

COMMUNITY PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

In 2004 the UK Government set up the West Cumbria Strategic Forum in response to the decision to decommission the Sellafield Nuclear site. The Forum is chaired by the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry and brings together Government Ministers, senior civil servants, regional and local partners.

One of the early decisions made by the Forum was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement by The Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (HQ based in West Cumbria), North West Development Agency, Central Government and the three most affected Local Authorities. The agreement sets out how they will work together to respond to this challenge.

Another major decision has seen the appointment of International consultants to develop an economic and spatial Masterplan for West Cumbria, supported by evidence that will bring about transformational solutions to diversify the economy and create a sustainable social and economic future. This piece of work will inform Government thinking on investments within West Cumbria across the entire public sector, whilst providing a stable strategy for investment by the private sector.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this prospectus is to form part of the overall tender document for the waste management contract for the Low Level Waste repository in Copeland. It will act as an aid to inform the contractor on the following:

- The local communities of the Parish of Drigg, the Boroughs of Copeland and Allerdale, and the County of Cumbria.
- The local community's expectation of the contractor.
- The local community's desire to work in partnership with the contractor.

The prospectus does not aim to be an overall reference document but provide summary information and to encourage further dialogue with the communities.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

DRIGG

The Civil Parish of Drigg and Carleton is about 3.5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide. There is a population of approximately 450 people with around 200 in employment. Of these, 100 work in manufacturing industries and 98 are employed in the service sector. Within Drigg there are 10 businesses ranging

from the Low Level Repository to a Nature Reserve. There are few amenities though there is a rail station, caravan park, service station, church and hotel.

To the north are the Civil Parishes of Gosforth and Seascale and to the west is the Irish Sea. On the east side are the Parishes of Irton and Muncaster and on the southern boundary is the Parish of Waberthwaite. The land around Drigg is a mixture of good agricultural land, sandy loam and dunes and wet moorland.

A major heritage site is the Roman Fort and Bath House at Ravenglass, which is a couple of miles south from Drigg. This Roman line of defence is now recognised as a major feature of the history of Cumbria and is being developed as a significant tourism venture.

A Royal Ordnance Factory at Drigg, which operated during the Second World War, is now the site of the British Nuclear Group's low-level radioactive waste repository.

COPELAND

Copeland is a place of contrasts. It is predominantly rural in character; two thirds of the borough is within the Lake District National Park, so agriculture and tourism play a significant role in the local economy. However, the majority of residents live in the relatively narrow coastal strip, served by the A595 and West Coast rail line. The population of some 69,000 is concentrated in four main centres: Whitehaven, Egremont and Cleator Moor in the north of the borough, and Millom in the south. Despite a rich industrial heritage of mining, shipping and heavy chemical manufacturing, the Borough's fortunes have more recently been dominated by the nuclear industry, based at Sellafield.

Copeland is undergoing a period of sustained change in terms of the industrial base that supports our economy. With the publication of the Government's intention for the future of nuclear power, we can see clear threats to the economic stability of the area. Unemployment within Copeland is higher than regional and national averages, with particular issues around long-term unemployment and the decline of traditional heavy manufacturing industries. We have a population that is increasing in number and also increasing in average age. This brings challenges in terms of the economy, future service requirements and community cohesiveness.

Although we live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, we are geographically remote from the transport infrastructure, and as a community we need to harness the opportunities that new communications technology brings. We need to protect the environment, and change some of the things we do, in order for our future generations to continue to enjoy West Cumbria's unique beauty.

Twelve miles south of Whitehaven is possibly the largest single industrial employment site in the country at Sellafield. The site is now being decommissioned. Despite the projected loss of 8,000 jobs on the site, no land will be released to provide sites for alternative employment accommodation.

Sellafield continues to deal with more than 60 % of the UK's nuclear legacy and provides 12000 direct jobs and a further 2630 indirect jobs. This equates to 22% of West Cumbria's workforce and 47% of Copeland's. The figures below give a summary breakdown by town:

- *Whitehaven: 30 %*
- *Egremont: 45%*
- *Cleator Moor: 51%*
- *Workington: 10%*
- *Cockermouth: 19%*

Between £200 -£250 million is spent with local suppliers and 40% of these suppliers depend on BNGSL for over 50% of their business. Thus Sellafield contribute an estimated 22% of Cumbria GVA and an estimated 40% of West Cumbria GVA.

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Copeland Borough Council has been elected by the local people as its community representative. Our objective is to work together to deliver excellent services and prosperity for West Cumbria. This will be achieved by putting the community at the centre of everything we do and ensure we treat everyone fairly and with respect. We will gain trust by being open and accountable and foster pride for the area.

As Community Leaders, we have taken a lead role in ensuring that the impacts of economic and social change are managed. We have been successful in securing the Head Quarters of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). This is the organisation that will drive changes in the Nuclear Industry and, therefore, our economy. We are working closely with the NDA to manage the impact of the change. Along with Central Government and the North West Development Agency we have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with them, which sets out agreed principles for joint work to achieve this.

