

MINUTES FROM ALLERDALE WORKING GROUP MEETING

HELD ON 1st DECEMBER 2021, 1000 am – Teams

Attendees: Eva Chua (EC)
Katy Arnott (KA)
Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong (JMA)
Annabelle Lillycrop (AL)
Laura Kay (LK)
Charlotte Gleeson (CG)
Dan Rigg (DR)
Alison Beard (AB)
Nik Hardy (NH)
Mary Bradley (MB)
John Evans (JE)

Minutes: Linda Scott (LS)

Apologies: Andy Ross, Marion Fitzgerald, Dot Kirk-Adams

Item	Description	Action Lead	By when
1.	WELCOME/APOLOGIES – Apologies received from Andy Ross, Marion Fitzgerald, Dot Kirk-Adams	To note	
2.	PREVIOUS MINUTES/ACTIONS - minutes from the meeting held on 24 th November were agreed. <i>The updates on previous actions were noted. Points to note/further actions agreed were as follows:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action 111 - Marion Fitzgerald and Andy Ross will attend the 'Reflection' session on 15th December</i> <p>Item 3 rescheduled to later in the meeting as Nik Hardy was unavailable – Item 4 discussed next</p>	To note	
4.	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (CP) PREPARATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking at accessibility tools for website and accessibility options for recruitment – any suggestions welcome, send to AB ○ Justin Chamberlain and MHP (website supplier) looking at options for CP website – Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) website is good for accessibility and link has been forwarded to JC to review ○ Draft inclusivity policy to be included in pack of draft policies for CP 	To note To note EC	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training offer for prospective CP members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collating information – rules and attributes document being looked at for skills needed and will try and streamline a training session based on skills needed in the short term ○ Introduction to GDF, GDPR and Safety and Security training programmes are already available ○ Onboarding to be looked at after ‘reflection’ session ○ Centre for Leadership Performance may be able to help with training ○ Input/sharing from all would be helpful ○ AB meeting with Project/Onboarding Manager to see if any courses could be tweaked to help with CP onboarding ○ Nik Hardy joined the meeting 	<p>AB</p> <p>To note</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL DECISION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any issues arising – update by NH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive made the decision to approve the invitation to join the CP with the proviso that AONB was removed from Search Area ○ The Working Group notes the decision by Allerdale Borough Council as set out in appendix 1. ○ Marion Fitzgerald was appointed as the representative for Allerdale Borough Council on the Community Partnership. Finalisation of CP Agreement delegated to ABC Head of Governance. ○ Decision not effective until 6th December because of call-in process. Additionally, a motion from Councillor Greaney is going to full Council on 7th December asking the Executive to reconsider its decision to accept the invitation to join CP. Councillor Greaney’s justification for the motion is available on ABC website and also on attached appendix 2 ○ All decisions taken by Executive are subject to ‘call-in’ ○ Executive debate had no concerns - all spoke in favour of joining CP and accepting the invitation. They expressed the need to commit to follow process through to a conclusion. ○ Above and below ground was discussed in relation to AONB and it was considered that perhaps the AONB should have been afforded the same protection as Lake District National Park ○ Search Area map on WG website will be amended once ABC decision is confirmed 	<p>To note</p> <p>To note</p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comms Update Update given by LK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gareth Cavanagh (Newsquest) reported on ABC meeting ○ Youth Engagement press release to be issued today ○ Profanity filter now on our Facebook page 	<p>To note</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letter to ABC from Marianne Birkby asking ABC to withdraw from the CP was shared ○ Simon Reeve documentary that mentions GDF is worth a look – LK will forward link to all ○ Marine geological survey, Rethink the future of Nuclear and Hydrology articles included in newsletter 	LK	
5.	<p>SCHEDULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update of Key Schedule activities Update given by CG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reflection session arranged for 15th December ○ No meeting on 22nd or 29th December – look at launch preparations on return after Christmas ○ Interim Chair discussions ongoing ○ Report from ‘reflection’ session should be included in handover pack Handover pack cannot be finalised until report is completed therefore handover pack completion date needs to be amended. EC to discuss drafting of report with DKA and update WG, attempt to circulate a draft report before Christmas ○ Training for CP members to be added onto the schedule 	To note	
6.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan to discuss meeting dates/onboarding with CP members and joint session with Working Group members at a meeting on 2nd December 	To note	
7.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8TH DECEMBER 2021</p>	To note	

Allerdale Working Group Actions 17/11/2021							
Ref	Date raised	Minute ref	Owner	Co-owner	Action	Update from meeting on 1/12/2021	Update for next meeting on 08/12/2021
ACT75	1/12/2021	4	EC	AB	Draft inclusivity policy to be included in pack of draft policies for CP	New action	
ACT76	1/12/2021	4.1	LK		Forward link to Simon Reeve documentary	New action	
ACT77	1/12/2021	5	CG		Amend Handover pack completion date	New action	
ACT78	1/12/2021	5	EC		Discuss 'Reflection' report with DKA and update WG – to be distributed before Christmas	New action	
ACT79	1/12/2021	5	CG		'Training' to be added to the schedule	New action	

Appendix 1 – acceptance from Allerdale Borough Council as noted in minutes of Allerdale Working Group on 1st December 2021

Motion - To agree that the Council accepts the invitation to join a Community Partnership in Allerdale to enable the discussions relating to a Geological Disposal Facility to move to the next stage in the process.

The invitation is accepted subject to the condition that all parts of the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are removed from the Search Area with regard to both the underground facility itself and any associated surface structures.

In agreeing to accept the invitation to join a Community Partnership, members also agree to delegate the finalisation of the Community Partnership Agreement to the Chief Officer (Place and Governance) in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council.

Members also agree the nomination of the Deputy Leader of the Council, as the relevant Portfolio Holder, to be the Council's representative on the Community Partnership in Allerdale.

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Appendix 2 – Note taken from Allerdale Borough Council agenda for 7th December as noted in minutes of Allerdale Working Group on 1st December 2021

6. Notice of Motion The following Motion has been received from Councillor Iain Greaney:

“As someone who believes that nuclear energy generation should and probably will need to have a place in a new greener energy policy for the country and also as someone who has an in-depth understanding of the need to build the UK’s long term nuclear Geological Disposal Facility, the submission of this motion to defer GDF appraisal process in the borough of Allerdale, is not taken easily.

“I have had a meeting with the NDA representative Steve Reece and also the Independent Chair of the Allerdale GDF working group Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong, who I believe to be genuine participants in the process, however this did not alleviate my concerns. As a result, I believe the current decision on the proposed designated GDF search area being proposed by the Allerdale working group is flawed / unsound and needs to be re-appraised as a result of failures in the decision-making process.

“The justification for the motion is the significant technical omissions from the assessment which renders approximately 50% of the proposed designated search area completely out of scope, lack of community participation in the decision-making process and a political driven agenda by the conservative Allerdale executive committee.

“The real crux of the issue is the newly defined Allerdale GDF designated search area includes 50% of the exclusion zone as determined in the British Geological Survey (BGS) report; Initial Geological unsuitability Screening of West Cumbria (2010), which concludes that this exclusion area is an area not suitable for consideration for the siting of a Nuclear Geological Disposal Facility.

“Therefore, how can the public have confidence in this first phase, if the Allerdale GDF working group have selected an area that comprises 50% of which has already been classified as unsuitable by the BGS. This seems to be the most basic of errors and indicates the working group have not done their homework correctly.

“It seems the Allerdale working group are getting the significant basic decisions wrong at such an early stage, without being held accountable. The concern is, they will inevitably continue in this vein as a direct result of these poor early decisions becoming embedded in the process which in turn will have an effect on all future decisions. Irrespective of the £1 million payments the council will receive for continuing to the next phase in the GDF assessment, as councillors we have a moral responsibility to ensure this process is checked if concerns are highlighted and this motion will provide an opportunity to do this.

“We have to take an impartial but objective approach when it comes to the siting of a Nuclear Geological Disposal Facility and our aim should be; not to get ‘a site’ but to get the ‘safest site’

“Therefore, I propose that:

“Allerdale Borough Council agrees to request Executive that it withdraws all council members and officers from participating in the Allerdale Nuclear Geological Disposal Facility working group/ Community Partnership and any processes associated with the assessment /selection of a viable site for the UK’S Geological Disposal Facility in the Borough of Allerdale. This recall should be with immediate effect and continue until that time a more agreeable democratic, technical and community involved process for determining the designated GDF Search Area is proposed / guaranteed by the UK government and their representatives within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).”

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