by targeting specific groups or more generally.

**Alternative options in strategic context.** The idea of geological disposal in itself, and more specifically the idea that a repository might be based in West Cumbria, is still an issue of contention for people. Some people are positive about it, but some are concerned that there needs to be a wider debate about the waste solution nationally, with related concerns that a repository might be an enabling factor for nuclear new build and that West Cumbria is currently the only area to express an interest.

There is a call from some people for a broader long-term strategic discussion, either focusing nationally on nuclear power and waste, or putting the decision in the context of long-term local strategy. The Residents' Panel discussions brought up two further points in relation to the National Park: firstly that the potential for a repository within the National Park would mean that, as a national attraction, it should open the debate up more widely across the UK; secondly, the opportunity to use the process to educate people on a national level about the issue of radioactive waste.

**Drivers of public confidence.** A question specific to the Residents' Panel asked about drivers of public confidence. The following factors are identified as important:

- Variety of ways in which information is presented.
- Acknowledging the complexity of the issues.

- Using independent experts on both sides of the argument where needed (e.g. for issues where the facts are unclear).
- Demonstrating transparency of process.

**Inventory.** The nature of the waste that could potentially go into a repository is mentioned by a few people. Some are concerned that specific types of waste should not be put into a repository, for example, new build waste, waste from abroad, spent fuel and plutonium.

**Expertise.** There is a suggestion from one member of the public that the Partnership needs to ensure it has its own expertise on board to critically assess the NDA's work on technical issues. This relates to earlier points about the need to ensure all views are taken into account and the use of independent experts where facts are unclear.

**Overall support and opposition.** There are various expressions of support and opposition for the Partnership, the overall process, and the idea of a repository being sited in West Cumbria coming out of most of the strands of engagement. Some organisations have registered formal objections;<sup>31</sup> other organisations and individuals express dissatisfaction for many reasons outlined in earlier sections of this report. There are also positive comments about the process so far and the amount of engagement undertaken. These are important to note where there is qualitative reasoning behind them (for example many of the objections relate to the previous Nirex Inquiry), but it is the Opinion Survey that provides quantitative data on current levels of support across West and the rest of Cumbria.

## Issues requiring response from the Partnership

The points below are issues for consideration by the Partnership. Words written *like this* show the group/s or individual/s who were responsible for developing a response to each issue on behalf of the Partnership.

- 9.1 Geographical differences exist in terms of local concerns and potential attitudes. This has implications for public and stakeholder views in the Partnership's advice to the three Councils, and specific local considerations that might need to be taken into account in a potential siting process. **Technical Review Group**
- 9.2 The Partnership may want to examine the current level of engagement in terms of quality and coverage and, as a consequence, decide whether PSE3 should involve the same, less or more effort in terms of informing and engaging people. **PSE Sub-Group**
- 9.3 Some people continue to express concern that: geological disposal is not the only option, that a wider debate is needed and that West Cumbria is currently the only area in discussions with the Government about this. Whilst these issues are not within the remit of the Partnership, they do provide context for its work. **Steering Group**
- 9.4 The drivers of public confidence identified by the Residents' Panel should be borne in mind in the future work of the Partnership. **Communications Advisor**
- 9.5 With regard to the inventory, some people want more information or reassurance about what may or may not end up in a repository, particularly new build and foreign waste. **Technical Review Group and Communications Advisor**

**Responses to these issues are given in section 11 of this report.**

<sup>31</sup> These organisations are currently as follows: Radiation Free Lakeland, Cumbria Action on Climate Change, South Lakes Against Climate Change Towards Transition, Artists Against Nuclear Developments, Heysham Anti-Nuclear Alliance, Ulverston Green Party, Allerdale and Copeland Green Party.



## 10. CURRENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT for continuing discussions with the Government

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Alongside the broad range of more qualitative data gained from the PSE2 process, the Opinion Survey provides quantitative data. It gives an indication of:

- Knowledge of the Partnership and the MRWS process.
- The degree to which residents in Allerdale, Copeland and the Rest of Cumbria support or oppose West Cumbria continuing its participation in the MRWS process.

### Headline messages

The main messages coming out of this third Opinion Survey are that:

- Awareness of the Partnership's work and the MRWS process is increasing.
- Attitudes towards West Cumbria continuing its participation in the MRWS process, and towards the possibility of a GDF being sited in West Cumbria, remain relatively unchanged.

### Detailed findings

**Local issues.** Interviewees were asked what issues were of concern to them in their local area. Nuclear waste is tenth on the list of issues, whilst the state of the roads remains top of the list. There is increased concern (compared to previous surveys) about the economy, housing and public transport.

Conclusion: Nuclear issues are not high on people's overall list of local issues.

**Deep geological disposal.** The majority of interviewees agree that deep underground disposal for higher level or higher activity waste should occur – 76% overall (i.e. taking into account responses from Allerdale, Copeland and the Rest of Cumbria). However, agreement was highest in the first survey (82%) and has decreased slightly in each of the two subsequent surveys (79% and 76% respectively). There is very little variation in attitude between people in different parts of the county.

Conclusion: People tend to think that deep geological disposal is the right option, but this tendency is decreasing slightly. The decrease is not statistically significant at this stage, but if the trend continues it is likely to become so.

**Awareness of MRWS process.** 57% of those surveyed across Cumbria say that they are aware of the search for an underground site for the UK's higher activity radioactive waste, which is not much change from the previous two surveys. However, in Allerdale this number is 69% (8% higher than the last survey) and in Copeland, 77% (6% higher). The percentage of people taking part in the survey who know the Government is inviting communities to discuss hosting a site has risen overall from 43% to 49%. In Copeland it has risen from 60% to 67%, and in Allerdale from 48% to 60%. The survey also found that awareness of key messages regarding discussions with the Government (e.g. about voluntarism and Right to Withdraw) is increasing, particularly in Allerdale, compared to the previous two surveys.

Conclusion: Awareness and understanding of the MRWS process is increasing in West Cumbria. There is only marginal change in the Rest of Cumbria.

**Awareness of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership.** Across Cumbria, 46% feel they know at least a little about the Partnership, compared to 41% in the previous survey. In Copeland, the figure has increased from 62% to 63%, and in Allerdale from 46% to 55%.



There is also an increase in the proportion of people who know the Partnership is in discussion with the Government: 58% overall (compared to 49% in the previous survey), 71% in Allerdale (57% previously), and 75% in Copeland (69% previously).

Conclusion: Awareness about the Partnership and its discussions with the Government is increasing, particularly in West Cumbria.

