

Working in Partnership Copeland

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the South Copeland Community GDF Partnership Held at The Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg on 24th January 2022 Commencing at 4.00pm

PRESENT:

Mark Cullinan	Independent Chair
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Cllr Dave Savage	Cumbria District Association of Local Councils (CALC)
David Faulkner	Private Resident
Kelly Anderson	RWM Community Engagement Manager (CEM)
Cllr Ged McGrath	Copeland Borough Councillor
Cllr Ian Lockwood	Millom Without Parish Council
Cllr Maggie Cummings	Whicham Parish Council
Cllr James Date	Copeland Borough Councillor
Cllr Dave Billing	Millom Town Council
Cllr Bob Kelly	Millom Town Council
Cllr Felicity Wilson	Copeland Borough Councillor
Cllr Doug Wilson	Copeland Borough Councillor

SUPPORTING ATTENDEES:

Gill Thorne	RWM Communications Lead
Helen Conway	RWM Grants Manager
Anne Broome	RWM Community Engagement Coordinator
Serife Gunal	Traverse
Dawn Walker	RWM Secretariat
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council Officer

AGENDA 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- No apologies received.
- Voting members were recorded from each organisation.
- Any changes to voting members to be notified at the start of each meeting.
- No Declarations of Interest were received.

AGENDA 2: WORKING GROUP SUMMARY OBJECTIVES, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & SEISMIC STUDIES.

The Chair took members through the objectives of the Copeland Working Group The group had been a task and finish group and they had three objectives which they completed:

- To begin the conversation and to start to gather issues and concerns from the community
- To identify a search area(s)
- To identify prospective members for a community partnership

The Chair then explained that the Community Partnership was an enduring body with a life span of 10 to 15 years before outlining its priorities:

- Launch the Community Partnership



- Recruit a chair
- Recruit additional members
- Create a Community Investment Panel
- Set up subgroups as appropriate.

The Chair also advised members that the Working Group had agreed that Seismic Studies should be carried out in the in-shore area in Summer 2022.

Members were asked if they would like a presentation on the seismic studies at their next meeting.

Action: All presentation slides to be shared with the attending members.

Decision: A presentation on the seismic studies to be added to the next agenda

The Chair then invited questions on Agenda item 2.

Q – Could someone give me a bit more detail on the move to a Unitary Authority - timescales, representation etc?

A – In the May elections a shadow authority for the new Cumberland Council will be elected. That shadow authority will work alongside the current authorities until vesting day in May 2023.

There will then be 12 councillors across the county under one Unitary Council, these are based around the ward areas of the existing County Council. The decision that we have from the Principal Local Authority, Copeland Borough Council to be part of the Community Partnership will stay in place until vesting day in May 2023. At that point the Unitary Authority may decide to continue or stop the process. If you have no Principal Authority the process comes to an end.

Q – So the new authority may not support the process?

A- They may take that decision, however they will be led by the shadow council and advised on how to proceed. We may find that representatives that sit on this Partnership will be replaced by new Councillors in May 2023

Q- Is there an impact on the existing footprints when we get to May 2023 and what will that mean for this partnership?

A- There will be some movement because as things stand, Drigg will move from Mid Copeland into South Copeland. I think the point to remember is that the Partnership can adjust the size of the search area so it may have changed by May 2023.

Q – I personally think while we transition from Copeland to the new Council, we need an Officer to support on all thing nuclear.

A - Yes, we have an Officer present - Jonathan Cook was introduced on teams.

Q - That accepts the principle that Officers can attend the Partnership?

A – They can attend to feed back to the Council to ensure that we stay within Council Policy. They have no voting rights though.

Q - CALC also have an Officer. It would make sense while these partnerships are being formed that the CALC Officer be extended the offer to attend.

A - There is currently a conflict of interest with the CALC Officer which needs to be resolved.

Q – Yes that needs to be resolved but I would like it minuted that the principle is offered to all Officers.

A – We have received a communication from CALC that they have decided they don't want Officer representation on the Community Partnership.

A - I was asked to raise the matter so I will go back and recheck the position with CALC.

Action: CALC representative to confirm with the CALC Executive re Officer attendance

Q – How was the lead time of 15 years decided? Was it by RWM? 15 years hence are we going to have the capacity to deal with all this waste?

