

Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
From the Socio Economic Sub Committee meeting

The 1st Socio Economic sub committee was held on Friday 7th March 08 at the Ennerdale Country House Hotel, Cleator.

The intention of the first meeting was to agree the terms of reference and to gain an understanding of the mechanisms for socio economic interventions in West Cumbria.

Membership for the first meeting was made up of existing members of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group who had expressed an interest. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the NDA and Westlakes Renaissance, the committee welcomed their involvement and hoped they would make themselves available for future meetings as advisers.

Membership was discussed in more detail as part of the agenda and further representatives will be requested from Allerdale Borough Council and West Cumbria Business Cluster to reflect the views of a more diverse range of organisations. The Low Level Waste Repository will also be required to provide a representative as an adviser.

Cllr Elaine Woodburn, was nominated and elected as the Chair of the committee and will take up this position formally at the next meeting.

In order to set the scene of socio economics in the area, presentations were received from Westlakes Renaissance on the 'Energy Coast Plan' and by the NDA on its socio economic policy.

Further discussions took place where it was recognised that it would be beneficial for the projects discussed during the Energy coast plan presentation to be broken down and discussed in further detail at the next meeting. Further details were also requested from the NDA on its socio economic spends.

Involvement by the Parent Body Organisations was discussed and it was the committee's view that it should be involved in the competition process in terms of socio economic delivery. Certainly the committee would expect to scrutinise the PBO that secures the contract to run the Sellafield Site in terms of socio economic policy. It was agreed that the committee would officially write to the NDA requesting involvement in the PBO competition process.

Meeting dates for the socio-economic sub committee were agreed as the first Tuesday in March, June, September and December.

The sub committee will follow a programme of work during the next few months and will report in more depth at the October scrutiny meeting of the WCSSG.

Any WCSSG member who wishes to join the committee should approach the secretariat.

Meetings will be open to the public and members of the press.