

Allerdale GDF Community Partnership Annual Review 2022



Allerdale
GDF Community Partnership

Let's talk about geological disposal

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Partnership mission, vision, values



Our Vision

Allerdale Community Partnership will undertake two-way engagement with local people and key stakeholders by utilising a variety of media, so that by 2025 community expectations and implications of hosting a GDF are widely understood.



Our Mission

Our mission is to help people understand what the community partnership's role is and to grow as a partnership in knowledge, experience, and skills. This will enable us to engage with all communities effectively and efficiently in a transparent, constructive, inclusive, timely, consistent manner, without prejudice and supported by evidence-based materials.



Our Values

These are upheld by all working as a team within the wider partnership and are aligned to the Nolan principles of good practice in public life.

Partnership members

- Mary Bradley, Chair
- Councillor Marion Fitzgerald, Allerdale Borough Council representative
- Gordon Grant, Nuclear Waste Services representative
- David Wilson, Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) representative
- Deborah Naylor, Inspira
- Becky Wolstenholme, Cumbria Youth Alliance
- Adrian Davis-Johnston, Local Independent Member
- Phil Davies, Local Independent Member
- John Coughlan, Local Independent Member



Engagements
40 local events
speaking with **650**
people individually

401

Contact Centre
enquiries



Community Investment
Funding enquiries

206

enquiries

28

awards



£1,000,000
allocated

470

Newsletter subscribers
4x newsletters this year



56,000

Door drops



12,089

Web views



Headline Numbers

600

social posts across
three channels



Engagement (the number of people who liked, commented, shared, or clicked on a post)

1100

Facebook



257

LinkedIn



263

Twitter



What we're all about

The Allerdale GDF Community Partnership was launched in January 2022 as a vehicle to continue the conversation with local people about a nuclear waste geological disposal facility (GDF).

The UK has been accumulating higher activity radioactive waste for more than 60 years from a range of activities including power generation, medicine, industry and defence. Most of this waste is being stored at temporary sites across the UK and more waste will be accumulated from existing sites as they reach the end of their lifetime and become decommissioned.

It is the role of Nuclear Waste Services to support the clean up of the legacy of our past nuclear operations and deliver a permanent, safe disposal solution deep underground.

UK Government policy (covering England) states that any proposed site must be both technically suitable and have a local community that has given explicit support before any development can proceed.

And that's where the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership comes in...

This conversation about GDF has been ongoing in Allerdale for many years. This Partnership has been formed to once and for all find out whether Allerdale could host a GDF. The Partnership does not hold a view on whether it supports a GDF coming to Allerdale or not, its role is to share information about a GDF with the local people and find answers to questions they may have.





We have worked tirelessly to attract more than 200 enquiries, resulting in the full £1million being spent across 28 applications. This is a great achievement for the Partnership, and we are already working hard to spend next year's allocation.

In January, the Partnership set out to deliver four key objectives. Firstly, it undertook a recruitment process to find members of the Partnership who could be reflective of the communities living in what we call the Search Area. This is the area we have asked NWS to focus their technical work within. It is important to us that the Partnership reflects the Search Area both in its composition and its views and we were delighted to recruit four new members earlier this year.

Secondly, the Partnership wanted to utilise the £1million pounds of annual investment funding available to it, as part of the process, as soon as it could. This money, available through grants, is in recognition that the benefits of hosting a GDF would be some years away and we have worked

tirelessly to attract more than 200 enquiries, resulting in the full £1million being spent across 28 applications. This is a great achievement for the Partnership, and we are already working hard to spend next year's allocation.

Thirdly, our community engagement programme is key for us to be able to speak with as many people as possible across the Search Area. Because the current Search Area is extremely large, 13 wards across 24 Parish and Town councils, we took the decision to come to as many local groups, clubs and associations as possible, rather than asking people to come to some centrally organised exhibitions. This has worked well so far, but next year we will look to add more exhibitions and events into our plans. We would like to thank every group that has asked us to come along and speak with them and look forward to visiting many more next year. If you would like us to attend one of your events, please get in touch through the website.