A – No one knows the exact answer to that question, 10-15 years is a suggested time frame to compile and analyse all the investigations and gain full knowledge of the geology process before we can move to a test of public support.

A– If the Partnership wants to it can ask RWM what its plans are over the next 10-15 years.

Q– What the Community Partnership may well need to discuss is the time scale in more detail, because you talk about geological off sea assessments, but what is crucial to a lot of our local communities is the suitability of surface facilities, and that does not need to take 15 years.

A –Let's ask RWM to see if there is a timetable of activities.

Action: RWM to share its Programme of Activities at a future meeting.

Q – Seismic investigations I believe have been recommended to take place – can you tell me where we are with seismic, timetables etc and if we need to sanction its go ahead?

A- It was a recommendation of the Working Group to sign off seismic investigations, these will take place in Summer 2022. As agreed earlier, we will get someone to come along to the next meeting to explain the seismic studies to you in more detail.

Q – Do we need to sanction this or is it out of our hands?

A – This has already been agreed.

Q - I am in support of the suggestion of an Officer from CALC. Could you clarify who around the table has voting rights?

A – There is no issue with an Officer from CALC attending, but I should clarify that it would not be a paid role.

A– Every organisation around the table has a vote. The Borough Councillors are the only people who don't have a vote as they are part of Copeland Borough Council who already have a voting member on the Community Partnership.

Q – How long is the former Interested Party's membership of this group?

A – Three months from Community Partnership Launch which was 13th December.

A – For completeness RWM have a vote.

Q - Those people who have the vote must work to move this process forward and we must ask ourselves do we have a reflective representation of the community. We need to extend our membership.

A - The Working Group recommended that as a starter to get the Community Partnerships off the ground, Parish and Borough Councils be invited to participate. This is however only a starting point, and it can be changed by the Partnership. What we must remember is there are no other examples,



we have the Policy, and we need to work together to work out what is best for the Partnership. There is no one model to look at.

Q – Did the regime for the voting rights come from the Working Group or from Policy.

A – I think it is set in Policy

AGENDA 3: HANDOVER PACK KEY POINTS

Members were taken through the key documents that had been handed over from the Working Group to the Community Partnership.

Community Partnership Agreement (CPA) and Terms of Reference

Everyone signed up to these during Community Partnership set up, but these can be amended by the members at any point. It is recommended to review them every 12 months, but members may want to review them once there is full membership.

Declaration of Interest

Everyone will need to complete a Declaration of Interest form.

Q If I don't have a vote why do I need to declare my interests.

A – Every member of the partnership needs to sign a declaration of interest; it is in the policy. D of I are there to protect you.

Action – send out Declaration of Interest forms to all attendees

Communications protocol and communications and engagement plan

These will be covered by the Communications lead in agenda item 4.

Principles of operation for the Community Investment Fund and Terms of Reference for the Community Investment Panel

These will be covered by the Grants Manager in agenda item 5.

Programme of activities

There is a rough draft of what we need to do in the first 6 months including things such as, recruiting a chair, recruiting new members but this needs to be developed in conjunction with members.

Q - Would you like to discuss this at a future meeting or wait until you have more members first?

A – I think this should be on the agenda for an upcoming meeting then we can start to establish a coherent direction of where we need to be, supported by the group.

Termination of the Working Group

The Working Group was terminated on the 13th of December.

Engine room

The Engine room is the people within RWM and the RPLA who are there to support the Partnership. These include:

Kelly Anderson - RWM Community Engagement Manager



Anne Broome - Community Engagement Co-ordinator
Dawn Walker - Secretariat
Helen Conway – Grants Manager
Gill Thorne - Communications lead (we have a new comms lead joining us in mid-February)
Barnaby Hudson - Siting Manager
Phil Green -Project Manager

Reaching back into RWM we also have policy and legal teams who are also here to help the Partnership and we have support from the RPLA via a dedicated Officer - Jonathan Cook.

Q – It would be very useful to have a family tree of who is who.

Action – send out the Copeland Support Team Structure

It feels very heavily topped by RWM

A – RWM are here to support the Partnership with anything it needs but RWM only has one vote. An Accountability Framework is being produced to help the Partnership to understand where the different accountabilities and responsibilities lie. It needs to be viewed as a set of 3 responsibilities RWM, the Borough Council and the Partnership.

