



## Review of the South Copeland Community Partnership - Actions

### May 2025

NWS commissioned an external review of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership to ensure that it is effectively fulfilling its purpose and meeting the needs of the local community.

As set out in the UK Government's *Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy Framework*, Community Partnerships play a key role in facilitating discussions about geological disposal with the community.

The findings and recommendations within the report have been carefully considered, and a set of actions established. NWS has provided responses to those actions in this paper.

NWS looks forward to working as part of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership to take forward actions to address the matters highlighted in the report.

**Page 3 Suggested action;** *The Community Partnership (CP) could develop a new Engagement Plan for reaching all sections of the community. Audience segmentation, timings and methods should be agreed.*

**Page 3 Suggested action;** *Explore available information that particularly businesses and young people would be interested in knowing more about and review and agree the communications plan to meet those needs.*

NWS will work as a CP member to develop the current Engagement Plan and programme of activities and identify opportunities to improve reaching all sections of the community including businesses and young people. NWS will also seek to better understand opportunities to reach these communities and engage them in the GDF conversation.

**Page 4, Suggested action;** *There is a need to revisit and understand the NWS timeline and ensure that information exchange between NWS and the Partnership is better planned.*

NWS will work collaboratively as part of the CP to share NWS's development and activities timelines, as far as it is able to at this very early stage in the programme, and while recognising that those are indicative. NWS will work as a CP member to ensure that information on NWS activities is planned and shared with the CP on an agreed timeline.

**Page 4, Suggested action;** *An action for the whole Partnership could be to agree local priorities, such as supporting local regeneration, and revise the Community Investment Funding (CIF) plan based on those priorities.*

NWS would like to work collaboratively as part of the CP and particularly the RPLA to understand local priorities to ensure that the Community Investment Panel is sighted on these when considering CIF allocations. NWS notes that there is currently a limited CIF plan with no weightings to local priorities resulting in applications often being assessed on a first come basis. NWS is open to the discussion to review the arrangements with the Community Investment Panel, understanding there may be future changes to how CIF is allocated in this CP.

**Page 5, Suggested action;** *Key components of a Programme of Activities could include; creating a vision, allocating CIF monies and a comprehensive community engagement*

*plan. Good practice would make sure the Partnership has a delivery plan with milestones which the Partnership could use to define their agendas and measure progress.*

The POA currently includes, but is not limited to, Communications and Engagement, Community Vision, Partnership Operations, Community Investment Funding and the interface with NWS activities. NWS supports the continued use of the delivery planning techniques used in South Copeland and notes the additional items suggested above. NWS would like to work with the CP to ensure the POA is robust and appropriate.

**Page 5 Suggested action;** *The Partnership could build on the initial work to develop an [visioning] action plan and explore potential for joint working on visioning with Mid Copeland.*

NWS looks forward to developing the vision with the CP and will work as part of the CP to develop this proposal. NWS understand that the Mid Copeland Community Partnership vision is progressing well and it may be helpful to meet with them for a progress update. Additionally NWS would encourage any additional input from Cumberland Council to assist in visioning.

**Page 5, Suggested action;** *The Partnership could consider timing of when the next Yonder survey is appropriate and allow the Partnership to work with them to produce a meaningful report.*

The Yonder survey was completed in March 2025. NWS is happy to engage to understand from the CP what information the CP would like to see in a report.

**Page 7, Suggested action;** *Consideration should be given to the NWS representation on the Partnership.*

NWS has considered its representation on the Partnership and notes the appointment of [Principal Community Engagement Manager] as the Authorised Representative for NWS. NWS will continue to have the Community Engagement Manager attend the CP meetings.

**Page 9, Suggested action;** *Consider reflecting schedule 1 part 3 of the Policy in the CPA*

NWS would like to engage with CP Members to consider how the aims of the Policy in terms of Partnership working might be able to be better reflected in the CPA.

**Page 9, Suggested action;** *Partnership members are volunteers with expenses reimbursement. NWS should develop a fit for purpose volunteering policy which could then be referenced in the CPA.*

NWS intends to speak with the external reviewer to gain a greater understanding of the scope and purpose of the type of volunteering policy referred to, and will share that with the CP. Any changes to the CPA would need to be made with the agreement of all members.

**Page 9, Suggested action;** *The CP should review the composition of membership to enable progress of the Programme of Activities.*

NWS supports the view that the CP should be reflective of the community in the Search Area. NWS would like to work with the CP membership to establish a deliverable and ambitious programme of activities

**Page 11 Suggested action;** *The Partnership could review the CPA and the Sub-Group purpose and structures to support the Chair in agenda setting*



NWS would like to work with the CP to consider the current sub-groups and understand if a reset of those groups is needed in order to achieve the aims of the CP.