SUSTAINABILITY & NUCLEAR POLICY DEPARTMENT

Copeland Council is taking a central and leading role to manage the impact of the nuclear industry. The Council has created a new department to develop policies and initiatives, which with appropriate community engagement, aims to achieve the Council's objectives in relation to economic, environmental and social sustainability.

The department's mission is to work with local, regional, national and international partners in public, private and voluntary sectors to maximise the benefits and reduce the detriment associated with the nuclear industry and seek a more sustainable future for the community of Copeland. We will encourage local people to become more involved in decision-making and provide a clear and coordinated approach to nuclear issues across Copeland.

ALLERDALE

The district of Allerdale comprises three physically and economically distinct areas: the triangle of Cockermouth, Maryport and Workington; the dispersed hill farms, forests, mountains and lakes of the Lake District National Park; and the fertile Solway Plain, stretching to the north.

The administrative area of Allerdale Borough Council extends to 480 square miles, from the boundary with the City of Carlisle in the northeast to the boundary with Copeland, south of Workington. The district also stretches from the Solway Firth in the west to beyond Keswick in the east. Much of the Eastern part of Allerdale, approximately a third of the borough, lies within the Lake District National Park.

The population of the borough is 94,500. The majority of the population is based within the Workington (24,125), Cockermouth (8,270) and Maryport (11,269) triangle. Allerdale has a workforce of 34,114.

The establishment of the M-Sport rally team (in partnership with Ford) base outside Cockermouth and the British Cattle Movement Service HQ in Workington have brought significant numbers of new jobs and helped change the employment profile.

Tourism already plays a significant role in the local economy, particularly within the Lake District National Park area and in other towns such as Cockermouth and Silloth. Keswick, Cockermouth and North Allerdale (comprising Silloth, Aspatria and Wigton) all have active Market Town Initiative programmes running that reflect the needs of their own communities.

A £75 million rebuild of Workington town centre is currently midway through the construction phase and there are further significant leisure plans involving the Derwent Valley area of Workington, the Port of Workington and associated land, the Corus rail-making plant and Maryport harbour area.

Allerdale's 52 miles of coastline also offer a unique opportunity in transport and leisure terms. Commercial ports at Workington and Silloth offer routes in from the sea and there are increasing leisure and tourism-related opportunities at both Workington and Maryport

CUMBRIA

Cumbria remains one of the most sparsely populated counties in England despite the long-term growth in population. Within the county, there are significant variations in population density, ranging from Eden, which has the lowest population density, to Barrow-in-Furness, which has the highest.

With the establishment of the NDA in West Cumbria and the change in focus towards the decommissioning and environmental restoration of all UK civil nuclear sites, Cumbria is now at the heart of the international opportunities within the nuclear decommissioning and environmental restoration industry. Cumbria is fast establishing itself as an international renowned centre for nuclear clean-up expertise with a number of companies already securing leases at the West Lakes Science & Technology Park – the home of the NDA Headquarters.

Companies seeking to benefit from NDA and wider decommissioning contracts will find Cumbria offers services and facilities among the best in the world, supported by unrivalled expertise and supply chain capability.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WEST CUMBRIA SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

West Cumbria, encompassing the districts of Copeland and Allerdale and is a sub-region of England's North West.

Objectives:

The West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) provides a forum for representation of local community interests and is the interface between the community, the site operator and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Accountability for decision-making will remain with the NDA or the site licensee or the Local Council.

Purpose:

The WCSSG exists to:

- Provide an active, two-way channel of communication between the site operator, the NDA and local stakeholders.
- Give an opportunity for questioning the operator, the NDA and regulators.
- Allow stakeholders the opportunity to comment on and influence strategies and plans.
- Represent local views and input timely advice to the NDA.
- Comment on the performance of NDA and its contractor with regard to achievement of plans, value for money etc.
- Commission and receive reports about site activities and their impact on for example safety, the environment and health.

- Review arrangements for such matters as emergency response.
- Scrutinise and input into the prioritisation of work programmes.
- Provide views and comments to the NDA on the future of the site.
- Provide views on the NDA contract with and the performance of the operator.
- Set up sub-groups to address specific issues relevant to the clean up programme.
- Set up wider local consultation via public meetings and other mechanisms as required.

WEST CUMBRIA BUSINESS CLUSTER (WCBC)

Members of West Cumbria Business Cluster (WCBC) are fully committed to the development of a sustainable economy by expanding their businesses and diversifying their skills and client base. The WCBC is represented on all key decision making groups relating to West Cumbria and works in partnership with public sector organisations including West Lakes Renaissance, Invest in Cumbria and West Cumbria Development Agency. The 60 plus membership offers competitive, world-class products & services to national and international clients involved in energy, infrastructure, defence, petrochemical, medical and heritage projects.

WEST LAKES RENAISSANCE

West Lakes Renaissance, the Urban Regeneration Company for Furness and West Cumbria has been established to deliver the New Vision for the sub-region stretching from Morecambe Bay to the Solway Firth.

Their 'New Vision' is a fresh integrated approach that will be achieved through seven components, which have been designed to respond to long-term industrial decline and out-migration but also to build on the assets of the coastal environment and availability of major development sites:

- Actively Manage Transition
- Lifestyle Choice
- Coastal Renaissance
- Making Better Connections
- Leadership and Networks
- Communities That Work
- Advantage Through Knowledge

INVEST IN CUMBRIA

The Cumbria Inward Investment Agency offers support for companies considering locating their business to the Cumbria area and provides information on Cumbria as a great location for your business, with an unequalled quality of life for employers and employees.

WEST CUMBRIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

West Cumbria Development Agency was established in 1988 to help regenerate the local economy, which had been badly hit by re-structuring, particularly in the steel industry. Its central aim is to help create jobs in the Boroughs of Allerdale and Copeland, which together form West Cumbria. This job creation is achieved by helping new businesses start and grow, by assisting local companies to expand and by facilitating inward investment into the area.

The Agency is a local organisation, sponsored by the local, private and public sectors to carry out its mission. A new initiative managed by WCDA in close partnership with West Lakes Renaissance and Business Link for Cumbria, is the West Cumbria Supply Chain Project. This will focus primarily on SMEs (0-250 employees) in the boroughs of Allerdale and Copeland. Cumbrian companies outside West Cumbria may still be able to access support through Business Link for Cumbria. Support available through the West Cumbria Supply Chain Project (WCSCP) is on a free and confidential basis and will include:

- Nuclear Decommissioning Supply Chain Capability Questionnaire.
- Specialist Assistance mainly via 3rd party consultants covering specific issues of diversification, innovation and new product development. These fairly broad subject areas could cover a range of requirements from:
 - Specific Tendering Support
 - Marketing Advice
 - Funding/Business Planning
 - Innovation
 - IT Advice

COMMUNITY ROLE

The community of West Cumbria intends to be an actively participative partner with the contractor and hold quarterly stakeholder meetings on community, health, safety and environmental issues. The community expects to be actively involved in decision-making processes over and above statutory planning issues.

The community will support the company with practical advice using our expertise in community engagement and where practicable provide assistance in locating business accommodation. Furthermore, it will support the contractor in developing its socio-economic plans.

The community welcomes the opportunity to benefit from the contractors expertise in the nuclear sector and any synergies within the development of other local business.

The community of West Cumbria is recognised as one of the UK's most valuable nuclear resources. We can offer a workforce and supply-chain, which has a vast knowledge and experience in the nuclear sector and has a first class reputation for productivity, low absenteeism and low staff turnover. We can also offer a location that provides an excellent quality of life for businesses and their families.

West Cumbria wants to maximise on the benefits that the nuclear industry can provide and diversify within the industry. However, we recognise that we have been over-dependent on the nuclear industry in the past and we are now looking towards a more diverse and sustainable economy. Thus we would like to encourage the contractor to develop both its nuclear and non-nuclear industries in the sub-region.

CONTRACTORS ROLE

The following few paragraphs give a flavour of the communities' expectations from the contractor. The intention is not to provide an exhaustive list but to illustrate the minimum requirements for further in-depth discussion.

The village of Drigg needs special recognition due to its continual hosting of the facility over the past 47 years. The community believes the new contractor should provide a 'good neighbour package' for the Village that would incorporate funds, generated from the contract profit, for maintenance and local projects, and also be involved in the support and delivery of the Drigg Village Parish Plan.

The community's expectation would be that the contractor would base its UK Headquarters in West Cumbria and that its workforce would also live in the immediate area. Furthermore as a community we would expect the contractor to use the existing knowledge and experience available within our own local workforce and supply chain support services.

The community believes that the contractor should promote and develop other business that has a synergy outside the nuclear industry and promote West Cumbria as a good place to live, work and do business. What other business in or outside the nuclear industry, can you commit too in terms of jobs and investment within West Cumbria? It is expected that the contractor would support

the community in promoting the image of West Cumbria and actively be involved in developing a long-term sustainable economy.

Building on our nuclear heritage, by fostering our existing workforce and developing new skills, it is our community's vision to be the UK Centre of Nuclear Excellence. We would expect that the contractor would become an active partner in our aspirations and support the development of a Nuclear Skills Academy and Nucleus Specialist training facility.

COMMUNICATION

To ensure that communications between the tenderer and the community is managed effectively, there will be a single point of contact for all issues relating to this document.

By offering one point of contact, we can be sure that all tenderers receive the same information and a consistent level of support. If we are unable to answer your query or feel that it would be more appropriate to speak to one of the other partners, you will be put in touch with the appropriate body.

If you would like to discuss anything mentioned within the document, then please contact either David Davies or Frank Duffy in the Nuclear Policy and Sustainability department at Copeland Borough Council on either 01946 598327 or 598524 or email david.davies@copelandbc.gov.uk or frank.duffy@copelandbc.gov.uk.