Lastly, we have created what we call a 'Programme of Activities'. This is our plan for the next couple of years. It's at an early stage but we will be focusing on eight key activities over the next twelve months. You can read more about them on page [14].



Chair's update

When the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership launched on 17th January 2022, we could never have imagined what a busy and eventful year it would become! After an open recruitment drive, which resulted in over 20 applications, our Partnership soon grew to have a team of locally informed and connected members willing to embrace the role identified in the policy guidance.

In this first year of the Partnership, I wanted to make sure that the processes and systems were in place to be able to allocate the £1 million of Community Investment Fund (CIF) each year, a pot of money we can access for engaging in the conversation about GDF. I am delighted that, from a standing start, we have spent all of the first year's one million pounds, which is already making a real difference to local people.

As a Partnership, we have aimed to ensure people understand the project and any potential impact on local people by attending more than 40 meetings with local groups, holding exhibitions, attending discussions with Town and Parish councils and meeting with special interest groups. We are proud that 70% of people when asked knew about the GDF and over 60% of people trusted the Partnership to provide the Community with information it needs to make an informed decision.

Recognition must go to NWS staff who keep us well informed, grasp opportunities and deliver tirelessly. Functioning as one team, we have together exceeded all planned objectives.



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The Partnership has been working on reducing the size of the Search Area, the area within Allerdale that NWS is able to look for potential sites. With a more focused Search Area we can begin to involve the community more effectively in the visioning work helping to identify how siting the GDF safely in Allerdale could contribute to sustainability for generations to come. We will communicate more about this over the coming months.

As chair, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has engaged so positively with the GDF project this year.

Mary Bradley
Chair of Allerdale Community
Partnership



Meaningful Community Engagement

One of the main purposes of the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership is to provide a vehicle for sharing information with the community and for finding answers to the questions the community may have about geological disposal, the siting process and how they, as a community could benefit.



The Community Partnership has developed the Local Community Engagement Strategy & Plan to ensure local people and key stakeholders across the Search Area are informed, involved and engaged effectively at every stage of the GDF process to the final test of public support.



At the heart of the strategy, it is the Partnership's priority to be out, around the Community, speaking with residents in their own environments, rather than asking people to come and see us.

The Partnership is clear on the range of audiences it needs to communicate with and this includes, but is not exclusive to, local residents, local authorities, local parish councils, neighbouring councils, local community groups, business and industry organisations, education & skills organisations, and hard-to-reach groups.

Community Engagement Strategy Aims



Develop a programme of regular dialogue with the community to share information, seek views and provide answers to questions.



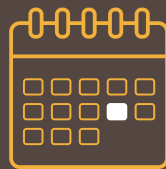
Ensure that local people can find out about the Community Partnership and GDF information by a variety of accessible methods.



Provide opportunities for the local community to easily contact us and offer their feedback and concerns.



Provide regular opportunities for the local community to talk to us face-to-face and online.



Inform the local community about planned events and activities in their area easily.



Explore how a GDF can support the community's vision for their area.



Establish a Stakeholder Forum - to ensure that people who want to know more about the work of the CP have an opportunity to do so.



Provide information and awareness of the available Community Investment Funding and how to apply.



Show how we will monitor, measure and evaluate progress of the Engagement Plan through regular progress reports.

In Numbers

40

face-to-face events

600+

people spoken with individually

56,000

leaflets to homes

4x

newsletters

If you would like us to attend one of your events, please get in touch through the website.

Allerdale Borough Council



It has been a privilege to represent Allerdale Borough Council as a member of the Community Partnership during its first year.

Much has been achieved in terms of broadening the conversation within the Allerdale Search Area and listening to residents' views on the potential for hosting a GDF in this part of the county.