Q – Who inspects these organisations?

A – RWM are accountable to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and are accountable for the delivery of the Policy which you have in your Onboarding packs. The Partnership decides on other ways of engagement with the wider community.

Q – It would be good to have one person who we can build a relationship with for all the technical questions we need answered. We need the technical people to be in the meetings and not in the back room.

Q– Would you would like a technical representative from RWM present at Partnership meetings?

A - Yes

Action: Technical representative from RWM to attend partnership meetings

Q – It is also important to use wherever possible local businesses and suppliers. It may be good to have a shop front and a drop-in centre, where people can get information from. We will be sourcing things etc. and it would be good to use local businesses.

A – Where possible our principle is to use local suppliers and local businesses and we will use different venues in the area, dependent on the facilities on offer at each venue for future engagement. We can add community engagement to a future agenda.

Action: Community Engagement to be added to a future agenda.

Membership

The Working Group asked RWM to come up with some criteria for the future membership of the Community Partnerships, but it is important to understand whether you are keen to get to full membership quickly or whether you want to take the time to build up your membership.

Q - Membership should come from a constituted group, it would be inappropriate if they don't have a governing framework. There is also potential to have individuals with specific skills sets and we should be looking for groups who have particular reach within the community whether that be youth groups, older residents, hard to reach groups. It isn't any good to storm off before all that

thinking has been done, there could be groups that operate at a local and Cumbrian level, I think slowly is the way we work this through.

A – We will distribute the draft membership criteria to the group to aid the discussion. We have also carried out stakeholder mapping, to understand some of the groups that already exist within the different categories, we can send you this as well to help your thinking.

Action – Circulate the criteria for membership

Action – Circulate stake holder mapping

Members were then asked to come to the next meeting with some thoughts based on the criteria and stakeholder mapping to aid a discussion on membership. It was also explained to the group that they have the ability to set up subgroups to cover different stakeholders or groups or to look at particular topics. The group could also co-opt people in to give advice and guidance as and when required.

Q – How long will the current interim Chair be with us?

A – Until the end of February which means one more meeting.

A – One or two meetings if that would be helpful

A – You could also opt for an interim Chair or appoint a Chair for each meeting until you decide how you would like to move to replace the current Chair.

The recruitment of a Chair will also be covered under AOB.

AGENDA 4: COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

A presentation was given by the Communications lead which included what a Communication which included what a Communications Protocol and Communications and Engagement Plan is and how a Plan would grow and develop once the partnership decides how it wants to engage with the community.

One of the first objectives is to get the information out to the community to let them know who the partnership is, what the partnership is doing and what a GDF facility is.

A leaflet and advertisement were shared with the Partnership for consideration.

Q - What is the strategy for this leaflet? What will it achieve? Have we thought about the demographic, younger people who aren't going to read a leaflet or the older members of the community?

A – The Comms and Engagement Plan needs to be developed it is currently a starting point with only a few activities in there. This is a leaflet that can go through every door in the Community Partnership area outlining the basic information of the Community Partnership, the Community Investment Funding, and the basics of a GDF facility.

Q – Who will pay for this leaflet to be produced and distributed?

A – RWM will pay for the printing and distribution.

Q – So this will be a base line for initial communication.

A – Yes this will be a start and will be supplemented with advertising in the press and through Facebook advertising in the area.

Q – Is this measurable?

A – Yes, it is all measurable and is just for the general awareness in the community.

Q – Confidentiality in the Parish Council - we are obliged to take everything back to the Parish Council for consideration, so we can't have confidentiality in that sense

Q – So do you not have confidentiality in the Parish Council?

A- Yes, we report back to the Parish Council, and we have exclusions, that the Parish can decide not to share until required with the Parishioners.

Q – Can we have a different map on the leaflet

A - Yes, we can source a different map, and I can send the leaflet and the map out to the members for consideration.

Action: Circulate proposed leaflet and print advert to all attendees

Action: Comms lead to investigate alternative maps for the proposed leaflet

AGENDA 5: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING

A presentation was given by the Grants Manager.

- Up to £1 Million Community Investment Funding became available for community projects at launch of the Partnership - 13th December.

There are currently 3 funding criteria from national policy, Community Well Being, Economic Development and Natural or Built Environment, but the Community Partnership can establish their own criteria within these.