**Confidence in the Partnership.** There is not much overall change across Cumbria in the levels of confidence that the Partnership will take notice of local residents' views (currently 48% overall, 55% in Allerdale, 62% in Copeland) and keep local residents informed (currently 50% overall, 61% in Allerdale, 66% in Copeland). Confidence that the Partnership can really pull out of discussions at any stage has increased slightly, particularly in Allerdale (from 50% to 58%).

Conclusion: Confidence in the Partnership and its interactions with the public and the Government remain fairly stable, although there are more respondents who are confident that the Partnership could pull out of talks, particularly in Allerdale.

**Awareness of the BGS survey.** Across Cumbria, 30% of survey respondents are aware that the BGS has undertaken an initial screening process (44% in Allerdale and 50% in Copeland). Of those 30%, 6 in 10 do not know whether their area has been ruled out or not.

Conclusion: There is some awareness that the BGS study has taken place, particularly in West Cumbria, but less awareness about the outcomes of the study.

**Levels of support or opposition for continuing discussions with the Government.** The percentage of those surveyed who support and oppose the Partnership recommending to the councils that West Cumbria should continue to participate in the MRWS process are shown below, along with those who do not know. These figures show little overall change since the first survey; they show that there is currently net support in both Allerdale and Copeland for continuing participation in the MRWS process, based on the survey question people were asked.

	Favour	Neither favour nor oppose/don't know	Oppose
<b>Wave 1: overall</b>	50%	25%	25%
<b>Wave 2: overall</b>	43%	27%	30%
<b>Wave 3: overall</b>	48%	25%	28%
Wave 3: Allerdale	52%	23%	25%
Wave 3: Copeland	62%	20%	19%
Wave 3: Rest of Cumbria	44%	26%	30%

Conclusion: Levels of support for West Cumbria continuing its participation in the MRWS process remain consistent.

**Levels of support for hosting the site in West Cumbria.** Across Cumbria, 43% of people surveyed support the idea of locating a GDF in West Cumbria. In Allerdale this figure is 50% and in Copeland, 60%. Again, these figures show very little change since the first survey.

Conclusion: Levels of support for West Cumbria hosting a GDF remain consistent.

**Reflection**

The increase in awareness alongside no change in level of support has the implication that informing people has not led to them altering their views and therefore raises the somewhat controversial question of how much people really need to know to be able to voice their opinion. However, regardless of this, the Partnership still has a vital role in giving local people as much information as they want or need in order to help inform their opinions about this issue. And if the process does continue to the next stage, it is important that local residents are well informed and empowered so that they can be fully involved and engaged with any future process that might impact them.

## 11. Partnership response to issues raised in PSE2

The Partnership spent some time reviewing the issues identified by the PSE2 process and responses to these issues were developed by various sub-groups or individuals on behalf of the Partnership. These responses were then agreed by the Partnership at its meeting on 24th May 2011. The table below summarises the issues raised, the person or group that took forward the task of developing the response to each issue, and the Partnership's agreed responses.

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
<b>How public and stakeholder views will inform the Partnership</b>			
3.1	The application of any indicators used needs to be based on a transparent and fully considered process, including clarity over the fact that they will not be weighted against each other.	<b>Technical Review Group<sup>32</sup></b>	Agreed. The process for applying the indicators will be clearly set out in the PSE3 Consultation Document.
3.2	Whilst no one has really suggested an alternative for net support, there are concerns about the <i>method</i> used to gauge it. Any method used for gauging net support, in particular a telephone survey, will need a clear justification, and demonstration that other methods have been considered. This should include the Partnership's views on the use of a referendum. It should also address concerns about the potential for bias (for example from those areas screened in or out by the BGS study) and about the credibility of net support if there is a large number of people saying 'don't know'.	<b>Technical Review Group, with support from PSE Sub-Group</b>	Agreed. The justification for the method used for gauging net support is being reviewed by the PSE Sub-Group and will be set out in the PSE3 Consultation Document. The Partnership's views on the use of a referendum were considered at its meeting on 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2011. This confirmed the use of an opinion survey, rather than a referendum, as its approach to gauging whether net support exists for a decision to participate in the siting process. The question of whether referendums should be used to inform decision making in subsequent stages of the siting process can be kept open for review after any decision to participate that might be taken.
3.3	Levels of awareness should continue to be measured alongside levels of support. Consideration needs to be given to asking additional	<b>PSE Sub-Group</b>	The PSE Sub-Group will review the questions asked in the survey to assess levels of awareness with the aim of ensuring that we can make a reasonable

<sup>32</sup> The Technical Review Group (TRG) has been set up to work on behalf of the Partnership to collate and analyse all of the work completed under its Work Programme, in order to help develop the Partnership's final thinking as it move towards developing its recommendations to the three Councils. The TRG consists of representatives from Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, Cumbria County Council, Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLEAF) and 3KQ.

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
	questions to assess levels of awareness.		assessment of the extent to which people have gained some understanding of the key issues.
3.4	The Partnership needs to ensure it has looked at the full range of organisations to be included in gauging broad support and provide clarity over how those views are used.	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	Agreed. We will include a review of which organisations we are engaging before the PSE3 consultation begins. We will incorporate those views into the PSE3 Report which will set out a summary of views received.
3.5	Other methods of engagement such as citizens' juries could be borne in mind for use in the PSE3 consultation as the Partnership moves towards forming its advice to the Councils.	<b>PSE Sub-Group</b>	The PSE Sub-Group will review engagement methods, including citizens' juries, as part of the PSE3 process design.
3.6	The Partnership needs to clarify why it is only applying the net support criteria to West Cumbria.	<b>PSE Sub-Group</b>	Agreed. This will be clarified in the PSE3 Consultation Document.
<b>Impacts and Community Benefits</b>			
4.1	Most of the issues that people raised about possible impacts in PSE1 are raised again in this round of public and stakeholder engagement. In particular, the issues of health and safety, and uncertainties around potential economic impacts, need to continue to be reflected strongly in the Partnership's considerations.	<b>Impacts Sub-Group</b>	The Partnership has received presentations and information from the Environment Agency, HSE and NDA about general health and safety impacts of any GDF development on workers, the public and environment and about how these impacts will be assessed if a specific site for development is identified. This information will be summarized in the PSE3 Consultation Document. Indicative research on the perception of GDF development was commissioned by the Partnership which included perceptions of health impacts. In this survey most people perceived no health impacts providing quality public services and physical infrastructure (roads, rail, housing) can be maintained. No further Partnership work will be undertaken at this stage but it is very clear from PSE1, PSE2 and the 'perceptions' research that