I've really enjoyed discussions with the parish councillors at Little Clifton, Camerton and Bothel as well as with members of the Women's Institute at their Cumbria-wide AGM held just outside Wigton on 20th October.

A further notable achievement is the full allocation of the £1m Community Investment Funding allotted to Allerdale's Community Partnership for year one. It is great to see this funding spent on projects which contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents within the Search Area. I do urge people to take look at the Partnership's website for more information on how the funding has been used so far.

Work is now ongoing to develop a cohesive strategy so that, beyond Year 1, any future funding can be specifically targeted in order to address the greatest needs and to bring maximum benefit to residents within the Search Area.

With the dissolution of Allerdale Borough Council and the advent of the new Cumberland Unitary Authority on 1st April 2023, I will not be continuing in my current role as the Local Authority's representative on the Partnership beyond that time. The new Council will have important decisions to make and I will definitely continue to follow the Community Partnership's journey with interest as time progresses.

Councillor Marion Fitzgerald
Allerdale Borough Council

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Our work programme

A Programme of Activities is the work that will be carried out by the Community Partnership in order to learn more about a GDF and what this may mean for a community.

The Allerdale Community Partnership has agreed to focus on eight workstreams, each one led by a member of the Partnership with dedicated support from NWS.

1. Visioning

Objective: Use the GDF opportunity to create a compelling Community Vision which proposes a future identity for Allerdale.

2. Young people engagement

Objective: Establish meaningful connections with the youth sector, creating dialogue around the GDF opportunity and emergent Community Vision.

3. Communications

Objective: Manage messaging, assets, channels and sentiment analysis on behalf of the Community Partnership.

4. Community engagement

Objective: Inform and involve the community in two-way dialogue about the GDF opportunity and emergent Community Vision.

5. Community Investment Funding

Objective: Ensure that projects are funded in a way which maximises use of the available funding whilst supporting local priorities.

6. Workforce

Objective: Engage the local supply chain to make sure they are ready to be involved should the GDF come to Allerdale.

7. Site evaluation

Objective: Manage the interface between community stakeholders and NWS site evaluation activities, including changes to the Search Area.

8. Governance

Objective:

- Establish CP principals (e.g. culture, social value, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.)
- Oversee definition and delivery of the Programme of Activities.
- Take decisions on Partnership matters and approve key products.
- Establish arrangements for Right of Withdrawal and Test of Public Support.
- Manage changes to the CP membership.

Spotlight on Youth Engagement

‘Is a GDF right for Allerdale?’ Involving young people in the conversation

I remember attending my first meeting with Allerdale Working Group and was reassured and pleased to hear the passion they had to include young people in the conversation about if a GDF is right for Allerdale. My background is working with young people and I am a firm believer that a conversation that includes the voices of young people is always more interesting. They bring a fresh perspective and never fail to challenge things that as adults we take for granted.

Since the Community Partnership was formed in January, that commitment has continued. We are starting to see plans to involve young people come to life. Having a blank piece of paper to develop how we meaningfully engage with young people is a gift. It gives us the opportunity to develop something exceptional and an exact fit to the wants and needs of the young people of Allerdale. No tokenistic gestures. A genuine plan to listen and include.

The starting point had to be young people themselves. In July 2022 we talked to 16 bright young people from Energy Coast UTC. They were (and continue to be) brilliant! They attended a workshop alongside senior leaders from Nuclear Waste Services where they clearly explained what we should talk to young people about and how we should do it. They told us what was important to them. They were a real credit to themselves and showcased the young talent that we have in our community.

Since the Community Partnership was formed in January, that commitment has continued. We are starting to see plans to involve young people come to life. Having a blank piece of paper to develop how we meaningfully engage with young people is a gift.

The students inspired us to talk and listen to more young people. In partnership with Inspira, we designed a series of three workshops that have been offered to all of the secondary schools, the college and alternative education providers in the Search Area. We have sessions booked in with 5 different schools, each focussing on different year groups.



