

## Low and Very Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Alan Holliday  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Fergus McMorrow  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Fergus McMorrow

### Summary and Recommendation:

Executive are asked to consider and support the recommendation from the Nuclear Working Group on 30 July 2009. Namely that, The Executive seek the agreement of the NDA and the Department of Energy and Climate Change to the approach in 2.1.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Nuclear Working Group at its meeting on 30 July 2009 discussed the issues around the disposal of low and very low level radioactive waste.

## 2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 There are very large volumes of low and very low level radioactive wastes that will be arising from the decommissioning of the Sellafield site. There will be a strong desire from the industry that these materials should not be transported far from Sellafield for disposal. This creates the potential for a piecemeal and opportunistic approach to siting repositories for lower level wastes which will undermine the proper planning of the area and may lead to increasingly negative perceptions of environmental quality throughout Copeland and West Cumbria.
- 2.2 The Nuclear Working Group believe that any proposals to dispose of low and very low level radioactive waste in West Cumbria, outside of the current Low Level Waste Repository and existing facilities on the Sellafield site should be withdrawn until a strategic plan for siting such facilities is agreed with the Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council. The development of such a plan should be subject to full public and stakeholder engagement.

## 3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The Nuclear Working Group recommended that the Executive seek the agreement of the NDA and the Department of Energy and Climate

Change to the approach agreed in their meeting on 30 July 2009 as detailed in 2.1 above.

**5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

5.1 There are no additional financial and human resource implications. Existing resources are in place to receive and respond to a strategic siting plan from Sellafield.

**6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 There are existing mechanisms in place to enable public and stakeholder engagement arising from this recommended action.

**7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

7.1 The Council has a commitment to working with nuclear partners in the borough and influence local and national decisions impacting on the area and its communities.

**List of Appendices** None

**List of Background Documents:** Minutes of the Nuclear Working Group

**List of Consultees:** Cllr Alan Holliday, Cllr Elaine Woodburn, Corporate Team

**CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	Supports
Impact on Rural Proofing	Supports
Health and Safety Implications	Supports
Project and Risk Management	Supports
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	Supports
Monitoring Officer Comments	No comments
Section 151 Officer Comments	No comment to add

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO