

Notes of Bridging Group Meeting – 20th September 2012

Document No:	312.1
Status:	Adopted
Author:	3KQ
Title:	Notes of Bridging Group held on 20 th September 2012, Copeland Centre, Whitehaven
Notes:	First published as Document 312 on 27 th September 2012. Re-published on 22 nd October 2012 with a clarification regarding the status of the Q&A on plutonium.

Present:

Charles Holmes, Allerdale Borough Council
Steve Smith, Copeland Borough Council
Cath Little, Copeland Borough Council
Richard Griffin, Cumbria County Council
Guy Richardson, CALC
Paul Gardner, Osprey Communications
Richard Harris, 3KQ
Jenny Willis, 3KQ
Rhuari Bennett, 3KQ

1 - Updates

Shepway. There was a vote of their Full Council on the evening of 19th September 2012: split 21 'no' and 13 'yes'.

Allerdale BC. Presentations have been given to the Nuclear Issues Working Group, the Labour Group, and a Q/A session with Full Council on 19th September. Executive still planned for 11th October 2012 at 9.30am.

County CC. Decision still planned for 11th October at 10am. It is very unclear which way the Cabinet is leaning. Discussions are being held between the three DMBs to try to coordinate their decision making.

Copeland BC. Full Council presentation and debate scheduled for 26th September at 5pm. Executive still planned for 11th October at 10am.

CALC. Held a presentation and discussion with parishes on 3rd September. There was a concern that councillors at County in particular would not have enough time to read the Final Report before their session on 5th September. Appears to be general support for CALC's statement amongst parishes. Executive meeting is to be held on 29th September to check if there are any changes to be made to the statement.

Campaign Events on 6th/7th September 2012. Three presenters spoke: Prof. Smythe, Prof. Haszeldine, Prof. Blowers. Fairly well attended. A query is being followed up with DECC regarding the offering of shale gas licences in West Cumbria.

Brand Protection meeting with DECC. Discussion was held to explore what work should be covered: initial agreement around communications of progress, and conducting research to monitor

and quantify impacts. More discussion is required on the other aspects of the work. It was agreed that principles and a budget needs defining by 11th October.

Q&As on plutonium. DECC has now provided its responses for the Q&As that it was agreed should be developed following discussions at the 19th July Partnership meeting regarding the Government's announcement about the UK taking title to 4t of German plutonium. The Bridging Group agreed that if a decision to participate in Stage 4 is taken on 11th October 2012, this will need exploring and discussing further, but no further clarification or information is needed from DECC at this stage.

Communications around 11th October. The Communications Adviser led the group through the plans for media activity and communications in advance of 11th October, under different scenarios. The activities were agreed.

Actions: Paul Gardner to liaise with DMB comms staff to update them and confirm their plans for coordinating press releases and consistent messages (where possible).