- Funding is for the benefit of the communities in the search area.
- The Partnership must establish a Community Investment Panel to decide on the submitted applications.
- We currently have two applications for the panel to review.

Q – How has that happened, how have there already been two submitted applications.

A - Within policy it states that as soon as a Community Partnership has formed the Community Investment funding is made available.

Q- As of today.

A - No at the Launch of the Community Partnership - 13th December 2021

Q- What is the process? do they have to submit a full business case? What is the skill set of the people who will sit on the panel?

A – We are in an interim period but helpfully the Working Group suggested that until the full membership of the Panel is established, that an Interim Panel is formed with members from the group - the RWM representative, the Chair, the Copeland Borough Council representative and the CALC representative. Is the membership happy with this Interim Panel?

Q- If the funding is open but the projects don't need to receive the money now if it is six months down the line, that's fine.

A – We have to manage community expectations people who have put in an application wouldn't expect to wait a significant period of time before their application was considered. There may also be projects which have a timeframe and project start date they need to work to, for example if current funding is to finish

Q- How much money has been applied for to date?

A- From the two submitted applications it is a total of £60,000

The overall feeling is that a further meeting needs to take place with the Interim Panel to have a look at the procedures and policies and evaluate these and bring back a recommendation to the next Community Partnership meeting for consideration.

Decision: Arrange a meeting of the Interim Community Investment Panel.

Action: Share the slides with the Community Partnership

AGENDA 6: AOB

Email addresses

In order to comply with GDPR, the members were asked if they were happy to share their email addresses with the other members of the partnership. This would enable everyone to see each other's responses to emails.

Members confirmed they were happy for their email contacts to be shared.

Accountability framework

RWM are developing an Accountability Framework, and this will be shared with members once it is complete.

Allerdale Community Partnership

Allerdale Working Group has now transitioned to Community Partnership stage, so we now have three Community Partnerships in Cumbria.

Recruitment of a Chair

There was a short discussion about recruiting a new Chair to take over from the current interim Chair who finishes at the end of February.

An interim Chair was discussed until the group have their full membership or there was a suggestion that a person could be elected from the membership to Chair each meeting in the interim period.

The group was also advised that they could think about whether they want to recruit a paid professional Chair or just have a Chair to chair the business of the meeting.

Members were asked to think about the best approach to recruiting a Chair in preparation for a discussion at the next meeting.

Time and venue of meetings

This discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

DATE & LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date 16th February 2022

Time 18:30 – 20.30

Location The Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg/Teams

Ref 240122	Meeting Action Log	
Agenda 02 200122 01	Send Slides to all Attendees	Secretariat
Agenda 02 200122 02	Invite Seismic SME to attend the next South Copeland Community Partnership meeting on the 16.02.22	Secretariat
Agenda 02 200122 03	Calc representative to confirm with the Calc Executive re Officer attendance	DS
Agenda 02 200122 04	RWM to cover its Programme of Activities at a future meeting	CEM
Agenda 03 200122 01	Send Declaration of Interest forms to all attendees	Secretariat
Agenda 03 200122 02	All attendees sign and return the Declaration of Interest forms by the next meeting	Secretariat
Agenda 03 200122 02	Send South Copeland GDF Community Partnership Support Team information to all attendees	Secretariat
Agenda 03 200122 03	RWM Technical Expert to attend all meetings	CEM
Agenda 03 200122 04	Community Engagement to be added to a future agenda	CEM
Agenda 03 200122 05	Circulate draft Community Partnership Membership Criteria and stakeholder mapping.	Secretariat
Agenda 03 200122 06	Members to think about the approach to recruiting new members	All
Agenda 04 200122 01	Circulate proposed leaflet, print advert to all attendees	RWM Comms Lead
Agenda 04 200122 02	Communications lead to investigate alternative maps for the proposed leaflet	RWM Comms Lead
Agenda 05 200122 01	Circulate Community Investment funding presentation to all attendees	Secretariat
Agenda 05 200122 02	Schedule a meeting of interim Community Investment fund Panel members – to discuss process.	Secretariat
Agenda 05 200122 02	CIF Terms of Reference to be circulated to the Interim CIF panel members	Secretariat
Agenda 06 200122 01	Members to think about the approach for recruiting a new Chair	All