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
			issues of health, safety and the economic wellbeing of the community must be protected if the process to site and develop a GDF continues in West Cumbria.
4.2	It should be noted that there is a range of public attitudes towards community benefits, including those who see them as positive compensation, those who see them as a bribe and those who believe they would be insufficient compensation. If the Partnership recommends a decision to take part in the search for somewhere to locate a GDF it will need to set out why it believes these benefits would be justified. In addition, the Partnership should bear in mind the general desire for advance agreement of community benefits balanced with concerns over premature commitment to a facility.	<b>Community Benefits Sub-Group</b>	The Partnership is aware of the sensitivity of the issue of community benefits. We are in discussions with Government to ensure we clearly understand their intentions regarding community benefit, including when they would be received, and what control the community would have over them. We acknowledge and share the desire for benefits to be agreed (and potentially delivered) in advance of a final decision about a site. Our preliminary conclusions will be published in our autumn consultation.
4.3	The Partnership should bear in mind the potential community benefits suggested by PSE2 respondents, and the decision-making factors for the allocation of community benefits as suggested by the Residents' Panel. In particular the various views on the geographical distribution and timing of benefits should be considered.	<b>Community Benefits Sub-Group</b>	Agreed. There are many ways in which community benefits could be distributed, if the process continues. We believe that at this stage it is not appropriate to choose exactly how benefits would be distributed. If appropriate, that will need to be decided later when more information is available about where possible sites are.
4.4	The Partnership should consider the impacts of retrievability and monitorability on public perceptions.	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	This is an issue to consider as more information on design and retrievability becomes available.
<b>Community Involvement in the Siting Process</b>			
5.1	There is a suggestion that the Partnership should more	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	The principles for community involvement are being reviewed in

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
	directly address the issues of empowerment, ownership of the process, and decision-making power in its suggested principles for community involvement.		response to comments in PSE2. Revised principles will be discussed at the Partnership assessment meeting on 7 <sup>th</sup> July, and will then be set out in the PSE3 Consultation Document.
5.2	Whilst definitions of 'host community' and 'wider interests' exist in the White Paper, there are concerns about what these might mean in practice if a siting process goes ahead. Additionally there is concern that any definition of community must be broader than simply a geographic boundary. Clarity is also sought over how the views of these different communities will be weighted.	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	The concerns about definitions of community, and how their views will be taken into account, are well recognised and will be addressed in the Partnership's assessment of the next stage of the siting process. The Partnership's views will be set out in the PSE3 Consultation Document.
5.3	People want more detail on what a potential siting process might look like, particularly in relation to where the decision-making power lies, who has genuine power of veto, who actually makes the final decisions about siting and on what basis.	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	These concerns are also being addressed in the Partnership's assessment of the next stage of the siting process (Stage 4). Partnership views will be set out in the PSE3 Consultation Document.
5.4	There is a call for more engagement and more information across the board as the process continues.	<b>Technical Review Group/PSE Sub-Group</b>	Engagement and information provision in Stage 4 need to be appropriate to the nature of the siting process in Stage 4. The Partnership's views on Stage 4 will be set out in the PSE3 Consultation Document.
5.5	The siting considerations suggested by PSE2 respondents should be clearly taken into account in the Partnership's deliberations.	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	If a decision to participate is taken, these siting considerations will need to be fed through to, and inform, discussions about how the siting process moves forward in Stage 4.
5.6	The Partnership should consider the following concerns: any partnership set up after a decision to participate by the Principal	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	These concerns are also being addressed in the Partnership's assessment of the next stage of the siting process (Stage 4). Partnership views will be set out



Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
	Authorities should not be called a Community Siting Partnership until potential host communities have been identified and involved; any process for identifying potential sites should enable potential host communities to make their own informed decisions about whether they wish to participate.		in the PSE3 Consultation Document.
<b>Demonstrate input has led to real changes</b>			
6.1	In order to continue demonstrating how public input is being taken on board the Partnership should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to keep the table of responses to PSE1 input up to date.</li> <li>• Create a similar table of responses to show what is done with PSE2 input.</li> </ul>	<b>Programme Manager</b>	Agreed. Both these tables of responses will be kept up to date and published on the website.
6.2	There remain concerns that opposing views and the reasoning behind these views are not sufficiently being taken into account.	<b>Technical Review Group/PSE Sub-Group</b>	In PSE3 we will actively ask people with opposing views to help us understand the reasoning behind these views.
<b>Building Understanding of MRWS, including the BGS study</b>			
7.1	Some people realised as a result of the engagement process that the BGS study only ruled out areas for the underground site not the surface site, and that it would therefore make more sense to talk about 'sites' rather than 'a site'. This not only could have significant implications for the siting process and community involvement, but also suggests more work needs to be done to clarify this specific point in relation to the BGS	<b>Communications Advisor</b>	In preparing communications and engagement materials between now and the end of PSE3 design we will consider how we can make it clearer that the repository and surface facilities are likely to be in different places.  Government consultation on Stage 4 is likely to define a 'potential candidate site' as a combination of a surface site for the surface facilities and a volume of host rock for the underground facility. <sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> To be confirmed once the consultation document becomes available.

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
	study.		
7.2	The Nirex Inquiry is still a significant issue for many people. For example, there is still uncertainty over how this MRWS process is different to the Nirex inquiry. There are also repeated assertions that the Nirex Inquiry has already ruled out West Cumbria as being suitable for a repository.	<b>Communications Advisor</b>	The Partnership is continuing to press the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to produce and effectively communicate a response to questions about the implications of the Nirex Inquiry for the MRWS process. We are also asking for comment from a number of individuals and organisations, including holding a second seminar on geology in June. It is important that Partnership members and the public have enough information to reach an informed conclusion about whether there is potentially sufficient suitable geology in West Cumbria.
<b>Understanding wider issues and information needs</b>			
8.1	The Partnership should continue to ensure that future events cover a balance of locations, both in terms of geography and in terms of the nature of the area (for example areas screened out and not screened out by the BGS study).	<b>PSE Sub-Group</b>	Agreed. PSE3 will allow more flexibility to ensure a good geographic spread of events.
8.2	There is tension between people wanting more detailed information and the call for more accessible information. This will need to be continually recognised in the drafting of future Partnership communications and engagement materials.	<b>PSE Sub-Group</b>	<p>It will always be difficult to strike an appropriate balance between accessibility and detail. We will continue to review our communications and engagement materials both in the run up to and during PSE3. Our aim is to provide a range of materials including information which is easily accessible and more detailed information.</p> <p>This will include Q&amp;As on the most frequently asked questions, short overviews of the key issues, access to more detailed papers about these issues, and where appropriate briefing notes which provide a bit more detail on some of the issues while aiming to</p>