We worked with 28 exceptional young people from Netherhall School. There is nothing quite like a class full of year 7s to keep me on my toes on a Monday morning. It was lovely to see the young people ask so many questions and freely give ideas and opinions. I can't wait to go back and see them again next term to develop some of their ideas.

The workshops are designed to listen to what young people think, and to give them a space for us to listen.

The ambition is for them to design how their voices can be heard on the Community Partnership. We are taking a full school year to deliver the workshops, respond to ideas and pilot some of the things that they are asking for.

Engaging with young people doesn't follow a formula. We don't think it is good enough to talk to one or two young people and assume that they are representative of all young people in Allerdale. Over time, we hope to build a number of different ways to engage with young people. I hope that they will be at the heart of any plans, directing and guiding us to make it as strong as possible.

We don't know if a GDF will be suitable for Allerdale. Whatever the answers are as we continue to explore the opportunity, we want to invest in our community and young people. To help do this we are working with STEM Learning to deliver an Enthuse Partnership. Six schools from within Allerdale have taken up the opportunity. The programme is led by the schools involved and provides teachers with a wide range of training opportunities.

We know we have a massive amount of talent in the area. The Enthuse partnership could inspire and enthuse many young people to pursue a career in STEM. If I am totally honest, if it gives a handful of students a bit of extra confidence in a subject, it is well worth it.

Over the next year we are looking forward to:

- Delivering the workshops in secondary schools
- Developing activities and events identified in the workshops
- Designing how young peoples' voices will feed into the Community Partnership
- Developing how we can adapt workshops for primary schools

***Alison Beard, Community Partnership
Operations Manager***



One million pounds of community investment so far

For participating in the GDF conversation, the Government has made available up to £1million per year in Community Investment Funding.

This fund is available to each Community Partnership when formed. The Allerdale Partnership made it an early priority to set up the Community Investment Panel which is responsible for awarding grant applications on behalf of the Partnership.

The Allerdale Panel is made up of:

Jason Flynn – Allerdale Grants Manager (non-voting member)

Mary Bradley – Chair and Chair of the Partnership

Marion Fitzgerald – Allerdale Borough Council representative on the Partnership

Katy Arnott – NWS

Mike Brophy - NWS

Community Investment funding can be used to fund projects or schemes that benefit the Search Area. In its first year, the Partnership adopted a pragmatic approach to the criteria it used to make decisions. These fell into three categories:



**Providing
economic
opportunities**



**Enhancing
the natural
or built
environment**



**Improving
community
wellbeing**

The Partnership is working on more specific local priorities for future years funding, and these will be made available to applicants in the new year.

Allerdale investment in numbers:

28 successful grant applications

Average award

£36,000

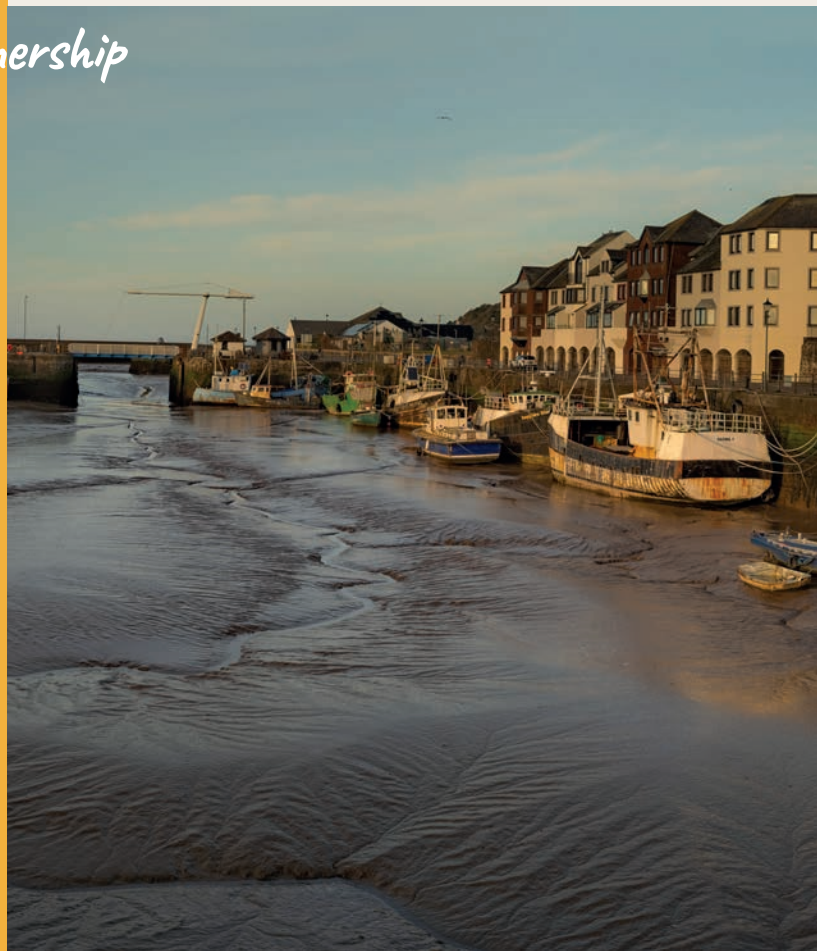
11 grants below **£10,000**

10 grants between
£10,001 & £50,000

7 grants above **£50,000**

Of the 28 awards made:

- **19 awards** met the 'Community Wellbeing' CIF criteria – **value £520,279**
- **One award** met both the 'Economic Development' and 'Community Wellbeing' CIF criteria – **value £59,861**
- **Seven awards** met both the 'Community Wellbeing' and 'Built Environment' CIF criteria – **value £359,876**
- **One award** met both the 'Built Environment' and 'Economic Development' CIF criteria – **value £59,984**