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
			<p>avoid the more technical language used in some of the longer reports produced by organisations such as the NDA.</p> <p>We will also continue to place a strong emphasis on using images e.g. that show what a repository might look like, as well as using video.</p>
8.3	Many people want more information on specific issues <sup>34</sup> in order to feel more comfortable expressing an opinion.	<b>Communications Advisor</b>	We will continue to review the need to provide more information on specific issues including requesting additional information from organisations such as the NDA and preparing briefing notes.
8.4	Overall, people want to continue to see clear, unbiased information and a transparent process for decision making.	<b>Communications Advisor and PSE Sub-Group</b>	<p>We believe it is important that people have access to information from different sources and we will continue to look for ways to ensure that a range of views are represented in our work.</p> <p>We will also continue to make sure that there is clear and timely information so people can see what is happening in this process and find out about the issues involved.</p>
<b>Other issues arising</b>			
9.1	Geographical differences exist in terms of local concerns and potential attitudes. This has implications for the consideration of public and stakeholder views in the Partnership's advice to the three Councils, and specific local considerations that might need to be taken into account in a potential siting process.	<b>Technical Review Group</b>	Agreed. When PSE3 is complete the Partnership could give advice to different councils on specific issues that have arisen, depending on what feedback is received. This will be considered in the Partnership's final report.
9.2	The Partnership may want to examine the current level of engagement in terms of	<b>PSE Sub-Group</b>	Agreed. We have carefully considered the overall level of effort in the design of PSE3. We

<sup>34</sup> 3KQ is pulling together a list of these issues mentioned in PSE2, some of which ask for a direct response and others of which are mentioned as areas requiring more clarity or general information.

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
	quality and coverage and, as a consequence, decide whether PSE3 should involve the same, less or more effort in terms of informing and engaging people.		believe we have got the balance right between this being an unprecedented discussion of great significance, and also kept the efforts proportional given the economic climate and the early stage of discussions where a full right of withdrawal still exists.
9.3	Some people continue to express concern that: geological disposal is not the only option, that a wider debate is needed and that West Cumbria is currently the only area in discussions with the Government about this. Whilst these issues are not within the remit of the Partnership, they do provide context for its work.	<b>Steering Group</b>	The Partnership will continue to provide information about why the Partnership is looking at possible involvement in a GDF siting process, including providing details about why geological disposal was the approach recommended by CoRWM over other options. The context for our work is that CoRWM led a wide ranging national debate about geological disposal in 2003 – 2006 that led to the current policy. We also note that the Government has taken a range of steps to invite other communities to express an interest in participation.
9.4	The drivers of public confidence identified by the Residents' Panel should be borne in mind in the future work of the Partnership. (Whilst these 'drivers' have arisen from the discussions of a small group of the West Cumbrian public they are consistent with what we have heard from other consultation responses and are felt to be a useful summary of wider public concerns.)	<b>Communications Advisor</b>	<p>The Residents' Panel identified a number of 'drivers of public confidence' which we will consider as we develop our communications and engagement materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Variety of ways in which information is presented.</i> We believe it is important to provide information in a variety of different ways including (a) information with different amounts of detail (b) different formats including printed materials, web based and video (c) different delivery methods including information in local media, advertising, information sent to people's homes and exhibition stands in town centres and at events.</li> <li>• <i>Acknowledging the complexity of the issues.</i> As we review</li> </ul>

Ref.	ISSUE	WHO	RESPONSE
			<p>our materials we will aim to ensure material is provided in an accessible way but also make it clear that these are complex issues and point people to places where they can get more detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Using independent experts where needed (e.g. for issues where the facts are unclear).</i> The Partnership has brought in external experts on a number of key issues and we will aim to ensure that people have access to information from a range of experts with different perspectives and views on the issues involved.</li> <li>• <i>Demonstrating transparency of process.</i> We place a high priority on ensuring that the Partnership's work is open and transparent. We will continue to review how we can ensure that the Partnership not only behaves in an open and transparent way but is seen to do so.</li> </ul>
9.5	With regard to the inventory, some people want more information or reassurance about what may or may not end up in a repository, particularly new build and foreign waste.	<b>Technical Review Group and Communications Advisor</b>	The Partnership is seeking "minded to" agreement from the Government to a set of inventory principles which address information about what the inventory could be and the process for how the inventory could be changed. These will be considered at the Partnership Assessment Meeting on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> June and explained in the PSE3 Consultation Document.

## Appendix 1: Background to the MRWS process

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### Background and Context

The UK has accumulated a substantial legacy of radioactive waste from a variety of different nuclear programmes. Some of this waste is already in storage, but most still forms part of existing facilities and will only become waste over several decades or so, as these plants are decommissioned and cleaned-up. Some of the waste will be radioactive and thus potentially dangerous for hundreds of thousands of years, and will need to be managed in the long-term.

### The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Programme

In 2001 the Government initiated the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme to find a practical solution for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste. Following feedback from a consultation, an independent body, the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), was set up to assess options and recommend a way forward. To ensure its recommendations had wide-ranging support, CoRWM sought to combine the use of the best possible science and expert advice with a wide-ranging programme of public and stakeholder engagement. CoRWM assessed a number of options for dealing with the waste before recommending geological disposal to the Government, coupled with safe and secure interim storage along with a programme of ongoing research and development ('MRWS CoRWM's recommendations to Government July 2006'<sup>35</sup>). The Government accepted the recommended way forward and announced plans to Parliament in October 2006.

### Consultation on how to Implement Geological Disposal

In 2007, the Government sought views on its proposals for delivering geological disposal in their consultation – A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal. It covered amongst other issues: the design of a GDF, the process and criteria to be used for siting, how the voluntarism/partnership approach to siting that CoRWM recommended could be made to work, and the assessment and evaluation of potential sites, including the initial screening-out of areas unlikely to be suitable for geological disposal. Responses indicated general support for the proposed approach. The Government's summary and their analysis of the responses submitted were published in January 2008.

### MRWS White Paper

The Government then published the White Paper – Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal, on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008.<sup>36</sup> This set out the Government's detailed policy and plans for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste.

### Voluntarism/Partnership Approach

The Government has asked communities across the country to talk to them about potentially hosting a GDF. For the purposes of this process an approach based on voluntarism means one in which the Government is looking for communities to voluntarily express an interest in taking part in the process that will ultimately provide a site for a GDF.

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<sup>35</sup> Document 700 in CoRWM's document archive [www.corwm.org.uk/Pages/Lnk\\_pages/publications.aspx](http://www.corwm.org.uk/Pages/Lnk_pages/publications.aspx).

<sup>36</sup> June 2008 White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely – A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal' (Cm7386).



A partnership approach is one where all parts of a community work together with the NDA's delivery organisation and with other relevant interested parties to achieve a successful outcome. This could be by ensuring that questions and concerns about the GDF siting, construction, operation, closure and post-closure are addressed and that the project contributes to a community's further development and well-being.

Overseas experience (for example Belgium, Canada, Finland and Sweden) suggests that such an approach to local engagement is likely to be the most effective way of addressing the concerns and aspirations of communities considering hosting a GDF, whilst also providing a workable mechanism for identifying a suitable site.

### **West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership**

Around 70% of the radioactive waste earmarked for geological disposal is already stored at Sellafield in West Cumbria. Regardless of wherever a site is ultimately chosen in the country, Cumbria will therefore be affected because of the transport of the waste.

Hence, the three Councils from Allerdale, Copeland and Cumbria County have started the early stages of a conversation with the Government about participating in the site selection process. However, the councils are keen to have their discussions informed by a wide range of community interests, so have set up a Partnership to advise them: the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership.

The Partnership is an advisory body aiming to *make recommendations to the Councils on whether they should participate or not in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process, without commitment to eventually host a facility*. Effectively the Partnership is considering whether West Cumbria should proceed to the next stage, during which a range of safety, social, environmental and geological assessments would be carried out on prospective sites in West Cumbria.

The Partnership's Terms of Reference<sup>37</sup> set out the membership and operation of the Partnership. Members of the public are invited to observe Partnership meetings.

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<sup>37</sup> Document 2 – Terms of Reference. See Documents page at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

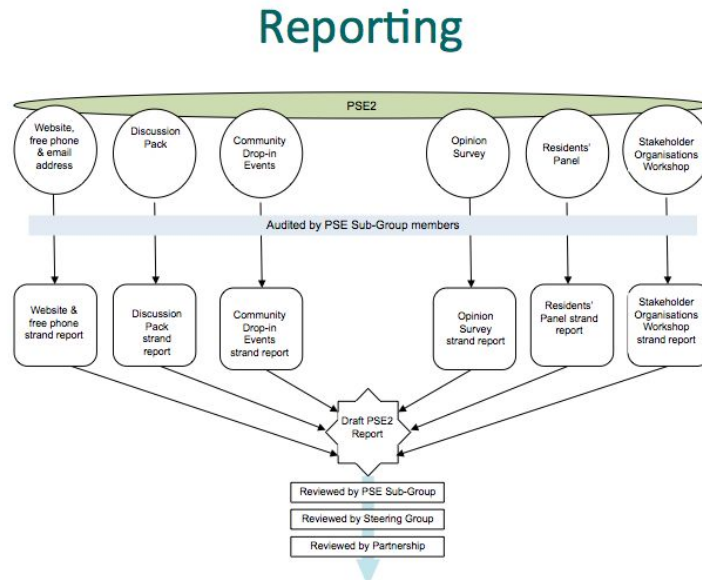
## Appendix 2: PSE Sub-Group membership

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Rhuari Bennett	3KQ
Richard Griffin	Allerdale Borough Council
Ian Curwen	Copeland Borough Council
Chris Shaw	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
Kieran Barr	Cumbria County Council
Fred Barker	Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum
Paul Gardner	Osprey Communications

## Appendix 3: Reporting methodology

**Contractor reports.** For each strand of engagement in PSE2, the contractor responsible for analysing input produced a ‘contractor report’.



**Strand reports.** 3KQ then produced a ‘strand report’<sup>38</sup> for each strand, which captures the issues raised in the particular strand of engagement under consistent headings to allow for easier compilation into the PSE2 Report. The ‘Other public input’ strand was analysed directly into a strand report by 3KQ rather than going through the additional stage of a contractor report.

**Audit process.** Each strand report was audited by a member of the PSE Sub-Group. The auditors were asked to cover the following points:

- **Content:** Does the strand report capture the key messages from the contractor report?
- **Balance:** Does the strand report reflect these messages in a balanced and accurate way?
- **Accuracy:** Is there anything you feel is wrong in terms of factual content or that you feel may be misrepresented, either in the strand report or the contractor report?
- **Language:** Are there any issues with language, for example particular words or phrases that may be used in the wrong context?
- **Other points:** Is there anything else not falling into the categories above that you feel needs attention?

Auditors fed back comments, queries and amendments to 3KQ as well as presenting a summary of the key messages and audit comments from their strand back to the PSE Sub-Group.

**PSE2 Issues Report.** All of the audited strand reports were then used to produce the draft PSE2 Issues Report, which went through the PSE Sub-Group and the Steering Group for comments and sign off before being submitted to the Partnership for response.

<sup>38</sup> All reports are available on request.

## Appendix 4: Topic sheet – Public and stakeholder views

### TOPIC 1

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### Topic 1: How public and stakeholder views will inform our work

#### Introduction

The Partnership's advice to the Councils has to be informed by discussion with the public and other interested groups, or 'stakeholders'. We want everyone to know what is going on and to have his or her say.

The Government also wants to be sure that if a council decides to continue with the process, it has genuinely considered public and stakeholder views to inform its decision making.

#### Who makes the final decision?

The Partnership will consider public views in its advice to Allerdale Borough, Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councils. It will not make any decisions. The Councils, as formal representatives of the local community, will decide whether or not to move to the next stage of the process for finding a site.

This decision will not be made until 2012.

#### How should we take public and stakeholder views into account?

Talking with people is not enough. We have to be able to use public and stakeholder views to inform our final recommendations to the Councils. We are developing a set of 'indicators' to help us. We currently think that if we advise the Councils to take part in the siting process, this would have to be based on:

##### Draft indicators

1. **Net support** from the West Cumbrian public.
2. **Broad support** from the key organisations engaged by the Partnership, such as local councils, community interest groups, parish councils, and so on.
3. Evidence that **concerns raised have been or will be addressed**, including providing an explanation if specific concerns have not been addressed.
4. Evidence that **reasons for opposing or supporting the recommendation have been identified, understood and taken into account** in reaching our conclusions.



#### Net support

This means that more people are in favour of an idea than oppose it. In this case we are proposing to:

- Survey a wide sample of the West Cumbrian public.
- Ask them whether they think the Councils should proceed to the next stage of the process, remembering this does not mean a final commitment to hosting a facility.
- Compare the number of people who say 'yes' or 'no' (people saying 'don't know' will not be counted in the comparison).



#### Indicators

These help us to judge whether our views are credible, given public and stakeholder opinion.



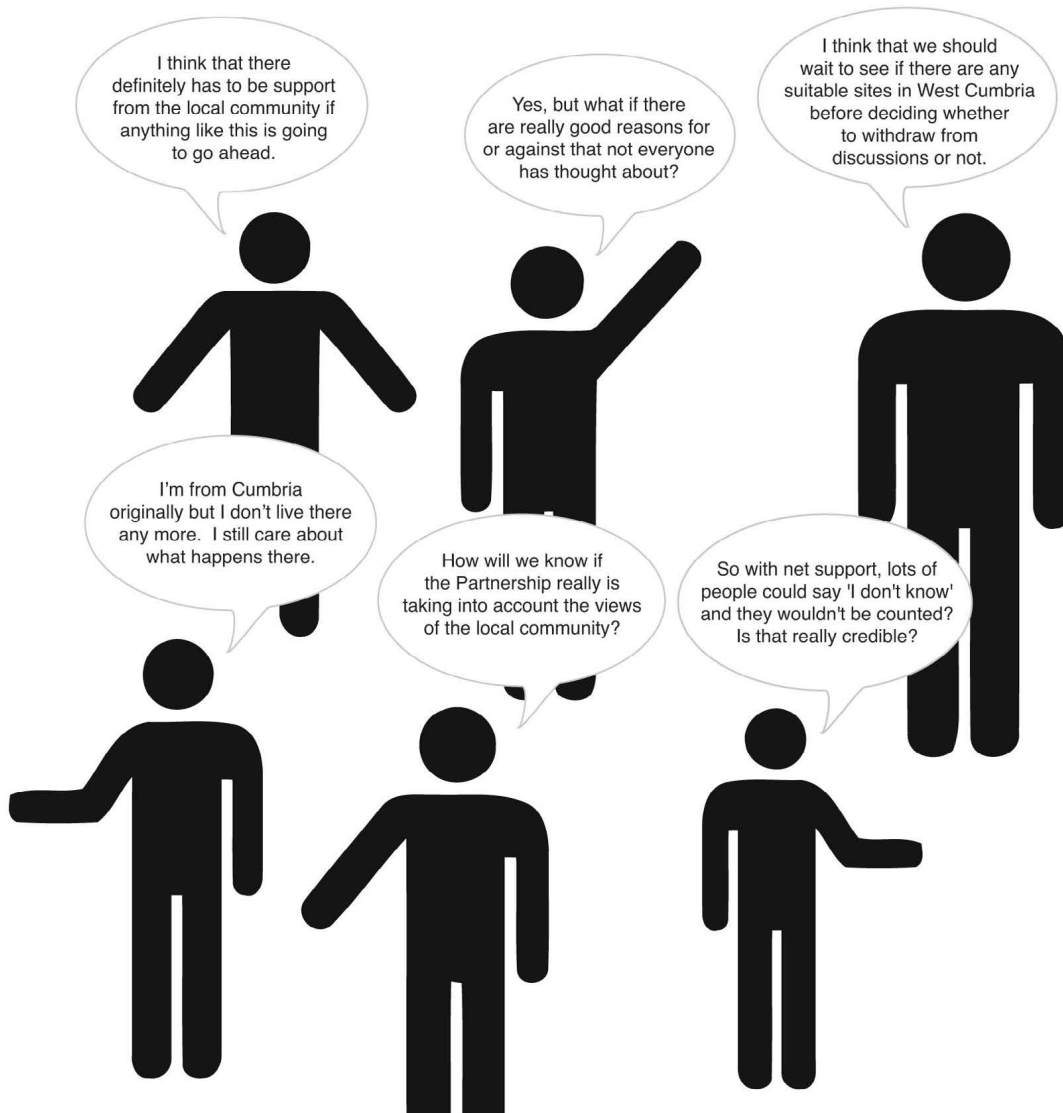
#### Broad support

This is about the Partnership's judgement of the quality and strength of evidence and argument, rather than the number of people expressing a particular view.



### What do you think?

These are just examples of some of the things that people might say – please try to think about what your own opinion is, using these statements for ideas and inspiration.



**Question 1: What do you think about the indicators we have suggested?  
Please explain if you particularly agree or disagree with any of them.**

**Question 2: Are there any other indicators that you think should be considered to judge how well we have used public views in making our final recommendations?**

## Appendix 5: Topic sheet – Impacts and community benefits

### TOPIC 2

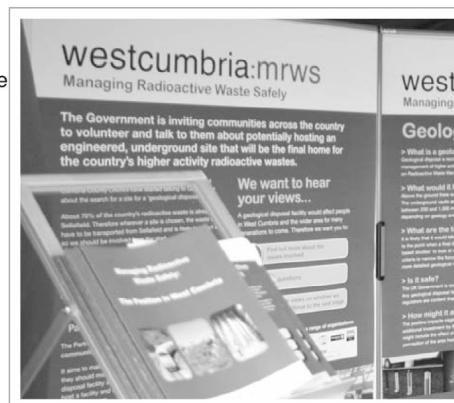
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### Topic 2: Impacts and community benefits

#### Impacts

We are considering the potential impacts that having a geological disposal facility in West Cumbria might bring before making any recommendations. These could be positive or negative, and include things like:

- > Noise, dust, and disruption from construction.
- > Health and safety of workers and the public.
- > Effects on the local economy, including investment and employment in the area.
- > Effect on the environment and what the area looks like.
- > Changes in the local population, either increasing or decreasing.
- > Community benefits (see below).
- > How a facility might affect people's opinion about the area. This relates to things like tourism, house prices, new businesses and people's own opinion of the area they live in.



We are gathering information from relevant research, as well as considering what is important to the people who live in West Cumbria. We want to know what you think about the effects a facility could have on the area, both good and bad.

#### Community benefits

The Government has already said that any area in which a geological disposal facility is sited would expect some kind of community benefit. Exactly what this benefit might be and when it might happen is not yet clear. This is a key issue that we as community representatives are raising with the Government. However, the following types of things have been considered in other countries:

- > Investment in local infrastructure such as housing, transport and cultural facilities.
- > Investment in local business development and job creation.
- > Investment in local tourism, farming and fishing.
- > Financial assistance for utilities such as electricity.
- > A lump sum of money, which could be paid out over several decades.
- > Investment in skills and education, for example specialist training centres, school equipment and courses.
- > Extra taxes for nuclear sites, with the money from these going back to the community through the benefits package.
- > Research facilities, including environmental research projects.

Before giving advice to the Councils, we need to have thought about how any benefits might be spread out over time, from now until, potentially, decades into the future. Another issue that we need to consider is how benefits might be spread across different communities, including those closer to the underground or above ground parts of a facility, and those further away.

Talking about community benefits does not mean a decision has already been taken, but it will be another important consideration in deciding whether or not to continue with this process.





### What do you think?

These are just examples of some of the things that people might say – please try to think about what your own opinion is, using these statements for ideas and inspiration.



**Question 3: Are there any impacts that you feel strongly about or that you think we have missed? Please explain.**

**Question 4: What do you think about the idea of receiving community benefits for having this kind of facility in West Cumbria?**

**Question 5: What kinds of benefits would you want us to have in mind in our discussions with the Government?**

## Appendix 6: Topic sheet – Community involvement in the siting process

### TOPIC 3

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Managing Radioactive Waste Safely

### Topic 3: Involving communities around potential sites

#### Introduction

If West Cumbria does decide to take part in the process for finding a site, there would need to be a more detailed look at which places would or would not be suitable for a facility. This would involve those communities likely to be affected working in **partnership** with the people making the decisions.

Thinking about this now does not mean a decision has already been made. But in order to advise the Councils on whether or not to continue with this process, we need to understand all of the issues involved and how they would affect us as communities.

#### A potential way of narrowing down sites

If West Cumbria proceeds with the siting process, without commitment to hosting a facility, the next steps could involve

1. Identifying a '**long list**' of potential sites.



2. Carrying out desk-based studies to produce a proposed '**short list**' of sites.



3. Carrying out 'surface-based' **investigations at agreed sites** (for example by drilling boreholes to look at how suitable a specific site might be).

#### Involving communities

If the Councils decide to participate further in the process, the Partnership wants to make sure that communities would be properly involved in the process of narrowing down the list of possible sites. To help achieve this, we are suggesting some guiding 'principles'.

#### Principles for involving the public in a siting process

- > Identify and involve affected communities as early as possible.
- > Take proper account of the view of local people and use local knowledge and expertise.
- > Aim for a constructive approach, which is agreed by everybody involved (communities and Government).
- > Secure the fairest outcome for all involved.
- > Only continue with the process for choosing a site if there is enough local support.

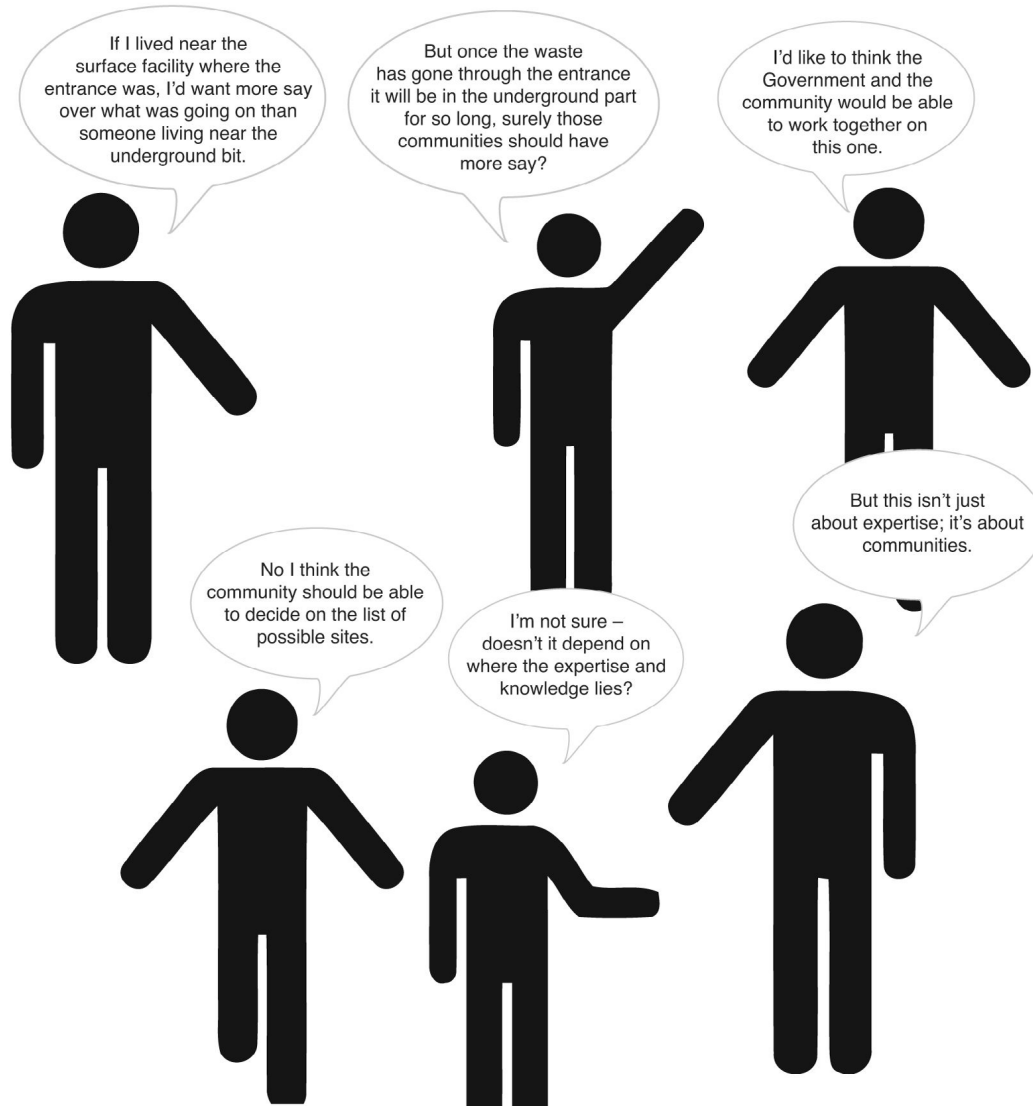
There are some other important things to think about in relation to involving communities. For example, the underground facilities and those above ground could be some distance apart and so could affect different communities. This means we need to think about how all of these communities would be involved if the process continues.





### What do you think?

These are just examples of some of the things that people might say – please try to think about what your own opinion is, using these statements for ideas and inspiration.



**Question 6: What needs to happen to involve the community if the process to find a potential site in West Cumbria continues?**

**Question 7: What kinds of things other than geological suitability should be considered when looking for a potential site, if the process continues?**

## Appendix 7: Source of issues

The table below shows the main sources of the various issues contained within this report.

	Community Events	Discussion Pack	Other public input	Residents Panel	Stakeholder Organisations Workshop	Other (Cockermouth School / Gosforth meeting)
<b>Key Topics: Public and stakeholder views</b>						
Indicators – general detail on process/definition/methodology	X	X				
Indicators – public need for information	X	X			X	
Net support – discussion of ‘don’t knows’/issue of minority dominating	X	X			X	
Net support – concerns over telephone survey (e.g. representativeness)		X			X	
Net support – need to gauge awareness		X			X	
Net support – interpretation of question as support or opposition for a facility					X	
Net support – concerns over disaggregation	X	X				X
Net support – extend to whole of Cumbria/concern rest of Cumbria views less important	X	X				
Other indicators – need for clarity of definition and process		X				
Other methods for gauging support – referendum favoured	X	X	X			
Other methods for gauging support – referendum not suitable at this stage	X		X		X	
Other methods – citizens’ juries					X	
Including specific groups – young people (and future generations)	X	X				
Including specific views – people opposed	X					
Including specific groups – people within the nuclear industry	X					
Including specific groups – people who live and work in West Cumbria balanced with those who live and work in the National Park	X					
<b>Key Topics: Impacts and community benefits</b>						
Impacts – safety (including risk of ‘incidents’)	X	X	X		X	
Impacts – health	X	X			X	
Impacts – security		X			X	
Impacts – tourism	X	X				
Impacts – safety should override benefits					X	
Impacts – perceptions					X	
Impacts – impact of inventory on perceptions					X	

	Community Events	Discussion Pack	Other public input	Residents Panel	Stakeholder Organisations Workshop	Other (Cockermouth School / Gosforth meeting)
Impacts – environment/visual impact	X	X				
Impacts – construction impacts	X	X				
Impacts – traffic/transport	X	X				
Impacts – economy	X	X				
Impacts – jobs	X	X	X			
Impacts – house prices	X	X				
Impacts – population fluctuations	X	X				
Impacts – wider infrastructure		X				
Impacts – on National Park	X			X		
Impacts – of not having a GDF	X				X	
Community benefits – necessary/expected	X	X			X	
Community benefits – bribe	X	X	X		X	
Community benefits – not enough	X					
Community benefits – agreed in advance	X	X	X			
Community benefits – worries about premature commitment by agreeing in advance					X	
Community benefits – transport infrastructure	X	X	X		X	X
Community benefits – job creation/local industry development	X	X				X
Community benefits – skills/training/R&D	X	X				X
Community benefits – wider infrastructure		X				X
Community benefits – lower/subsidised council tax/utilities	X	X				X
Community benefits – community fund		X			X	
Community benefits – direct payments to residents		X				
Community benefits – central West Cumbria fund					X	
Community benefits – physical distribution		X		X	X	
Community benefits – over time	X	X		X	X	X
Community benefits – decision-making factors				X		X
Other issues – retrievability/monitorability	X				X	
Key Topics: Community involvement in the siting process						
Principles – additional suggestions					X	
Definition of community					X	X
Involvement of younger people		X			X	
Weighting of the views of different communities		X			X	
Desire for clear process	X	X			X	

	Community Events	Discussion Pack	Other public input	Residents Panel	Stakeholder Organisations Workshop	Other (Cockermouth School / Gosforth meeting)
Desire for more ongoing engagement	X	X			X	
Desire for honest presentation of issues, including all views	X				X	
Awareness of process		X			X	
Difficulty engaging people	X	X			X	
Suggestions for engaging people	X	X			X	
Siting considerations – health and safety	X	X				
Siting considerations – socioeconomic impacts		X			X	
Siting considerations – transport/traffic	X	X			X	
Siting considerations – environment/visual impact	X	X				
Siting considerations – impact on future generations (and community awareness of this)	X	X				
Siting considerations – construction impacts		X				
Siting considerations – level of local acceptance / support	X	X				X
Siting considerations – interactions with other programmes					X	
Siting considerations – heritage impacts					X	
Siting considerations – climate change impacts					X	
Siting considerations – energy and transport infrastructure					X	
Siting considerations – risk assessment/security		X			X	
Siting considerations – National Park				X		
Dealing with tomorrow's waste						
Issues with discussing stages of the process that might not happen					X	
Issues with discussing abstract principles					X	
Demonstrate						
Positive comments about engagement process	X	X			X	
Need to include opposing views		X			X	
Concerns that politics will override consultation	X	X	X			
Desire for transparent process/demonstration that public views have been taken into account	X	X	X	X	X	X
Build understanding						



	Community Events	Discussion Pack	Other public input	Residents Panel	Stakeholder Organisations Workshop	Other (Cockermouth School / Gosforth meeting)
Increased understanding (positive feedback)				X	X	
Confidence in integrity of BGS study					X	
Comments over limitations of BGS study					X	
Issues with/reference to the Nirex Inquiry	X	X	X			
Reference to BGS study in relation to 'sites' rather than 'site'					X	
Understand						
Issues with Community Event distribution			X			
Positive feedback on level of information/balance of information		X		X	X	
Desire for more technical/detailed information	X	X	X	X	X	X
Desire for more accessible information		X	X		X	
Positive feedback about engagement materials/events	X	X		X	X	
Comments that materials/events were biased	X	X	X		X	
Comments that materials lacked detail		X	X			
Desire for clearer understanding of forward process		X			X	
Desire for continued provision of clear, unbiased information and transparent decision making	X	X		X	X	
Need for more accessible language					X	
Other issues						
Geographical nuances	X					
Comments on balance number new participants/balance with attendance of Partnership members					X	
Need to motivate and make engagement relevant					X	
Issue with idea of geological disposal/siting in West Cumbria	X	X	X		X	
Need for wider debate about waste solution/nuclear power	X	X			X	
Concern West Cumbria is only area expressing an interest		X	X			
Other comments about National Park				X		
Drivers of public confidence				X		
Inventory		X	X			
Expertise		X	X			