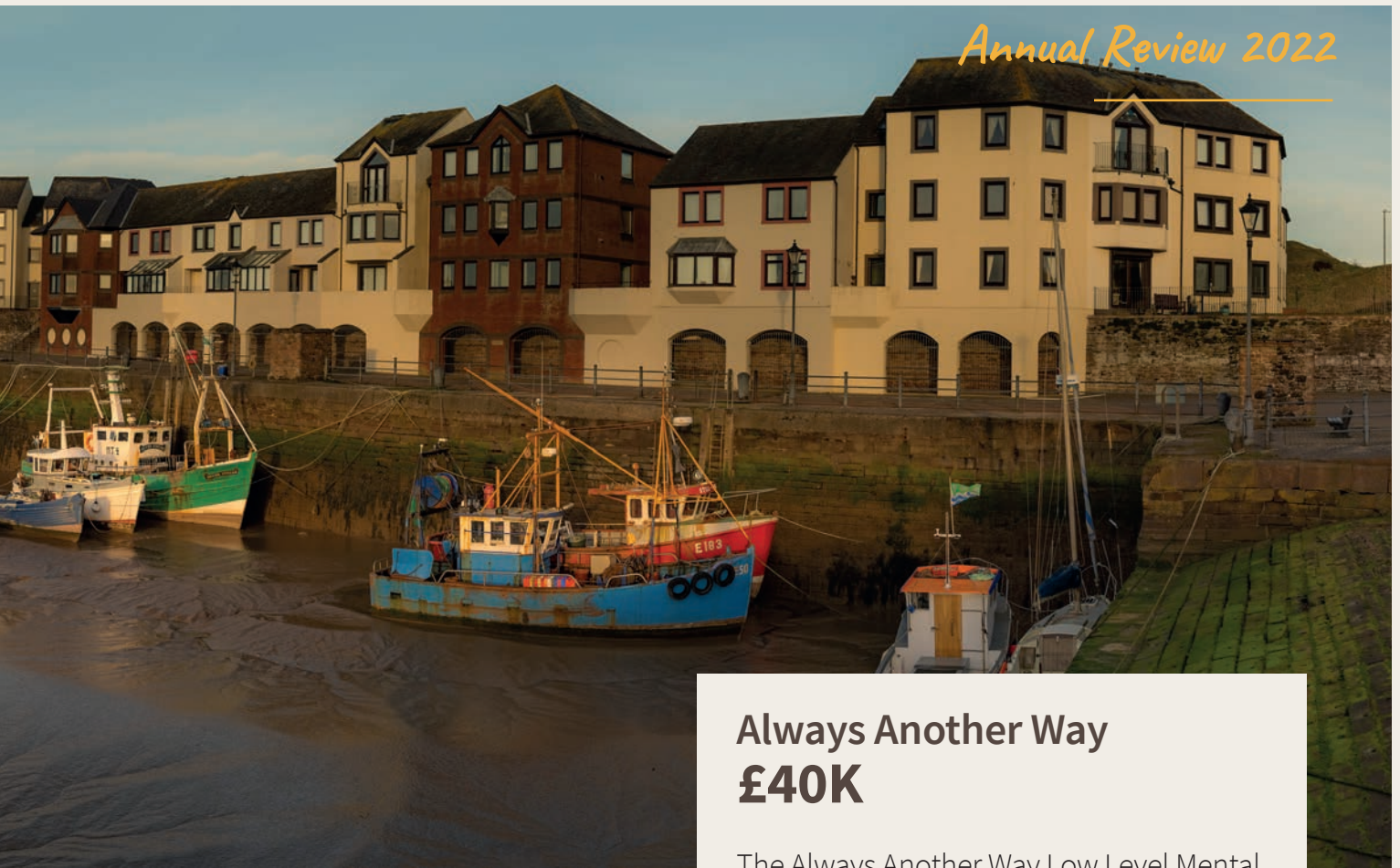


Some highlights

West Cumbria domestic violence support **£116K**

West Cumbria domestic violence support, known locally as The Freedom Project, is unique in West Cumbria in providing a free holistic family approach, working with victims who are adults, children, and perpetrators, suffering from the trauma and effects of domestic and sexual abuse.

The funding will be used to provide an element of security over the coming years, enabling continuation of the current level of support and making sure support is available for the ever-increasing demand for services, saving lives and improving the wellbeing of the community.



Always Another Way £40K

The Always Another Way Low Level Mental Health Support for Allerdale Communities provides support for children, young people and vulnerable adults across Allerdale who are struggling with low level mental health issues i.e. depression, stress and anxiety. The funding will enable these services to reach a greater number of people, including an increase in support for 11 to 25-year-olds.

Maryport and Solway Sea Cadets £88K

To replace their old, rotten, end-of-useable-life wooden pontoons with new, modern, non-perishable, maintenance-free, built-for-purpose safety pontoons. These will improve cadet safety, improve access / egress for all users which will allow more young people to benefit from a range of water-borne activities.



Cumbria Community Foundation Winter Warmth Fund £48K

Supporting vulnerable older people who struggle to stay warm and healthy this winter. Working with Age UK West Cumbria this project aims to secure additional funding to support more vulnerable, older people living in fuel poverty in the eligible areas of Allerdale. Beneficiaries include individuals aged 60 or over, and who receive a state pension and/or pension credit or struggle to maintain a basic acceptable standard of living during the winter due to the cost of heating their home and the restrictions of cold weather.

Cumbria Family Support Ltd £48K

For the development and introduction of a Supported Child Contact Centre in Allerdale and the continuation and strengthening of their Home Based Family Support Services. Projects will relieve family difficulties, reduce isolation and health inequalities and empower children and their parents to be the best that they can be, and building on partnership working locally to increase reach and impact.





A Visionary Partnership

How can a GDF benefit a Community over the long term?

That's a big question, and one that the Allerdale Partnership is tasked to answer as part of its role in having a conversation about GDF with the local community.

A GDF will be a multi-billion pound infrastructure investment and is likely to have a positive effect on a local economy. It is estimated that a GDF will provide jobs and benefits to the economy for more than 100 years.

The Government has committed to providing something called 'Significant Additional Investment' to the Community which hosts the GDF. Developing a Vision for our Community will anticipate the type of things that investment could be made in, if or when construction begins.

The Allerdale Partnership has begun the process of identifying how we are going to go about creating this vision alongside the Community. Led by one of our members, Phil Davies, over the coming months and years, the Partnership will engage with the community to produce a suggested 5 to 10 year vision statement that can support decisions about Community Investment Funding.

The Community Partnership will also canvass views about the long-term vision for our area, up to 175 years, considering that 'significant additional investment' could flow over a period of decades if the decision is taken to site a GDF here.

Agriculture has always been an important activity here, but at one time Allerdale was famous for coal mining and steel production. In recent decades manufacturing has declined and the nuclear sector has provided socio-economic benefit. But what's the ambition for year 2050, say? What would make this a great place to live in mid-21st century England? Will new 21st century opportunities open up in energy, environment, technology or information for example? This might be considered crystal ball gazing, but if we can describe this vision, or perhaps outline several possibilities then we can use this to help frame shorter term initiatives.

Would you like to get involved in creating a vision for your home? If so, look out for our newsletters and communications over the next few months for more information.

An illustrative example of a GDF surface facilities

A GDF will be a multi-billion pound infrastructure investment and is likely to have a positive effect on a local economy. It is estimated that a GDF will provide jobs and benefits to the economy for more than 100 years.

Nuclear Waste Services

Government policy dictates that implementing geological disposal is a consent based approach of working in partnership with communities in an open and transparent way.

When the Allerdale Partnership formed in January, it did so with a small initial membership. Small in numbers, but with big plans to grow the Partnership and to develop a programme of activities that would begin a much deeper conversation with the community, explaining about GDF and listening to resident's feedback.

I have to say how pleased I am with the progress made throughout the year. The recruitment of new members, through an open process at the start of the year, has made the Partnership much more reflective of the Community and I know all the new members are already making an important contribution.

I would like to pay tribute to the enthusiasm of the Chair, Mary Bradley, who I know has invested a lot of personal time into making sure the Partnership is set up properly and has the required governance in place as policy describes. And I would also like to thank the Allerdale Borough Council who, through Marion Fitzgerald, continues to make sure the community's voice is at the heart of the Partnership's decision making.

I was fortunate enough to spend some time with members during the summer. What struck me was the strong desire from all members to make sure the Allerdale community was afforded every opportunity to engage in the process. No one was trying to sell the benefits of a GDF, but simply making sure that people had sufficient information to make up their own minds. This is all I can ask of the Partnership.

During that visit, I was also given an opportunity to hear from young people in the community about their own thoughts on how to deal with nuclear waste. Hearing from young people, and from those voices in the community that are less often heard, is particularly important to me and I am looking forward to hearing more from these groups over the coming months.

I want to make sure my team plays a full and active role in the Partnership and this has been best demonstrated by the way we have worked together to build the capabilities to disperse the full £1million of the community investment funding to good causes across the Search Area. I hope this is already starting to make a real difference to people.

My heartfelt thanks go to all those who are volunteering their own time to help their community learn more about geological disposal and look forward to working together in the coming year.

Simon Hughes
GDF Siting Director



**Nuclear Waste
Services**

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Allerdale

GDF Community Partnership

Let's talk about geological disposal

For more information about the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership:

Call: 0300 369 0000

Email: gdfinfo-allerdale@nda.gov.uk

Website: allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk



Grant Funding:

Grant funding of up to £1 million a year is available to projects that provide economic development opportunities, enhance the natural and built environment, or improve community wellbeing across the Allerdale GDF Search Area.

For further details or to start an application for 2023, visit the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership website or email: