

Report to Department for Energy and Climate Change

Evaluation of Public Dialogue on Community Involvement in Siting a Geological Disposal Facility

8th April 2016



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Acronyms

BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
BIS	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
CI	Community Investment
CLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
CR	Community Representation
CRWG	Community Representation Working Group
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
DA	Devolved Administration
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FSC	OECD Forum on Stakeholder Confidence
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IOG	Independent Oversight Group
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
OPM	Open Policy Making
RoW	Right of Withdrawal
RWM	Radioactive Waste Management
3KQ	Three Key Questions Co Ltd.
TOPS	Test of Public Support
TOR	Terms of Reference

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This evaluation report has been prepared for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which commissioned a public dialogue to inform their open policy making process in the area of community involvement in the siting of a nuclear waste Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), with support from Sciencewise¹.

The timing of the project has been governed by the need to complete all Sciencewise funded activities by the end of March 2016. This report does not therefore cover other activities such as stakeholder consultation events which were initially planned as part of the policy process.

The specific objectives of the public dialogue process were:

1. To engage in public dialogue workshops, in order to hear the views of the wider public. This reflects the overarching aim of the White Paper² of creating policy in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.
2. To give the GDF Policy Team an understanding of the opinions of the public on issues, why they hold these opinions and the underlying values – informing better policy decisions.
3. To test options for Community Representation (CR), Community Investment (CI) and the Test of Public Support (TOPS), which will be fed into drafting the policy therefore making people feel they have been included and their views have been heard.
4. To engage a wide range of people and allow them to voice their ideas and perspectives on various issues. This will create an improved quality of engagement and legitimize policies as members of the public have been involved in them.

Dialogue and Evaluation Methodology

The dialogue process was designed and delivered by 3KQ Ltd and was steered by a small Independent Oversight Group (IOG) who together provided expertise in nuclear waste disposal, social sciences, the process of siting of nuclear facilities and public dialogue and came from academic and independent consultancy backgrounds. The IOG was closely involved in the framing of the dialogue process to ensure it was policy relevant, balanced and accessible. IOG members also attended dialogue events.

The dialogue process ran from December 2015 to March 2016 with the final report submitted to DECC in April 2016. The process involved two sets of workshops with 54 members of the general public, carefully selected to be representative of urban, rural and semi-rural populations around two locations – Swindon and Manchester – and with no prior experience, positive or negative, of nuclear waste disposal issues. Each set of dialogues involved two full Saturdays a couple of weeks apart.

The morning of Day 1 was learning-focused, giving participants a shared understanding of nuclear energy and radioactive waste, the need for a permanent solution to managing nuclear waste and the history of policy development and siting processes for a Geological Disposal Facility. Learning sessions employed a range of methods including PowerPoint presentations delivered by a DECC specialist, small table Q&A sessions with specialists from DECC or Radioactive Waste Management

¹ Sciencewise is the UK's national centre for public dialogue for policy making involving science and technology issues, and is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). See www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk

² Implementing Geological Disposal - A framework for long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste, 2014

(RWM), a discovery session with self-guided learning from wall posters and a ‘pub quiz’ to help embed learning.

The second half of Day 1 and most of Day 2 was devoted to exploring participant’s views through deliberative discussions in key areas for policy makers, namely:

- **Community representation** - discussions about the type of people who might legitimately contact RWM about the siting process, who might sit on a representative group to reflect a community’s interests during discussions with RWM and about communications and engagement between a representative group and the wider community.
- **The test of public support** - discussions about possible mechanisms for gauging whether there is sufficient public support for a specific community to continue with a GDF siting process.
- **The right of withdrawal** - discussions about the potential withdrawal of a community from the process, including who might make the decision and how.
- **Community investment** - discussions about the type of projects that might be allowable in terms of investment available to communities involved in discussions with RWM, and about the skills and qualities the might be required for a funding panel that oversees allocation of community investment.

The deliberative sessions used a range of stimulus materials and techniques to prompt discussions including pen portraits of different ‘characters’ in a community, descriptions of different survey and referendum methods, and project descriptions of half a dozen ‘community projects’ which the groups were asked to decide whether or not to fund.

The independent evaluation process was undertaken by URSUS Consulting Ltd and ran between December 2015 and March 2016. The evaluation involved desk review, observation of all four events, analysis of questionnaires completed by public and specialist participants and observers of the dialogue events, and interviews with a dozen stakeholders (IOG, DECC policy team and specialists).

Key Evaluation Finding

This project was a great example of how a carefully framed, designed and delivered public dialogue process can add value to open policy making without delaying the policy process. The project maintained a tight focus and was completed within 4 months. This relied on an efficient procurement process, highly experienced delivery contractors with a knowledge of the policy area, good working relationships across the team and a clear understanding in the sponsoring department of the time they would need to commit to the process.

Impacts

The primary purpose was for the dialogue findings to provide one strand of evidence – along with the advice of DECC’s Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) and stakeholder consultation – to DECC’s open policy making process. This was not a requirement of the White Paper but, based on the positive experience of dialogues in 2013, the DECC team felt it would provide valuable perspectives which could not be gained in other ways.

Participants were fully engaged and many commented how interesting they had found the process. They particularly enjoyed engaging with specialists and policy makers. By the end of Day 2 across the two locations 95% of participants felt they were able to have their say and 98% felt they had learned something new about nuclear energy, waste disposal and potential risks and benefits of a GDF: as a result participants were unanimous in feeling satisfied overall with the events they had

taken part in (44, 81.5% strongly agreed while 9, 16.7% tended to agree). 83% of participants (45 out of 54) wished to be kept informed on the DECC policy process.

The desired impact of the dialogues was for DECC and RWM to hear the views of people fresh to the issues and to gain insights which would help unlock the community-related issues that DECC have found most challenging. DECC, IOG members and observers all reported that they had heard much which resonated with what they were already thinking plus a number of new ideas or principles that were helpful in unlocking policy thinking.

It is too early to judge the long term impacts of the dialogue process, however, DECC policy-makers are confident that positive impacts will be felt through:

- **More robust and workable DECC policy proposals on community involvement.** Findings from the dialogue events have fed into CRWG meetings on 9th March and 20th April. CRWG's responses will feed into DECC's final drafting of detailed proposals. The White Paper requires "consultation as appropriate" and any further public or stakeholder consultation will be subject to approval by DECC Ministers. RWM will start to implement the policy proposals during 2017 over a siting process expected to take up to 20 years.
- **Sharing lessons on public dialogue in Open Policy Making** via a DECC case study and lessons learnt exercise which is likely to be of interest to Cabinet Office and other government departments interested in open policy making.
- **Sharing lessons and findings on how to engage constructively with the public with other countries at similar stages of a GDF siting process** via the OECD's Forum for Stakeholder Confidence, the IAEA's drafting group and bilateral discussions (e.g. with the USA and Japan).

Costs and Benefits

The total financial cost of the project was £87,380 of which £38,000 (43%) was from Sciencewise and the balance from DECC. This covered recruitment, design and delivery of the public dialogue events, the independent evaluation and preparation of a database of potential stakeholders for future consultation activities organised by DECC. In addition an estimated 116 FTE days of in-kind contribution were invested by the core management team (DECC and Sciencewise), the IOG and RWM specialists/observers attending the dialogue events. This was equivalent to about 50% in addition to the financial budget.

Although it is too early to value the benefits of this process, they could be considerable. Guidance which provides a strong but flexible framework which allows RWM to establish mutually beneficial, transparent and workable relationships with a small number of interested communities who remain engaged throughout the lengthy siting process could save many millions of pounds. Relative to the anticipated £12-14 billion cost of the whole siting and construction process the cost of the public dialogues is tiny at only 0.001%.

Lessons

The evaluation process has highlighted a number of lessons for future deliberative dialogue processes including the importance of:

- **Openness of policy makers** to engaging with the public at an early stage of policy development, setting realistic expectations about what a public dialogue process can deliver and choosing to focus in on a few questions which will really help unlock issues that policy makers are stuck on.

- **Clarity about resource requirements (including demands on departmental time) and the qualities, skills and experience needed.** DECC recognised the time they would need to invest in the process and that they did not have all the necessary skills for a successful process with a very tight timeframe in-house and planned accordingly. The single tender procurement process to recruit a highly skilled dialogue contractor with experience of the policy area to design and deliver events was efficient and effective.
- **Governance** – a very small but carefully chosen oversight group was able to provide all the necessary expertise and independence to guide the process and ensure it was robust. The small group could be convened quickly, was cost efficient (in terms of specialist and project management time and expenses) and remained fully engaged throughout.
- **Being able to draw on materials and lessons from a previous dialogue** allowed the dialogue events to be carried out within a short timeframe with no slippage. It also freed up time for the delivery contractor to focus on the style of learning materials (which helped people get to grips with the issues quickly) and to be creative in designing stimulus materials and techniques to surface underlying principles and reasoning.
 - **Actively involving specialists** - in presenting learning sessions and answering wide ranging questions in an open manner increased participant's confidence in the robustness of information, that DECC 'owned' the policy and that they were listening to what came out.
 - **A good enough mix of participants** – attention to the recruitment brief insured a good mix of participants reflective of two different areas – although rural areas were under-represented in both locations. Very high retention rates reflected engaging design, a short elapsed time between the two events, and back-loading of a relatively generous incentive payment.
- **Allocating sufficient resources for facilitation** – resulted in good facilitator ratios (8-9 participants per facilitator) and continuity of teams between events and helped create an environment where participants were able to contribute and felt they had been heard. Simultaneous note taking allowed a draft dialogue report with rich use of quotes to be produced very quickly after the events.
- **Academic analysis of data.** For future dialogues in this area it would be useful to consider whether data could be usefully shared with academics for further analysis. This would require resources and guidelines for recording, transcription and archiving to ESRC standards.

Next steps

Resources and ministerial approvals allowing, it would be useful to:

- **Undertake further public involvement** by going back to some or all of the public participants to test DECC's policy options at further public dialogue events (e.g. through a reconvened meeting or online forums or events) or by inviting one or two participants to share their experience of taking part in the process at stakeholder events;
- **Test whether policy recommendations** are equally well received by urban, semi-rural and rural audiences; and
- **Revisit the evaluation of policy impacts in six months' time** by reviewing papers presented to CRWG, to Ministers and DECC's final policy proposals and how they are received at stakeholder events and during any public consultation process as an addendum to this report or as part of DECC's Lessons Learnt review.

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This evaluation report has been prepared for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which commissioned a public dialogue to inform the development of their open policy making in the area of community involvement in the siting of a nuclear waste Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), with support from Sciencewise³.

The timing of the project and actual public dialogue events have been governed by circumstances within BIS for Sciencewise funding, with all Sciencewise inputs being completed by the end of March 2016. This report does not therefore cover other parts of the policy process such as stakeholder events which were initially planned as part of the project and policy development process.

1.2 Policy context and baseline

The public dialogue process has been one input in helping DECC design the Government's policy for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste is geological disposal. It is one strand of a process expected to lead to the next phase of the siting process being launched by Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) in 2017.

In 2008, a White Paper set out the Government's preferred approach to site selection for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), based on the principles of voluntarism and working in partnership with willing communities. Two areas expressed an interest in exploring the opportunity to host a GDF but in January 2013, the decision was taken to halt this site selection process and to establish a review and refine the process. A call for evidence in May/June 2013 and meetings with stakeholders invited views which fed into the development of an open consultation on proposed changes to the GDF siting process during late 2013.

In parallel with the open consultation Sciencewise worked with DECC and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to co-fund and support a public dialogue process which involved 63 citizens in two day workshops run by IPSOS Mori and 162 stakeholders in seven one day workshops run by 3KQ. The aim was to inform Government decision-making through a better understanding of public and stakeholder views and to provide information that would support participants to make submissions to the public consultation. Five key principles appeared to underpin public participants' opinions of the revised GDF siting process:

- Awareness and education. Participants knew very little about radioactive waste disposal and felt that more information would be needed on challenges and potential risks and benefits for a host community;
- Transparency and openness. They wanted sharing of information on risks by government and community representatives and open decision-making;
- Local. The importance of ensuring that the views of the 'local community' and 'local people' were heard and discomfort with the idea that the decision making body would be the local council: most saw a role for community representatives drawn from the local community;

³ Sciencewise is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Sciencewise aims to improve policy making involving science and emerging technology across Government by increasing the effectiveness with which public dialogue is used, and encouraging its wider use where appropriate.

www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk

- Fairness. The importance of representing and involving everybody in the community, including those who are opposed to as well as support a GDF;
- Efficiency. A process which is as cost and time efficient as possible e.g. by screening of potential sites.

The dialogue findings fed – together with wider stakeholder’s responses - into the Implementing Geological Disposal White Paper⁴ (July 2014) which sets out the policy framework for GDF based on a voluntarist process and the principles of community representation (CR), tests of public support (TOPS) and community investment (CI) for communities willing to be considered on a rising scale from initial discussions, through intrusive borehole investigations and ultimately during a long term commitment to host a GDF.

The 2013 dialogue process has also influenced the style and a commitment to future consultation and engagement through public dialogue. DECC also decided to take a new approach to decision making, including taking a period in which to prepare to work with communities, treating the development of a new siting process as an 'ongoing conversation between Government and citizens' and setting up a Community Representation Working Group (CRWG). Participation in a successful dialogue gave DECC the confidence to work in this way, and a belief that engagement of this type had a value in informing Open Policy Making (OPM) in this area.

The White Paper recognised that ‘Initial Actions’ would be needed to provide more information on geological suitability (based on national geological screening), how the planning process will fit with the ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure’ framework and the details of how communities can be involved and benefit. Work in all these areas is ongoing and reported regularly to the Initial Actions Joint team between DECC and the developer Radioactive Waste Management (RWM). It is expected that RWM will start discussions with interested communities in 2017.

The CRWG was set up by DECC in 2015 and was tasked with advising on a practical set of recommendations for working with communities – what form community representation should take, how public support can be tested, and how compensatory community investment would work. The CRWG brings together representatives of government departments (DECC, Treasury and CLG), RWM, and academics and experts in technical, social science, environmental, land use and large scale project planning areas. CRWG has met every couple of months with its last meeting on 20th April 2016.

DECC has presented initial findings from the public dialogue events to a meeting on 9th March and will present draft policies on 20th April. CRWG’s comments will be taken into account in preparing a final policy which will be applicable across England and the three Devolved Administrations (DAs). There is no requirement in the White Paper for formal public consultation but, if Ministerial approval is forthcoming, some form of stakeholder engagement is envisaged as part of a wider public consultation process (when Devolved Administration elections and the European Referendum are over) i.e. between June and the summer recess. Stakeholder events with up to 90 participants over three locations may be undertaken by DECC at this point. A formal public consultation may also provide an opportunity for wider engagement and also to communicate and educate the public on geological disposal issues more broadly.

1.3 Objectives of the project

The key objectives for the elements of the consultation covered by the Sciencewise grant were outlined in the business case in August 2015 and included:

⁴ Implementing Geological Disposal - A framework for long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste, 2014

- To engage in public dialogue and stakeholders workshops, in order to hear the views of the wider public as well as interested parties. This reflects the overarching aim of the White Paper of creating policy in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.
- To give the GDF Policy Team an understanding of the opinions of the public and key stakeholders on issues, why they hold these opinions and the underlying values – informing better policy decisions.
- To test options for Community Representation (CR), Community Investment (CI) and the Test of Public Support (TOPS), which will be fed into drafting the policy therefore making people feel they have been included and their views have been heard. This will ensure the options are robust.
- To engage a wide range of people and allow them to voice their ideas and perspectives on various issues. This will create an improved quality of engagement and legitimize policies as members of the public have been involved in them.

2. The public Dialogue

2.1 Governance

Independent Oversight Group

A small Independent Oversight Group (IOG) with four members was convened by DECC and met 'virtually' or face to face with the core management team and DECC specialists four times between December and March 2016. DECC and Sciencewise had agreed the early scoping and framing of the project and how it fit with DECC's open policy making. The IOG was therefore tasked with providing balance within the parameters of community involvement questions in a GDF siting process rather than questioning the underlying need for new nuclear energy, for a long term disposal option, or the choice of GDF.

The IOG members together provided expertise in nuclear waste disposal, social sciences, siting of nuclear facilities processes and public dialogues and came from academic and independent consultancy backgrounds (See Annex A). Several members also had prior experience of Sciencewise dialogue processes.

The role of the IOG was to review and make suggestions on the activities funded by the Sciencewise grant including: the criteria for choosing event locations and recruiting participants; design of the workshop events; design and content of stimulus material; attending dialogue events as observers; and review of the dialogue report. It was not anticipated that the IOG would have a role in speaking to the media or disseminating the results. The Terms of Reference (TOR) made clear that these roles were expected to take up to five days. Travel and subsistence expenses were met by DECC.

Core management team

The project core management team was made up of 3-4 DECC staff, the dialogue contractors 3KQ (appointed in December 2015), the Sciencewise Dialogue and Engagement Specialist and the independent evaluator who met regularly in person or by phone between December and March (see Annex A).

2.2 Framing of the dialogue

As with the previous DECC/Sciencewise dialogue project this process was expected to be one strand - along with the advice of the CRWG, three stakeholder events and a formal consultation process – informing the development of policy by the end of 2016 for implementation by RWM in 2017. If resources and timing do not permit further consultation the dialogues will be the principle source of stakeholder input into the following questions that DECC and the CRWG wished to explore.

1) Community Representation

- Defining a community – how individuals might define community and examples of the approach they take.
- Decision-making – knowledge of and examples of good and bad local decision-making area and other approaches that might be more effective.
- Community representation – How a local community could be represented effectively when important decisions impacting their lives are being taken. Finding examples of structures or bodies that have worked effectively and details of how these bodies were structured.

- Roles and responsibilities – the sorts of roles and responsibilities members of groups should have and whether they represent the community effectively. The most important roles and responsibilities for representing the community.
- Role of Local Authority – within a local community and the sort of roles local authorities play in any decision-making processes within a local community. The roles that people think a local authority should have in any decision making processes.

2. Test of Public Support (and Right of Withdrawal)

- Method – ways of testing public support for an issue that people might support. Which ways might work well and be most effective and why. How a wider range of people could be reached. The potential challenges to testing support for an issue.
- Examples - Specific examples of where the views and opinions of a community have been sought effectively and how these have worked. The stages in the process where tests of public support have been carried out.
- Timings – the stage at which a test of public support should be carried out and why.
- Right of withdrawal – who should be allowed to initiate the right of withdrawal, in what circumstances and whether any broader test of community support for this decision should be required.

3. Community Investment

- Disbursing funds – Who should be eligible to apply for community investment funding and what types of activity should be allowable. Who should be involved in deciding whether projects are funded using community investment and who should be involved in managing a community investment fund.
- Specific examples of where a community has received a sum of money, how it was granted, whether it was effective and whether there were ways in which it could be improved.
- Guidance – whether guidance should be provided on what the funding could be used for and if so, whether this should be provided by Government, or the funding body, or community representatives.

The framing of the dialogue events built on lessons from the previous Sciencewise co-funded dialogue process on GDF by DECC with IPSOS Mori and 3KQ in 2013 (see 1.2 above) and focused the number of questions to be addressed in the sessions to a more manageable number. The intention was rather than getting superficial answers to all of the above questions to focus in on a few priorities and focus on uncovering underlying principles and reasoning. The intention was not to arrive at consensus decisions on the details of community representation and investment structures. Another lesson taken from the 2013 dialogue process was the difficulty that participants faced in coming up with generic principles which would help DECC answer questions on “What is community?” in relation to who is affected by the GDF siting decision and who needs to be represented at what stages. The 2013 process illustrated that this can really only be imagined by the public once they know what a GDF involves.

It was therefore agreed that the questions of “What is a community?” would be addressed through a warm up exercise on Day 1 and then threaded through the design of the two day events. This would provide an upfront demonstration that community means all sorts of different things that are hard to define. The meaning of community would then build up through discussions of: who within the community could legitimately express an interest to RWM; who should sit on a community representative body; whose support needs to be tested; and who should benefit from community investment. Likewise inter-generational issues would be threaded through most sessions.

2.3 Detailed tasks

Design of process and materials

Materials for learning and to stimulate discussion (presentations, posters, worksheets and handouts) were prepared by 3KQ with input from DECC, the IOG and RWM. Given the considerable time and effort which had gone into developing learning presentations for the previous dialogue, this process was able to focus more time in designing stimulus materials which reflected the lessons learnt and reflected DECC's key questions. Table 2.1 summarises the materials developed and presented.

Day 1 focused on:

- **Warm up exercises** on what people meant by community and an informal assessment of how much they considered they knew about nuclear waste and their trust in Government to make the right decisions about nuclear waste.
- **Morning learning sessions** on what is radioactive waste, why a permanent solution is required, what a geographical disposal facility would involve, the history of trying to find a site, the government's commitments to voluntarism and open policy making and thinking so far on the three areas of CR, TOPS and CI. Learning was through 3 PowerPoints presented by a DECC specialist and a 'Discovery session' with A1 posters designed to get people moving around working in pairs and actively learning rather than listening. The afternoon sessions embedded this learning with a short pub quiz.
- **Specialist input from DECC and RWM** was built into the learning sessions with participants working in pairs after each DECC presentation to come up with questions for the specialist on their table. Specialists were also available to answer individual questions at the tea and lunch breaks and at a 'graffiti wall' during and between Days 1 and 2.
- **Deliberative sessions** on how community representation might work through half a dozen characters and scenario based exercises exploring initial contact with RWM, forming a representative group and communication with the wider community.
- **Set up a short homework task** which was designed to help participants either find out more about how a major long-term investment decision had been made in their community or to explore some of the issues with friends and family and feedback on anything surprising or different about their reactions.

Day 2 focussed on:

- **Consolidating the learning** and thinking from Day 1 by exploring the results of the homework and responding to any questions that could not be answered in the room on Day 1 which had been recorded at the graffiti wall;
- **Deliberative table sessions** on the Test of Public Support (TOPS), Right of Withdrawal and Community Investment;
- **A final session** which explored participant's views on the most important things for DECC to do, with reflections from DECC. The Day 1 self-assessment of people's knowledge of nuclear waste issues and trust in government to make decisions was revisited through a debriefing on participant's journeys. The final task was the formal evaluation.

A wash-up session involving the facilitation team, DECC, RWM and IOG members and the evaluator was held in each location after each event and informed slight amendments to design of the second run of Day 1 and Day 2.

Table 2.1: Materials used over Days 1 and 2

Session	Learning and stimulus materials
Introduction – objectives and agenda	PowerPoint slides Graffiti Wall “What community means to me” (Post its) Informal self- assessment of participants’ knowledge of nuclear waste issues and level of trust in the government to make the right decision on nuclear waste
What is radioactive waste? A permanent solution - geological disposal Finding a site - history, lessons, process	PowerPoint slides presented by DECC specialist. A5 table summaries to help prompt Q+A sessions with specialists at tables
Discovery session for self-guided learning	A1 wall posters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely size of a Geological Disposal Facility • Time – how long will it take to site and build • Which official bodies are involved • Benefits over the construction, operation and longer term
Embedding learning	Pub Quiz with 10 multiple choice questions
Community Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 people portraits of who might first approach RWM including: county council; parish council clerk; farmer; interested resident; owner of holiday homes; leader of a business cluster on potential transport route • Discussions about the nature of people who might legitimately contact RWM about the siting process • Discussions on what type of people might sit on a representative group to reflect a community’s interests.
Test of public support & Right of Withdrawal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three method cards covering: Statistically representative public opinion survey; local referendum; some deliberative community e.g. citizen panel which allows with voting at the end • Discussions about possible mechanisms for gauging public support • Discussions about who (organisations or individuals) should be able to initiate the potential withdrawal of a community from the process.
Community investment (1&2)	Project postcards including examples of types of projects which might come forward for funding including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New mechanical engineering course for sixth form college • Local enterprise scheme funding for young people • Restoration of wildlife reserve in a neighbouring council • Rebuilding of collapsed historic wall on private land • Mini-community sports related project Discussions about the type of projects that might be suitable to fund (or not fund) using investment received by those communities involved in discussions with RWM. Discussions about the skills and qualities the might be required for a funding panel that oversees allocation of the community investment.
Final Advice	Short plenary exercise with post-its by participants highlighting one thing they thought DECC needs to get right.

Recruitment of participants

Events were held in two locations on Saturdays from 9:30 to 4:30 with 27 participants each. Each group was convened twice: Swindon (Saturday 20th February and Saturday 5th March) and Manchester (Saturday 27th February and Saturday 5th March). The dates were chosen to give adequate time to prepare materials for the events and to ensure a continuity of team across the events.

28 people were recruited to achieve an audience of 25 participants in each location. Participants were recruited by TNS from their Omnibus Citizen panel of 30,000 and using 'free find' methods. The recruitment process and script was discussed in detail and amended according to the advice of the IOG and core management team. Participants received a staged incentive payment of £180 for the two days via a pre-loaded debit card which was activated two days after each event.

The agreed recruitment criteria were:

- No relatives and a maximum of one person per household.
- A mix of educational levels and people comfortable to volunteer an opinion in group discussion.
- A mix of gender, social group, ethnicity, age groups and a number of children per household reflective of the local area.
- One third each from urban, semi-rural and rural areas;
- And exclusion of :
 - Active members of environmental charities or pressure groups who campaign on nuclear issues.
 - Employees (or close family members) of organisations involved in regulating or representing nuclear industry, building, running or decommissioning nuclear power plants, any part of the nuclear supply chain or managing nuclear waste.
 - Individuals (or immediate family members) involved in a planning or other Local Authority department involved in making decisions on nuclear issues.
 - People who have taken part in market research in the last 6 months.
 - Individuals involved in environmental journalism / media.

Analysis and reporting

Discussions at the public events were transcribed simultaneously and a recording was made for back up. A draft final report – an account and analysis of what was said at the four events and pulling out shared themes – was circulated to the core management team and IOG members on Monday 21st March and discussed at a final IOG meeting and wash up meeting on 30th March. Comments received were incorporated into the final report submitted on 8th April and published at the (interim) Sciencewise website. Anonymised data sets from transcriptions from some events may also be archived for future social research.

3. The evaluation methodology

3.1 Aims

The aim of the evaluation was to provide an independent assessment of the public dialogue's credibility and its effectiveness against its objectives, including an assessment of its impacts. The evaluation ran from December 2015 to March 2016. The evaluation seeks to answer the following questions:

- Objectives: has the dialogue met its objectives? (Section 4)
- Good practice: has the dialogue met principles of good practice? (Section 5)
- Satisfaction: have those involved been satisfied with the dialogue? (Section 6)
- Governance: how successful has the governance of the project been, including the role of advisors, core management and the Sciencewise support role? (Section 7)
- Impact: what difference or impact has the dialogue made? (Section 8)
- Costs/Benefits: what was the balance overall of costs and benefits of the dialogue? (Section 9)
- Credibility: was the dialogue process seen as suitable and sufficiently credible for policy makers to use the results with confidence? (Section 10)
- Lessons: what are the lessons for the future (what worked well and less well, and more widely)? (Section 11)

3.2 Methodology

The evaluation involved document review, observation, quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews.

Document review

Documents were reviewed and evaluation comments submitted to the core project management team by email or in person on the following documents:

- Key written correspondence (email traffic and attachments) and working documents such as choice of event locations, the recruitment brief, sampling and recruitment methods;
- Event design and learning and stimulus materials; and
- Review of project outputs including draft and final reports.

Observation and meetings

The evaluators directly observed all Independent Oversight Group meetings; all four public dialogue events; and took part in face to face and teleconference meetings with the delivery team and DECC in London; and in a Sciencewise wash-up meeting on 30th March 2016.

Questionnaires and evaluation exercises

At the end of Day 1 in Swindon we carried out an informal evaluation around 4 questions. On the end of Day 1 in Manchester and Day 2 in both locations all participants (54) completed a formal evaluation questionnaire. Nine specialist participants also completed written evaluation questionnaires on Day 2 across both locations. The results are summarized in Annex B.

Individual Interviews

Individual interviews were conducted at key points through the dialogue including:

- Informal discussions with the specialists including Independent Oversight Group members and policy makers around meetings and public dialogue events;
- Informal discussions with a handful of public participants at each public dialogue event;
- 11 semi-structured interviews with the core management team, IOG and policy audience after the drafting of the dialogue report focusing on: whether the project has met its objectives; emerging impacts (expected and unexpected) on policies and processes; the robustness and credibility of the methodology; and the role and effectiveness of governance arrangements. Anonymous quotes are used in the text and attributed to: 'policy' (the DECC GDF team); 'specialists' (those who sat at tables during events and were called on to answer the public's questions); and observers (IOG members, Sciencewise and other RWM staff).

Reporting

Due to the constrained timing for completing Sciencewise funded activities this final report has been prepared before the drafting of DECC's policy proposals. Interviews with policy and specialists have been carried out before the final dialogue report was disseminated to Ministers or outside of DECC. It has not therefore been possible to review how the dialogue findings have been reflected in DECC's draft policy and how these proposals have been received by wider stakeholders.

Ideally the policy impacts will be revisited in six months' time by observing a stakeholder event, reviewing the consultation document and talking to policy makers and this could inform an addendum to this report or the proposed DECC case study on Open Policy Making.

4. Objectives

The objectives for the dialogue process were agreed in August 2015 at which time the programme was also expected to include stakeholder events which would allow DECC to test its policy proposals in a further round of consultation. In the light of changes to the programme the objectives have been amended as follows:

1. To engage in public dialogue workshops, in order to hear the views of the wider public. This reflects the overarching aim of the White Paper of creating policy in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.
2. To give the GDF Policy Team an understanding of the opinions of the public on issues, why they hold these opinions and the underlying values – informing better policy decisions.
3. To test options for Community Representation (CR), Community Investment (CI) and the Test of Public Support, which will be fed into drafting the policy therefore making people feel they have been included and their views have been heard.
4. To engage a wide range of people and allow them to voice their ideas and perspectives on various issues. This will create an improved quality of engagement and legitimize policies as members of the public have been involved in them.

These objectives were reflected in the specific objectives for Day 1:

- To have a set of participants who broadly understand the history and context to geological disposal.
- To capture public views on community definition and representation, in direct relation to the choices facing DECC, namely:
 - Initial contact from a community
 - Forming a representative body
 - How the representative body could build and maintain trust of its community

And Day 2:

- To have captured public views on the testing of public support and community investment, in direct relation to the choices facing DECC, namely:
 - What method of testing public support to require or provide guidance on
 - How the public perceive the pros and cons of each method of testing support
 - How the right of withdrawal should be exercised
 - The qualities that the public value in projects funded by community investment
 - The qualities that a funding award panel should have to maintain trust
- To have a set of participants who understand how the work will be carried forward and the results used.

4.1 Public Participants

The workshop design ensured that the workshops achieved their specific objectives. Presentations on Day 1 gave a good overview of the UK's past policy making and the rationale for choosing GDF and the siting process to date. Presentations explained the principle of community voluntarism in finding a host for a GDF and were clear about the boundaries of the specific aspects of policy which were open for discussion. It was also made clear how the outcomes from the events would be used. The discovery sessions, quiz and table discussions deepened their understanding of the issues.

Comparison of the informal poll of “what I know about nuclear waste disposal” at the start of Day 1 with the final session on Day 2 showed a huge movement from almost all 54 participants considering

that they knew very little to all moving up the scale and many towards the ‘a lot’ end of the scale. The DECC lead official reiterated what they had heard and how they intended to use the workshop outputs going forward.

As a result participants were unanimous in reporting that they were aware of and understood the purpose of the workshops (40, 74% strongly agreed and 14, 26% tended to agree). Specialists agreed that the participants had understood the objectives and that, from a very limited understanding of the open policy making process, they had much more understanding of and belief in the process.

4.2 Achievement of specific objectives

1) To engage in public dialogue workshops, in order to hear the views of the wider public. This reflects the overarching aim of the White Paper of creating policy in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.

In terms of engaging the public this objective was well met. As one specialist observed “[the process] certainly met best practice in actively engaging the public”. Open Policy Making was a new concept for most participants but the public generally found it appealing, and despite their obvious mistrust in government in general there was a clear separation in their perception between ‘government’ and DECC/RWM and the individuals representing these organisations.

All the policy and specialist interviewees agreed that the careful design and balance between the learning and deliberative parts of the events meant that this process really demonstrated how quickly and easily groups of the public fresh to a complex subject can grasp the issues and feel well enough informed to express their views.

- *“Very successful in hearing views” (Policy)*
- *“Participants were certainly engaged and there were interesting levels of discussion” (Specialist)*
- *“All the stakeholders in this area have been around for decades and are entrenched in their thinking – it was crucial to hear new thinking” (Observer)*

2) To give the GDF Policy Team an understanding of the opinions of the public on issues, why they hold these opinions and the underlying values – informing better policy decisions.

This objective was well met. Policy makers and specialists heard plenty of opinions from the public, many of which validated what they had heard in discussions internally, from the CRWG and from wider stakeholders. But policy makers and specialists also heard some views that surprised them noting that *“Some of the things that came through really challenged our assumptions based on talking to expert stakeholders”*. Policy makers and the IOG members interviewed agreed that the time spent between the core management team and IOG debating how to balance learning vs dialogic sessions had been successful and resulted in a design which allowed the public to express their opinions and tease out the underlying values. As one noted *“It will provide an injection of common sense”* (Policy) while an observer noted that *“this type of input can provide reassurance, if not specific answers, that the process is moving in the right direction..”*

An early decision to focus on a limited number of questions and relatively open questions – such as what community means – resulted in plenty of time within most sessions for real discussion, considered answers and for policy makers to hear the nuances and extremes of opinion, rather than superficial responses or consensus views. Specialists and policy makers were keen to hear what community means to people and were interested to find that many people were not thinking about

a physical place or locality but rather a sense of belonging and helping each other. Some specialists would have liked to have been able to explore this in greater depth and felt that not doing left some loose ends or challenges for DECC in reflecting views in policy proposals.

The dialogue report will also help provide RWM with lessons about the benefits of a more conversational approach to engagement with the public.

- *“Actually attending dialogue events helps you to understand a lot of the subtleties” (Policy)*
- *“I think DECC will have got almost as much out of what they heard by being there as the final report” (Observer)*
- *“Very useful for RWM to understand where the public are in their thoughts on things nuclear and overall attitudes to disposal” (Observer)*
- *“Lot of helpful discussion which reveals underlying reasoning” (Specialist)*
- *“I was impressed how people [in Manchester] were happy to play devil’s advocate or take different points of view” (Specialist)*
- *“I didn’t really hear anything that really surprised” (Observer)*
- *“Surprising how many people hanker over a quite directive approach” (Policy)*

3) **To test options for Community Representation (CR), Community Investment (CI) and the Test of Public Support (TOPS), which will be fed into drafting the policy therefore making people feel they have been included and their views have been heard.**

Exploring the public’s views around these topic areas – and also the Right of Withdrawal (RoW) - was the heart of the dialogue events and this objective was achieved to DECC’s satisfaction, but to differing levels in each area (see box below). Initially the wording of this objective included “this will ensure the options are robust”, but since the dialogues are only one element of the open policy process dialogues it was clear that dialogue with relatively small sample of the public could not be expected in itself to deliver robust policy options. Rather policy makers were realistic in expecting insight rather than detailed policy prescriptions.

Each session on these four topics allowed ample time to discuss the issues and the decision to focus in on just two or three questions in each area, rather than DECC’s long list of issues, was important in allowing key topics to be addressed in greater depth. The high quality of the stimulus materials and table facilitation was crucial in helping to surface a range of views and underlying reasoning in each area.

Policy makers interviewed were happy with the key messages and level of understanding of the underlying principles and reasoning emerging, as summarised in the box below. Some specialists worried whether the openness of the process and questions meant that policy makers would not have got the level of detail they required to draft policies commenting, for instance, that *“I’m not sure whether it generated enough detail that the public will be able to recognise their contribution when they see the final policy”* or wondering *“did it really unpack the principles in sufficient detail to be useful?”* However, DECC policy makers reported that the dialogues delivered insights as they had hoped and as one observer noted *“the views of the public highlight that there are no easy answers to the contentious issues that DECC and CRWG are grappling with and that there can never be one “correct” answer that will satisfy all parties”*.

In some sessions DECC was exploring concepts from the White Paper which would be completely new to participants (such as the Right of Withdrawal and Test of Community Support) which proved more challenging, while concepts of Community Representation and Community Investment proved easier because they related to many participant’s prior experience (e.g. the Big Lottery’s Big Local

campaign). All of the DECC team interviewed felt they had heard interesting input from participants and that – in the context of open policy making - some of the difficulties that participants had with getting to grips with specific topics reflected the very open nature of some of the questions being grappled with. Where sessions illustrated participant’s confusion (e.g. on the sequencing of TOPS and RoW and the timeline for the siting process) this was seen as helpful in highlighting where more thinking or clarity was needed. Policy makers reported that *“simply the fact that people were confused will be helpful in making some bits of the process much clearer”* and *“it is helpful to highlight the bits – like the timeline and the Right of Withdrawal – where much more clarity and explanation of the concepts will be needed”*.

Key Messages taken by policy makers and specialists

Community Representation

Participants tended to agree that the long term nature of the decision would require a novel type of democratic representation which could involve a wide range of people over a long time frame. Discussions highlighted the types and characteristics of individuals who should be involved and that they should not include those with vested interests or who stood to gain personally. Policy may need to ensure that people that are not normally involved in local institutions will be represented. Differing levels of trust in the role of locally elected councilors were highlighted appearing to reflect prior personal contact with local authorities or the outcomes of other decisions people were aware of. No common agreement was reached on how to define community spatially or by interest. It became clear that getting these structures right is key to making other aspects of community involvement and investment work.

Test of Public Support

Discussions highlighted the need for constructive ongoing engagement and awareness raising process before the one-off test of public support. Participants felt that communities would need at least a similar level of understanding to their own (after the dialogue process) before they could be canvassed. There was useful learning about the format of surveys (including the difficulties of landline, paper based or online surveys for different audiences). A referendum open to younger voters (but with no consensus around what age) was favoured for the TOPS. There remained cynicism amongst some that if a community voted NO government may still choose to press ahead.

Right of Withdrawal

Participants were initially confused about the circumstances and timing of the right of withdrawal. Views appeared to support the idea that the right to withdraw should originate with the Community Representation group but was less clear about whether the wider community then needs to be involved or whether people would be prepared to trust in the community representative committee to make a final decision. This is an area where there might be benefits in going back to the participants to test out options.

Community Investment

Discussions highlighted views that contrasted with those heard from stakeholders in the call for evidence, with most participants feeling that an upfront annual investment of £1 mn pa in the early stages of siting discussions was a substantial sum. People were quickly aware that taxpayers’ money needed to be spent carefully and transparently and that they would expect responsibilities for making grant decisions and managing monies to be taken very seriously. Lots of different views emerged on what types of activities should be funded from wellbeing and community projects to skills and economic growth projects positioning a community to gain longer term benefits from siting of a GDF. This suggested to DECC that allowable projects may need to change over the process, starting as broad community interest projects in the early years and then focusing on skills and training etc. as site selection is narrowed down to a single site. Some specialists also took the message that communities may need assistance in involving a wider than normal range of individuals (e.g. young people) and making sure they are equipped to prepare and manage grant applications.

4) To engage a wide range of people and allow them to voice their ideas and perspectives on various issues. This will create an improved quality of engagement and legitimize policies as members of the public have been involved in them.

The criteria for recruitment, methods for recruitment and percentage of over-recruitment (agreed at 10% i.e. 28 for 25) were carefully reviewed by the IOG and core management team in order to ensure that group would come ‘fresh’ to the issues with no prior knowledge or experience of the nuclear industry or a siting process, and that they would be individuals who did not previously know each other. In particular the approved ‘free-find methods’ were agreed to include stopping people in the street, telephoning via informal networks and from market research databases as long as participants had not taken part in research in the previous six months. Recruitment in pairs or so-called “snowballing” was not permitted. It was recognised that there would be no inter-locking quotas so that urban quotas in Manchester and Swindon might tend to be dominated by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) participants.

Policy makers and specialists agreed that the two dialogue locations and the recruitment brief had resulted “*a great mix of people*” and that “*they really gelled*”. They felt that almost all had been able to and had chosen to voice their ideas. Specialist and policy participants noted the really good, constructive atmosphere in both locations. This reflected the attention that the IOG and core management team had given to the choice of locations, recruitment criteria and methods to ensure that policy makers could hear from people without strong views - either for or against - nuclear energy and disposal. It also reflected efforts to recruit a sample broadly representative of local demographics (gender and age), socio-economic background and ethnicity (10% BAME in Swindon and 30% in Manchester) in each location which across the total sample of 54 gave a sample broadly reflective of the UK adult population.

The brief had also required that in each location one third of participants should be residents of urban, semi-rural and rural areas respectively. Responses to the evaluation questionnaires and observations of the evaluators and specialists suggested that in both locations urban residents were over represented and that rural were under-represented. This bias was noted by a specialist “*did we get enough really rural people*” and “*there was a good cross-section but perhaps there was more diversity in 2013 dialogues*” while an observer noted that “*the Manchester non-urban people seemed to come mainly from one area*”. However, given the smallish overall numbers and other requirements (e.g. on age, ethnicity and previous experience), it might have been easier to get a more rural mix by adding a third more rural location.

5. Good Practice

This section presents the evaluation findings on the design and delivery of the dialogue process and whether it has met a number of good practice principles including the choice of locations and mix of participants; the design of the workshops; the presentation of stimulus materials; professional facilitation; the involvement of specialists; and choice of venues and event management.

1. The choice of locations was clear and representation was of an appropriate scale and mix to provide useful results

The rationale for the choice of the two locations (Swindon and Manchester) was clear and appropriate and gave: a good coverage of north and south; a city and a smaller town; and neither location with prior experience of a siting process for nuclear power, decommissioning or waste disposal. Although TNS did not have recruiters based in Swindon, the IOG and core management team were pleased to have persevered with this small town south western location rather than opting for a more widely used city location such as Bristol. Table 5.1 shows our analysis of the characteristics of the sample and how they were recruited based on observation and participant's responses to questionnaires.

The recruitment script did not specifically make it clear that the dialogues were about nuclear waste but this would have been clear from the exclusion questions. It was agreed that this would meet the ethical requirement of informing participants about what they were committing to without introducing a self-exclusion bias or encouraging any participants to do prior research on the topic.

Table 5.1 Characteristics of Sample (Actual based on evaluator observation and self-reporting by participants)

	Manchester		Swindon	
	Brief	Actual	Brief	Actual
Male	50%	13 (48%)	50%	14 (52%)
Female	50%	14 (52%)	50%	13 (48%)
BAME	30%	9 (33%)	10%	3 (11%)
Location				
Urban	33%	13 (48%)	33%	11 (41%)
Semi-rural	33%	8 (30%)	33%	7 (26%)
Rural	33%	5 (18.5%)	33%	2 (7.5%)
Undisclosed		1		7
Age (<25, 25-50, >50)		slightly skewed to lower ages		slightly skewed to over 55s
Recruitment method (self-reported)				
On street		5		13
By Telephone		14		14
From a market research database		5		0
Brought along by a friend		3		0

Despite the strict recruitment criteria the evaluators and specialists observed that a few participants had been involved in market research (possibly through the TNS Omnibus Citizen panel) within the last 6 months (but none had experience in public dialogues), and that a few participants in Manchester reported that they had been brought along by a friend or recruited by telephone by a

family friend. In both areas rural residents were under-represented relative to the recruitment criteria (18% in Manchester relative to 50% urban). However, this did not detract from most specialists and policy makers feeling that the mix was good enough for them to feel they had heard from a diverse range of the public *“A diverse group which demonstrated notable consideration, respect and openness”* (specialist) with fresh views *“standard of contributions and discussion was excellent. People [were] very engaged”* (Policy).

2. The workshops were well designed so that the design flowed and there was sufficient time for deliberation

The process design recognised and was appropriate for the nature of Open Policy Making in a technical and contentious sector, but where the issues that the public were being asked to consider – community representation, test of public support and community investment – were likely to be fairly accessible with people able to bring ideas from their own experience.

The overall design reflected the key findings of the 2013 public dialogue and the questions DECC had identified that they would like views on. The design of the two days provided a structure and clarity to each conversation, but made a very deliberate choice to only focus on two or three questions per session rather than get superficial answers to many questions. Each session provided the necessary history and balanced factual information, without over-burdening participants. Although many participants were not initially familiar with the term Open Policy Making the presentations made it very clear to participants which elements of policy were on the table for discussion and which were already agreed.

The initial learning presentations provided balanced information which could then be explored through Q+A sessions with specialists at each table. A Discovery session prompted participants to find their own answers to key questions, while a quiz after lunch on Day 1 recapped on what had been learnt in the morning. After the first half day, facilitated table sessions explored the key questions in relation to CR, TOPS, RoW and CI. Sessions were designed to use scenario exercises and stimulus to structure discussions around some of the emerging suggestions from the CRWG with participant’s own ideas so that they were not starting from a blank sheet. Facilitator scripts identified additional questions which could be used to probe and explore underlying values.

The design worked well and achieved a good balance between learning and deliberative discussion. The warm-up session on how much people already knew about nuclear issues and how far they trusted government to make decisions provided a useful baseline and a good mechanism for final debriefing at the end of the second day. The mix of learning techniques - three PowerPoint presentations with table discussions based around questions and answers by specialists, discovery session and quiz – was engaging and provided a good grounding. The table based Q+A sessions after each presentation provided plenty of space for interaction between participants and specialists. This approach also helped on timing as plenary sessions were relatively short focusing on sharing particularly helpful clarifications from experts or comments on what they found surprising. The quiz was light-hearted and fun and a good way to re-engage people after lunch. A quick recap on the context of the subject matter for each session on Day 2 reset the scene and allowed time for questions: 90% of participants agreed that this was helpful in getting them back into the topic (36, 66.7% strongly and 13, 24.1% tended to agree).

The timing of both days worked well. Although on paper the timetable looked packed, good timekeeping by facilitators, preserving 45 minutes for lunch and 20 minutes for tea breaks, and the design of deliberative sessions focusing on a few key questions meant that the Days felt leisurely.

The deliberative sessions used a wide range of techniques (e.g. pen portraits, placing objects on preferred options and then moving them during discussions, project description cards for potential projects applying for community investment funding) to good effect.

Table sizes of 9 participants and a specialist and observer were manageable but a table of 10 proved loud and more difficult to engage. Conversations moved quickly so that a few participants may not have had as much opportunity to input as they would have liked, but on the whole participants reported that they had enough time to discuss the issues (36, 66.7% strongly agreed, 15, 27.8% tended to agree): only 2 were unsure while 1 tended to disagree. Our observations suggest that only 1 or 2 individuals in each location were not fully engaged and contributing to discussions.

Specialist and policy maker views on design

- *“Great design, people got up to speed really quickly” (Policy)*
- *“Used the dialogues to ask the right things in the right way” (Observer)*
- *“Really useful to have enough time to ask fairly open questions and discuss – design really learnt lessons from previous processes in restricting the number of detailed leading questions for each theme and allowing enough time for groups to really explore a few issues in greater depth – sometimes to the point where there was no more they could say” (Observer)*
- *“People really took charge of the agenda that had been set and engaged with it” (Policy)*
- *People were far more engaged on what is a very complex set of issues than I had expected” (Policy)*
- *“Initially I was worried there wouldn’t be time or not everyone would contribute, but this wasn’t the case” (Policy)*
- *“The Quiz was really good for the session after lunch and for helping people understand any gaps in their understanding” (Observer)*
- *“Quiz was an excellent way of refreshing key messages” (Observer)*
- *“The afternoon sessions might have been a bit long But the facilitators managed things and audiences were given time to properly deliberate rather than being rushed and limited to ‘top of the head’ responses”. (Observer)*

3. The stimulus materials presented were balanced, accessible and engaging enough for the participants to act as informed citizens

Given the nature of the topic it was important that the materials for the dialogue were accessible, informative and clear and provided the right amount of historic and technical detail without over burdening participants. It was also crucial that they were seen as impartial and well balanced between simplicity and complexity in setting out the technical issues linked to the GDF siting work. The lessons from the 2013 dialogues also highlighted the need to get the right balance between giving information (learning) and time for discussion and deliberation.

DECC and the IOG were closely involved with the design and review of the PowerPoint presentations, which were able to draw heavily on previous DECC and RWM engagement exercises and the 2013 dialogue. The stimulus materials for the discovery session (A1 posters building on the learning from the PowerPoints), a short quiz and table discussions on CR, TOPS, RoW and CI were designed by 3KQ and reviewed for accuracy, tone and balance by the IOG and core management team. Detailed comments on clarity and potential bias were identified by IOG members and slides were amended accordingly.

The learning materials were mainly used in the first half day. Presentations on Day 1 morning were led by DECC and provided a good focus, and the balance between giving and receiving information

was very good. Specialists agreed that most presentations were short, crisp and to the point, although the third presentation was a bit long and dense and as the last session before lunch more difficult for participants to absorb. However, there were opportunities to explore this in the quiz straight after lunch and the content of this session was reiterated in the deliberative sessions on CR, TOPS, RoW and CI over the next day and a half, and with a recap session on the morning of Day 2. High quality discovery posters were used to break up the PowerPoint sessions and provide more detail on impacts and benefits. The posters were widely seen as very useful and clear, but some specialists questioned whether the balance and presentation of potential benefits over negative impacts of a GDF allowed a direct and fair comparison between the two.

The stimulus materials for the deliberative sessions were largely very successful in giving people a structure to consider the underlying principles (e.g. about who could represent a community at different stages and what projects should be allowable for community investment). For instance, pen portraits were useful at surfacing reasoning on who is a valid community representative while project descriptions exposed the criteria which should underlie funding decisions. In some cases more detail on the context or timeframe was needed to make sense of the exercises but this was also useful learning for policy makers (see Section 4).

By the end of Day 1, of the 50 who responded, 86% felt that the information they received on nuclear and geological disposal was fair and balanced (23, 43.4% strongly agreed, 23, 43.4% tended to agree) while 4 were unsure and 3 tended to disagree. By the end of Day 1 most participants felt that they had become well enough informed to fully contribute to discussions. This was in sharp contrast to the beginning of Day 1, when almost all described themselves as knowing almost nothing about the issues.

During Day 2 almost all participants (96%) found the information presented on the TOPS and CI were sufficient and relevant to allow them to contribute to the discussion (41, 76% strongly agreed and 11, 20.4 % tended to agree). By the end of Day 2, the number of people who considered that the information presented over the two days was balanced and unbiased had risen to 91% (30, 55.6% strongly agreed, 19, 35.2% tended to agree) with only 4 (7%) unsure and 1 person tending to disagree. This is a considerable endorsement given that between the two days people had had the opportunity to do their own research on GDF and explore other sources of information which may have dissented from White Paper policy.

Views on learning and stimulus materials

- *“Presentations were balanced, to the point and very informal with specialists talking with not lecturing at” (Observer)*
- *“Presentations much better than in 2013 – broken down into bite sized chunks”. (Specialist)*
- *“Highly complex and detailed material generally presented in an understandable manner (and chance for follow up)” (Observer)*
- *“Great attention to detail in developing stimulus materials” (Observer)*
- *“Some of the presentations gave a very positive spin, with potential negative impacts explained away” (Observer)*
- *“Some of the materials were harder to open up discussion with than others (Policy)*
- *“The participants said this [info on CR, TOPS and CI] was sufficient but there were points in conversations where I wondered if they might need more” (Policy)*
- *“Hope it wasn’t too much of a sales pitch by Government” (Specialist)*

4. The facilitator team was professional, well-briefed, consistent and unbiased and enabled all participants to make an active contribution

The four dialogue events were facilitated by a 6 person team in each location. Each team included three very experienced table facilitators and three recorders responsible for simultaneous transcription. Table discussions were also recorded for back up⁵. Many of the team had in-depth experience of nuclear and GDF siting issues and there was continuity between the teams in each location over the two days.

The design of the sessions and style of facilitation created a very purposeful but relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Group dynamics were for the most part very positive, engaged and enthusiastic, and were also very respectful of each other. Facilitators were able to bring almost everyone in and allow wide ranging discussion but focusing them on the relevant questions. Only a few individuals appeared not to be fully engaged.

Some excellent facilitation was observed by the evaluators and commented on by specialists and policy makers present. In particular facilitators were good at raising open questions, checking understanding, bringing in specialists to answer queries and probing at the underlying reasons for answers given. All participants unanimously agreed (44, 81.5% strongly and 10, 18.5% tended to agree) that the facilitation was independent, professional and effective.

Facilitators managed two difficult situations appropriately (one small group of young people in Manchester with similar backgrounds and interests who tended to dominate discussions; and tensions which arose between different two small socio-economic groups in Swindon in the final session of Day 2). These tensions were ably managed by actively splitting participants across tables for later sessions; and reinforcing the ground rule of one person speaking at a time on Day 2 and skilfully diffusing tensions where they arose. Several specialists also noted that it is important for facilitators with a long history of an issue to remain neutral and not take issues for granted or to lead participants in anyway.

Views on facilitation and group dynamics

Participants views:

- *"Very well facilitated and extremely educational"*
- *"Good quality"*

Specialist and policy maker views:

- *"The experience that 3KQ have of the subject matter means that they are able to judge when and how to intervene/steer". (Specialist)*
- *"Facilitators seemed very good" (Observer)*
- *"Very well facilitated event with positive engagement from participants" (Observer)*
- *"I saw some excellent table facilitation which was open, respectful – a gentler, less directive style seemed to work best with table groups" (Specialist)*

⁵ Initially tapes were only intended for back up during transcription and permissions were only sought to do this and then delete tapes. Formal verbal permission was sought in Manchester for transcription for academic use late in Day 2 in Manchester but the recording had not been managed for this purpose.

- *“Facilitator [in Swindon] managed potential conflict in the final sessions which could really have boiled over on one table” (Observer)*
- *“Very well facilitated event with positive engagement from participants” (Specialist)*
- *“Surprisingly well done, professional and open in eliciting views” (Observer)*
- *“Well managed, created a very positive mood and very constructive work environment” (Policy)*
- *“Perhaps there are also dangers of knowing the topic too well - a temptation to lead the witness. Not everybody always encouraged everybody to fully participate” (Observer)*

5. Specialists were involved to provide information and trust in the process

Specialists were an important part of the Day 1 programme. A DECC specialist presented PowerPoints on Day 1. After each presentation table Q+A sessions allowed participants an opportunity to ask the specialist on their table (DECC or RWM) questions. Specialists were called on by the facilitators throughout both days to provide further explanation, information and justification. Participants were also able to stick ‘post-its’ on a “Graffiti wall” with additional questions which were either answered in the room by the experts during breaks or taken away and answered between Days 1 and 2. It was also recognised that participants might have additional questions as a result of the homework task or their own research and time to address these questions and revisit the graffiti wall was factored into the morning of Day 2. In addition at least three observers from the IOG, DECC, RWM and Sciencewise attended each day.

The DECC lead presented three PowerPoints in the morning with a nice mix seriousness, anecdote and humour. Specialists answered questions in a very open and accessible way and were available to participants during breaks. Observers were able to maintain listening mode but enjoyed the opportunity of talking to the participants during breaks.

By the end of Day 1, of the 50 participants that responded, 86% felt that they had been able to get all their questions answered (25 strongly agreed and 18 tended to agree). A small minority (14%) either were not sure or tended to disagree. By Day 2 there was unanimous agreement amongst all 54 participants that they had found the specialists in the room helpful in explaining things and answering questions (49, 91% strongly agreed while 5, 9% tended to agree). Participants stated that they had found DECC and RWM specialists really helpful in improving their understanding with one noting that *“expert input was especially welcome”*. By the end of Day 2 almost all participants felt they had learnt something new (53 out of 54 respondents).

Specialists and observers were largely very positive about their role and taking part in the events although one noted that, although they had been well briefed on the day, the *“amount of background information on the design of the day and presentations before the actual day was non-existent”* (Specialist). It was suggested that with more time for reflection before the events it might have been useful to have a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) or to have anticipated and coordinated responses to potentially difficult questions. This was in contrast to what participants appeared to most like about the role of specialists - that they seemed very open and informal and unrehearsed but were still able to answer very diverse questions off the bat.

5. Organisation and Venue

Participants received advance information and none of them found the venues hard to find. Almost all participants (45, 83.3% strongly agreed and 8, 14.8% tended to agree) that the recruitment process and advance details had been well handled.

Despite the short timeframe 3KQ found venues which were chosen to be central, accessible by public transport and neutral. Rooms were of a good size. The room set up, wall displays and audio visual stimuli were pre-tested and worked well. The logistics for welcoming participants and food and refreshments were all excellent. One participant noted that *“I felt the venue in a hotel and facilities enhanced the experience and, combined with the attitude of staff, made us feel valued”*.

Lessons:

The design and delivery of the public dialogue events illustrated a number of lessons for future dialogues including:

- A 10% over-recruitment rate proved more than adequate (although recruiters would have liked a higher margin for error). Very high retention rates reflected a number of factors including engaging design, a short elapsed time between the two events, and back-loading of a relatively generous incentive payment (£180 for 2 days).
- Involvement of a very skilled facilitation team – many with experience of nuclear and GDF issues – was key to well-designed and delivered events and reflecting lessons from past dialogue processes.
- A sense of being 'part of a process' clearly had benefits for participants in terms of their levels of engagement (with many expressing the desire to continue to be involved) and this contrasts significantly with approaches that prioritise 'educating' or information-led approaches.
- Being able to draw on existing DECC/RWM materials allowed the dialogue events to be carried out within a short timeframe. It also freed up time to focus on the style of learning materials, which helped people get to grips with the issues quickly.
- Good ratios (9 participants per facilitator) and continuity of teams between events resulted in an environment where participants were able to contribute and felt they had been heard.
- Simultaneous note taking allowed a draft dialogue report with rich use of quotes to be produced very quickly after the events.
- PowerPoints presented by specialists reassured participants that the information was robust, that DECC 'owned' the policy and that they were listening to what came out.
- Creative use of stimulus materials and discussion techniques worked well at surfacing underlying principles and a range of views for each of the key policy themes.
- Some specialists would have felt more comfortable pre-briefed with a list of potentially difficult questions to ensure their answers were aligned. For the public dialogues this might have constrained the openness and informality that participants appreciated. However, for future stakeholder events a list of FAQs or anticipation of potentially difficult questions would be a useful resource.

6. Satisfaction

This section evaluates whether those involved have been satisfied with the dialogue process and covers the perspectives of the public, specialists and policy makers.

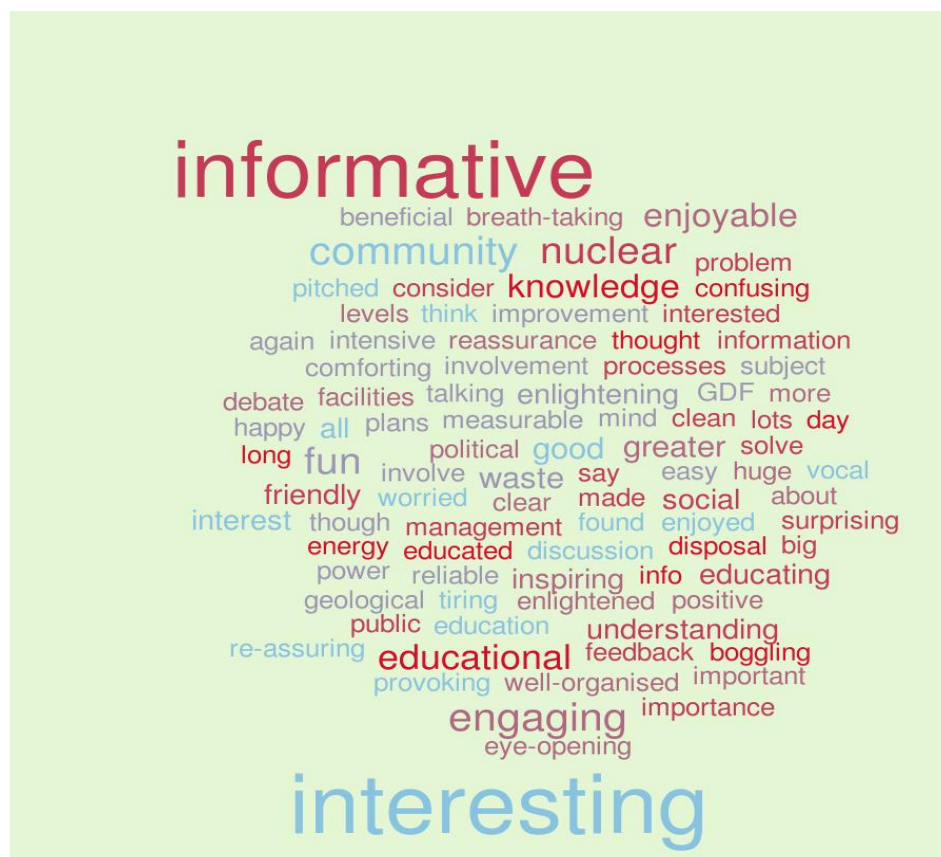
6.1 Public participants

By end of Day 1 in Manchester the majority felt well enough informed to contribute to the discussions (24, 47.1% strongly agreed while 23, 45.1% tended to agree). In both Swindon and Manchester during informal interviews participants reported that they were enjoying the sessions and finding them much more interesting than they had expected. The majority (25/27) provided their emails for future updates indicating a high level of interest.

By the end of Day 2 across the two locations 95% felt they were able to have their say (36, 70.6% strongly agreed and 13, 25.5% tended to agree) and 98% felt they had learned something new about nuclear energy, waste disposal and potential risks and benefits of a GDF as a result of taking part (44, 81.5% strongly agreed and 9, 16.7% tended to agree). As a result overall participants were unanimous in feeling satisfied overall with the events they had taken part in (44, 81.5% strongly agreed while 9, 16.7% tended to agree) and 83.3% (45 out of 54) wished to be kept informed on the DECC policy process and 65% were happy to be contacted again for this project.

Figure 6.1 shows the results of participants being asked to describe how they had found Day 1 in three words. Words in larger type are those cited most frequently and show that many participants found the events informative, interesting, engaging, educational and enjoyable.

Figure 6.1: Participant views on Day 1 and Day 2 events



Participant's satisfaction with taking part in the dialogue events

- *"The whole experience was enjoyable and interesting and I feel I have made a contribution to an important matter"*
- *"I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has been a great insight into an area that I knew little about, thank you"*
- *"Very engaging couple of days"*
- *"Enjoyable to be able to listen and voice on an area I had no prior knowledge of"*
- *"Very informative on a subject I knew nothing about"*
- *"Overall a great couple of days"*
- *"Found it very enjoyable and learnt quite a lot"*
- *"I really enjoyed the two days"*

6.2 Specialists

Specialists from the IOG and those attending the dialogue events were all satisfied with the events they took part in and the process overall. Almost all were impressed by how quickly and effectively DECC and 3KQ had designed and implemented the process. They were also impressed by how the amount of technical information participants were given was minimised, conveyed through the presentations and stimulus materials and balanced with time for discussions in the agenda. Many had been concerned beforehand that there would be insufficient time for discussion or that not all participants would be able to contribute, but were impressed how sessions had seemed quite leisurely and almost everyone was engaged. The only questions remaining for a few were whether the dialogues would generate enough detail to really guide DECC – although some noted that the discussions had got almost to the point where there was no more to be said. The concerns about the level of useful generated reflected more on the stage in open policy making that dialogues have taken place than the design and delivery of the process.

Specialist and Observer Satisfaction with the dialogue process

- *"Both Manchester events went very well ... the level of engagement from participants throughout the days was impressive - a sure sign of a well-considered programme of activity and good teamwork". (Observer)*
- *"Overall I thought it went very well. The event [I attended] was professionally organised and facilitated and the experts and DECC officials played their part. Almost everyone seemed engaged right up to the end, which is notable for a Saturday afternoon working on the technicalities of benefits frameworks and oversight. There was plenty of time to deliberate on the key issues and they got deep into the practicalities of delivery, which will surely be helpful to the programme." (Observer)*
- *"Very positive, very interesting to see how you can talk to the public when you are trying to understand their opinions, not to get all the answers" (Specialist)*
- *"The whole day was conducted really well and went really fast: people seemed to really enjoy it" (Observer)*
- *"Overall the event was very positive" (Observer)*
- *"Very enjoyable, informative event" (Observer)*
- *"Interesting, diverse and useful" (Observer)*
- *"Not sure how far it will have got us and moved us on" (Specialist)*
- *"Very open and efficient but was it innovative?" (Observer)*

6.3 Policy makers

The DECC team reported that they had heard lots of interesting input from participants, that much of it validated what they had already heard internally or from other stakeholders, but some of it was

genuinely surprising or helped to move thinking forward on key issues or to identify things where more thinking and clarity are required (see Section 4). All those interviewed had also participated in at least two events and reported that they really enjoyed taking part and had valued the chance to hear direct from members of the public who are fresh to the topic. Taking part was seen as almost as valuable as the final report.

Policy maker satisfaction with the process

- *“Very successful outcome and very efficient process despite the tight timeframe. Made possible by very effective and experienced delivery contractors and having good background material to draw on”*
- *“Fresh and refreshing – nice to hear from those with no prior knowledge or baggage”*
- *“Positive, informative and refreshing”*
- *“The [draft] dialogue report was slightly different to what I was expecting– a lot more interesting detail and open in highlighting diversity of opinion on challenging issues. The use of quotes throughout is helpful in bringing the report to life and bringing the dialogic approach into the report.”*
- *“My experience of the dialogue events was very, very positive – from a starting point of realistic, lowish expectations”*
- *“I found it very helpful and valuable in policy development (I was already convinced!)”*
- *“Not the usual suspects, useful fresh perspectives”*
- *“Lots of interesting material and food for thought”*
- *“A fresh input from people without baggage”*
- *“Will help us understand how our proposals will land and be interpreted by the public”*
- *“Love to get out of the ivory tower and have the opportunity to talk to people”*
- *“I’d love to see us doing more of this”*
- *“Rewarding, interesting and useful – helping us to think outside the box and away from well-trodden views of usual stakeholders”*
- *“Demonstrates that people can be genuinely interested, quite enthusiastic and sophisticated in thinking through answers”*
- *“It’s one of the most exciting parts of the job – getting out and talking to real people”*

7. Governance

7.1 Independent Oversight Group (IOG)

The group was small in relation to many Sciencewise projects but was widely agreed to be well balanced. Normally other voices, such as NGOs, would also have been represented, but since the individuals had been chosen for their independent non-partisan views and to complement the roles and composition of the more diverse voices represented on the CRWG this was not a problem. Given the very clearly defined policy questions on the table it is not clear that dissenting voices would have been helpful to this dialogue.

The advantages of a small group were that it was quickly convened and easily managed. Individuals also reported that having few members made them more aware of and committed to their responsibilities, and as a result they made great efforts to attend meetings and review materials by the deadlines. Despite tight timeframes between first convening the IOG and the dialogue events IOG members reported they did have sufficient time to review materials. They all felt that their advice had been listened to and they have been able to make useful inputs. At least one IOG member attended each dialogue event and all members attended at least one event: had time permitted most would have liked to take part in more events.

The core project management team and specialists considered that the IOG was really helpful and constructive in making sure the process worked well, rather than challenging Government's energy policy or the choice of GDF as a long term solution. *"The IOG provided lots of good advice and help in making decisions – very useful to have them in the room"* (Policy).

7.2 Core Project management team

Based on the lessons from undertaking previous public engagement, DECC recognised the extent of the time inputs that would be required and fielded a core project management team which spread responsibilities over 3-4 people. Together the team brought considerable experience of previous stakeholder engagement in nuclear and other sectors, and a real enthusiasm for public dialogue as part of open policy making. DECC, the dialogue delivery team, IOG and Sciencewise worked very well together in designing and delivering a very focused dialogue process. This relationship was a crucial factor which allowed delivery of a quality process in a challenging time frame.

7.3 Sciencewise role

DECC interviewees reported that Sciencewise support was very useful in co-funding the project, providing the structure for the ITT and recruitment of delivery contractors and evaluators. The support of the Sciencewise DES in attending many of the IOG and core management team meetings and several dialogue events was also very much appreciated. DECC also noted that the scrutiny and discipline of the Sciencewise rules have helped to provide credibility and robustness as an input to open policy making.

Views on the effectiveness of Governance arrangements

- *"A small well-constituted group of the right people" (Specialist)*
- *"Good complementary experience and expertise" (Policy)*
- *"An interesting process which worked well" (IOG member)*

- *“Dynamics worked well, very well managed by DECC and excellent commitment from IOG members” (Observer)*
- *“Personable bunch of people who seemed to work extremely well together” (Observer)*
- *“Would love to be involved in something like this again” (IOG member)*
- *“We certainly had useful conversations – e.g. around discovery materials, openness of questions in some areas and sequencing of topics – and got considered responses when they didn’t use our advice” (IOG member)*
- *“Definitely we made an impact – lots of discussions on how and what to discuss and they [DECC and contractors] listened” (IOG member)*
- *“IOG was really listened to – we offered suggestions which were carefully considered and acted on, or with clear explanation of why a different approach had been chosen” (IOG member)*

Lessons:

- A small carefully chosen IOG was able to provide all the necessary expertise and independence to guide the process and ensure it was robust. Given the nature of open policy questions being debated, it is not clear that wider representation of different voices would added value to the governance arrangements.
- A small IOG could be convened quickly, was cost efficient (specialist and project management time and expenses) and was closely engaged throughout.
- A small group also made it possible to turn around materials quickly with everyone feeling they had been able to contribute.
- Good coordination between the different professional groups and good working relationships between the core management team, IOG and specialists were very important to a successful process.

8. Impact

This section evaluates whether the dialogue process has had the planned impact on DECC's open policy making process on community involvement in the GDF siting process. It also considers whether it is likely to have wider policy impacts and how the results will be disseminated.

8.1 Policy Impact

The primary purpose of the dialogue process was to provide contributing evidence to DECC's open policy process. This was not a requirement of the White Paper but, based on the positive experience of dialogues in 2013, the DECC team felt it would provide valuable perspectives which could not be gained in other ways. Access to fresh views and a reality check by members of the public are seen as particularly important in this area where historically discussions have been dominated by a small group of stakeholders with pre-formed and well known views. The desired impact of the dialogues was to gain fresh insights which will help unlock the community-related issues that DECC have found most challenging. The short term impact is expected to be a robust and workable policy which RWM can implement from 2017 onwards.

The reported value has been in hearing from a fresh set of individuals who do not already have entrenched opinions and who could therefore provide "*a reality check of what we are proposing*" and in some areas contributing to an almost blank sheet (which would not have been appropriate for more conventional stakeholder engagement).

It is too early in the policy process to judge the overall impacts of the dialogues on the policy process. However, DECC are confident that what they heard and the findings of the draft dialogue report (see Section 4) will make a valuable input to shaping policy. A flavour of the early findings from the dialogue events was fed into presentations to the CRWG on 9th March. The next step will be to feed the outcomes from the final report into draft proposals presented to the last meeting of the CRWG (20th April). CRWG's comments will then feed into DECC's final drafting of detailed proposals. These are likely to be single options for each theme rather than a range of options. The White Paper requires "consultation as appropriate" and any further public or stakeholder consultation will be subject to approval by DECC Ministers.

Publication of the policy proposals and/or further consultation is expected after the 'purdah' period (late April to June) around Devolved Administrations elections and the European Referendum but before the summer recess. The nature of any further engagement or consultation will depend on resource availability but could include reconvening existing groups, dialogue with new groups or a closed online process (organised through Consumer First) if there are clear options to consult on. (E.g. for community representation body or defining a community). RWM will have the opportunity to review the proposals and agree whether they are workable before starting the siting process and inviting interest from communities in 2017.

There is still internal deliberation within RWM on what level of awareness raising and education on nuclear GDF is needed or achievable and how learning from this dialogue can be applied. However, the materials produced and the techniques used in the dialogue process are recognised as likely to be useful in future engagement at national and specific community level. The presentations have already been used by DECC for presentations to international audiences.

Views of policy makers and specialists on the impacts of the dialogue process

- *“We had reasonable expectations and an understanding of what a PD can deliver – hearing from people who do not already know about the issues and don’t have pre-formed views to sound out whether what DECC is thinking of is feasible” (Policy)*
- *“[can deliver] Insights vs detailed analysis and recommendations (get this from stakeholders) (Policy)*
- *“We were NOT expecting a silver bullet with detailed answers or academic level analysis locating the findings in a theoretical framework”. (Policy)*
- *“Gave access to different views that we would not have got in any other way and to people who would not normally get involved” (Policy)*
- *“Very encouraged to see how hard DECC were listening” (Observer)*
- *“Visuals are getting better, the slides we have now really help to get the key issues across” (Policy)*
- *“nice to hear views from real people, not the usual suspects” (Observer)*

8.2 Capacity Building

The public dialogue process has had intensive involvement of the DECC policy development team and RWM implementation and communication staff. Policy and specialists reported that they found it valuable to attend events and see a really well-run process. The process is seen as providing evidence that the public can and will engage with quite technical topics about which they have no knowledge and that they can do this in an unbiased and open way. It has also demonstrated that a tightly targeted and efficiently run process can be completed with 4 months and need not delay policy making. This process has therefore generated a lot of support for deliberative public dialogue processes in open policy making within the GDF team who would be keen, resources permitting, to use public dialogue in future.

DECC plans to share the lessons learnt in the following ways:

- Internal analysis of lessons (including the timing of dialogues within OPM process) for a case study on techniques that have will be used for fast track staff training; and
- An update of the 2013 case study with a focus on lessons learnt in using public dialogue in open policy making through the Open Policy Making Unit.

However, despite a growing pool of individuals who are advocates for the approach and have enough experience to manage such a process again, policy interviewees highlighted that dialogue-savvy individuals will move around within government and that they would have challenges in carrying out future public dialogues in the absence of Sciencewise support (funding, rigour and best practice advice).

8.3 Wider Impacts

In addition to impacting on the UK GDF siting process the dialogue project has potential to share lessons with international programmes. DECC is a member of the OECD Forum of Stakeholder Confidence (FSC)⁶ which meets regularly and shares experiences on effective dialogue with the public. The lessons learnt on this process will be shared both by DECC and through the FSC Chair who also sits on CRWG.

In addition the DECC team is regularly contacted by GDF teams in Japan, Chile and China to learn about their public engagement experiences. USA and Japan are both at a similarly early stage in re-starting their GDF siting processes and are keen to share experience on how to engage a neutral

⁶ FSC facilitates the sharing of experience in addressing the societal dimension of radioactive waste management. It explores means of ensuring an effective dialogue with the public with a view to strengthening confidence in the decision-making processes.

public in a meaningful way. Recent visits by DECC and IOG specialists to USA and Japan respectively have shared some of the early findings from the current dialogue process.

8.4 Dissemination

Table 8.1 summarises DECC and RWM anticipated dissemination of reports and findings.

Table 8.1 Anticipated Dissemination Activities

Organisation	Dissemination Activity
DECC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final dialogue report and/or policy consultation document will be shared with all participants who expressed an interest in following the process (email addresses to be provided by evaluators). Final report shared at DECC website. An executive summary and/or the final dialogue will be shared with CRWG (which RWM also attends). The final dialogue report will be shared with RWM and with CoRWM Lessons learnt will be shared with other DECC teams internally A case study of public dialogue in open policy making will be shared across government and for fast track training Lessons learnt will be shared with the OECD FSC and with teams in USA, Japan, China, Chile etc. on request. Lessons learnt will be shared with IAEA Write up Technical Party
RWM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dialogue Report will be examined in detail within the GDF project team Key messages will be shared at an all company 'Wednesday Briefing' led by the Head of the GDF team and supported by specialists. Wider dissemination of key messages is also being considered. Messages on different views of community could be helpful to RWM in shaping its constructive engagement phase with communities Style and language used should be very helpful to RWM for communicating bite sized messages and understanding what messages chime and what worries people
Initial Actions Joint Project team (DECC/ RWM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue report will be presented and discussed
Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheffield University department of social sciences hopes to use some of the transcripts for further analysis to provide a baseline for longitudinal analysis on attitudes towards GDF, with support from RWM.
BIS/Sciencewise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final report will be available at the Sciencewise website, including learning and stimulus materials in the annexes

8.5 Participants

Although it was not a prime objective of the project many of the participants reported that they had learnt a lot about nuclear waste disposal and would consider themselves sufficiently well informed to sit on a Community Representative body, take part in a referendum to test public support or to help their community develop investment projects. In the warm up exercise on Day 1 it was clear that all participants considered that they knew very little about nuclear waste, but by Day 2 they had moved from their starting position with most clustered at the quite a lot end of the scale.

Between the two days of the dialogue some 90% of participants reported that they had found themselves thinking about their communities and geological disposal (30, 55.6% strongly agreed and 18, 33.3% tended to agree). 96% of all participants reported that they are more likely to get involved in these kinds of events in the future (30, 55.6% strongly agreed and 22, 40.7% tended to agree).

Lessons:

If resources and ministerial approvals allow, it would be useful to revisit assessment of impacts of the dialogues by:

- Involving some or all of the public participants in testing DECC's policy options at further public dialogue events (reconvened meeting or online forums) or by inviting one or two participants to share their experience of taking part in the process at stakeholder events (if they take place);
- Reviewing policy documents and how they are received at any stakeholder events and any public consultation process in six months as an addendum to this report or as part of DECC's Lessons Learnt review.

9. Costs and benefits

9.1 Financial Costs

The total financial cost of the project was £87,380 of which £38,000 (43%) was from Sciencewise and the balance from DECC. Initially the Sciencewise funds were intended to cover the public dialogue elements while DECC funding would cover parallel activities in the form of stakeholder meetings for 90 participants. In order to respond to the changing context (stage in the policy making process, the need to complete Sciencewise funded activities by the end of March) the budget was amended to allow for recruitment of specialist dialogue consultants 3KQ who would be able to deliver the dialogue events by early March.

The dialogue contract and independent evaluation together amounted to £68,780. This covered project planning and design of dialogues, stimulus materials production and printing, venue and catering, facilitation of four events for an expected 40 participants, and analysis and reporting. DECC financial and staff resources initially allocated to the stakeholder events for 2015/6 financial year were reallocated to the public dialogues to ensure a higher number of participants (25 in each location rather than 20), and to ensure that 3KQ had adequate resources for attending and reporting on IOG meetings. In total a third of the delivery budget was allocated to achieving a comfortable facilitator ratio (3 facilitators and 3 and simultaneous note-takers in each location) with average sized tables of 8-9 participants.

In order to support the stakeholder engagement workshops which DECC hopes to still run in the summer, a small budget was also allocated for 3KQ to set up and clean up a stakeholder database in Excel. This will draw on 3KQ's knowledge of key stakeholders in the sector and provide DECC with a robust basis for choosing which stakeholders to invite according to transparent criteria.

All public participants were recruited under a separate contract with TNS managed directly by DECC's Consumer First team. The recruitment company covered all invitations and dissemination of information plus financial incentives provided on individual debit cards. The budget of £18,600 covered recruitment of 56 participants to ensure an attendance of 50. In the event there was very little drop out and 54 participants attended both Day 1 and Day 2. Recipients received £180 in two staged payments. There were no apparent problems for participants in accessing payments via debit cards.

9.2 Inputs in-kind

Inputs in-kind were a key element in the success of this project. DECC made substantial time inputs both for project management and as specialists for the dialogue events. We estimate total inputs at about 80 days, equivalent to about £40,000 (at an average daily rate of £500/day across all grades) or an additional 50% of the total financial budget for the process. Time inputs were focused on:

- DECC project management - Initially the project director was involved in preparing the business plan and the early procurement process and then a three person project management team was involved from December to March in managing contractors, convening the IOG, preparing and reviewing materials and arranging and attending the dialogue events. Total project management/direction inputs were estimated at about 65 days over a 4-5 month period – an average of about half a FTE or 3 days per week.

- DECC specialists - In addition 2-3 DECC specialists were present at each of the 4 dialogue events. Specialists also attended some IOG and project management meetings and were closely involved in preparing stimulus materials. Specialist inputs are estimated at a further 15 days.

An additional 36 days in-kind (equivalent to an estimated £18,000) were provided by specialists involved in the IOG, by RWM specialists attending dialogue events and by the Sciencewise DES as follows:

- IOG members – as indicated in the terms of reference IOG members, most members invested 5 days in the project attending IOG meetings, reviewing materials and the draft final report and attending dialogue events in Swindon and Manchester. We estimate their total time commitment at 20 days. Travel and subsistence expenses allowed academics or independent consultants from outside London to take part, and for IOG members to attend dialogue events.
- Other specialists and observers from RWM attended all four events accounting for more than 6 days of input in total.
- The Sciencewise Dialogue and Engagement specialist was actively engaged from scoping out of the project, procurement, attending IOG meetings, reviewing materials and reports, attending a dialogue event and hosting a final wash up meeting, estimated at 10 days in total.

The total cost of the project, including inputs in-kind, is estimated at £145k. All those interviewed considered that their individual time inputs were similar to what they had expected and commensurate with what they got out of the project. DECC policy makers considered the process *“Value for Money because the choice of technique fits the policy process perfectly”*.

9.3 Benefits

As noted in Section 8, it is too early to judge the actual policy impacts of the process and therefore the potential economic benefits of the process compared to its cost. However if - as the DECC team expects - the public involvement in open policy process results in more robust and workable policies during implementation by RWM the benefits could be considerable. Relative to the anticipated £12-14 billion cost of the whole siting and construction process the cost of the public dialogues is estimated at only 0.001%.

In the short term the materials and methodology for sharing learning on GDF produced for this process should be helpful to RWM during the public awareness raising stage amongst communities who might be interested in hosting a GDF. In the longer term, if the proposals for community representation, test of public support and community investment prove workable they could help to streamline the process and help communities expressing an early interest remain engaged unless they are ruled out on the basis of geological suitability.

If RWM is as a result able to work with a small number of communities who remain engaged because they recognise mutual long term benefits this could help to reduce the number of communities that RWM has to work with in parallel and could help to save tens of millions of pounds in community investment to communities who exercise a right to withdraw part way through the process.

Lessons:

- It is important to be very clear at the outset how much time and resource will be required to deliver a good public dialogue. DECC were fully aware that the short timeline and intense dialogue process would be resource intensive during set up and implementation and planned accordingly.

- A smaller than usual Oversight Group meant that total inputs in-kind (specialist and project management time) were minimised and all members remained engaged throughout. Paying travel expenses allowed individuals from outside London to participate.
- With more resources it would have been useful to either add an additional location (rural or brownfield) or reconvene some or all participants for a third session to test the policy proposals that DECC has developed on the basis of Days 1 and 2.

10. Credibility

This section evaluates whether the dialogue process was seen by the participants and policy audience and specialists as robust and sufficiently credible for the results to be used with confidence.

10.1 Participants

Participants found the extent of open policy making on some issues unusual but interesting. For them it was also useful to have a DECC presence and continuity in the team on both days, which allowed them to build relationships which put people at ease and created trust. As a result almost all participants reported that they felt confident that these events would help inform DECC in their open policy making about siting a GDF (32, 59% strongly agreed while 21, 39% tended to agree). Only one participant neither agreed nor disagreed. This was in stark contrast to the informal exploration of people's trust in Government making decisions about nuclear ("how much do you trust the Government to take the right decisions about nuclear waste", which had shifted very little between Day 1 and Day 2, although when these views were explored by the facilitators many said that they would trust DECC officials that they had met. This issue of the difference between trust in a political decision and trust in a process lead by known official was a key issue that policy makers and the IOG took from the process.

A similarly high percentage of participants reported that they were now more convinced of the value of public dialogue around these sorts of topics (32, 59.3% strongly agreed and 20, 37.0% tended to agree) and that they are more likely to get involved in these kinds of events in future.

10.2 Policy makers and specialists

As noted in Section 4, policy makers are pleased both with the timing within the open policy making process and the outcomes of events. The process clearly demonstrated that it is possible to get groups of 20-25 people without a particular starting point and bring them up to a general level of awareness where they can make useful inputs to policy making on GDF. All agreed that it would not have been possible to reach such a group or have the depth of discussions with them using other quantitative or qualitative approaches. DECC felt that this project is also a great exemplar of how a well-focused and run dialogue can be achieved quickly (in this case in less than four months) and without delaying a policy process. A view which seemed to be shared by many was of the "*sheer added value of having a really competent dialogue team*" (Policy).

All the specialists interviewed felt that the process had been credible and robust but several raised questions related to the stage within open policy making that public dialogue can be most useful. Several questioned whether to really understand the public's views might have required a greater level of detail and for DECC to have been further ahead in presenting clear options to choose between. Others wondered whether a step to consult again on more detailed options needs to be included so that participants can see the impact their contribution has made.

The factors which are seen as having helped to increase the credibility and robustness of the process were:

- A really carefully considered design which was appropriate to the nature and timing of the policy process;

- The rigour provided by Sciencewise principles including the requirement for an IOG and independent evaluator;
- Appointing really experienced contractors with a prior knowledge of the policy area. The role of 3KQ in designing and running a very considered, efficient and effective process was widely acknowledged by interviewees (see box below);
- The time and attention spent by IOG, Sciencewise and the contractors on agreeing credible criteria and methods to get the right mix of people in the right locations;
- Limiting the total number of participants at each location so that table groups were manageable and all could participate;
- Focus on a few key questions for each theme which allowed them to be explored in great detail;
- Having specialists deliver the historic and technical content (rather than the delivery contractors as in 2013) which gave confidence and increased trust amongst participants;
- Good working relationships between DECC, IOG, contractors and Sciencewise.

Views on the credibility and robustness of the process

- *“Has been a bit uncomfortable to have such a blank sheet but was a good time to do it” (Policy)*
- *“Scrutiny provided through: involvement of the IOG, Sciencewise DES and independent evaluator has been useful” (Policy)*
- *“Having the IOG was incredibly valuable – shows the process has been robust and we’ve constructively engaged” (Policy)*
- *“It’s been genuinely very valuable in open policy making – feeding in at a time when policy questions are genuinely open” (Policy)*
- *“A lot of trust in the room, people were not cagey and were not pitted against policy makers” (Policy)*
- *“Great to allow enough time for a real discursive dialogic approach around a few priority issues in each area – 20-30 minutes was enough for groups to come to some quite profound principles and examples of how things should be done, drawing on their own experience” (Policy)*
- *“Wasn’t initially sure how much discussion and debate the PD would deliver relative to traditional stakeholder consultation but this has really given us the chance to hear from not the usual suspects and be a bit more creative” (Policy)*
- *“Shows people can cope with complex technical input and use it to have really useful deliberative discussions, if carefully designed” (Observer)*
- *“A useful step but possibly not the full answer” (Observer)*
- *“Useful in raising awareness and starting to air the issues, but concerns about whether it was really able to get into the heart of the matter” (Specialist)*
- *“Very clear that it won’t be representative – but airing a diversity of opinions” (Observer)*
- *“Only concern whether it really got down to enough detail for DECC to really feel they know the public’s views and write very specific policy proposals. Could do online consultation if different choices are generated as long as can get at the reasons for making choices. (Specialist)*

The importance of and experienced delivery team

- *“Everyone – DECC, contractors, IOG, specialists – worked incredibly well together – would be good to maintain this dynamic going forward” (Observer)*
- *“DECC and 3KQ did a good job pulling this together in such a short period” (Specialist)*
- *“Very considered and approached the design on the basis of lessons brought from other processes” (Policy)*
- *“3KQ was one of a very few organisations that could do what was needed in the time” (Observer)*
- *“Really impressed how 3KQ grasped what we needed and developed plans and materials so quickly – gave a lot of confidence in the process” (Policy)*
- *“Project director was great – very considered and very strong convictions” (Policy)*

- *“Very impressed by 3KQ – not sure what frameworks they will use to analyse the information they have” (Observer)*
- *“Intellectual rigor, long knowledge of this sector and enormously high ethical standards” (Observer)*
- *“3KQ committed a lot of senior time in making this work in a very short timeframe – and focusing on surfacing the governing principles through the dialogues rather than minute detail”. (Policy)*
- *“Lots of admiration for how 3KQ pulled it together and were able to field two really high quality teams on the same Saturday” (Observer)*

Lessons:

- Having observed the quality of the discussions and the potential richness of data, a member of the IOG expressed an interest in using the transcripts of some sessions to provide a baseline on the public’s views on GDF which could be analysed using a framework taken from the academic literature and which may be useful for longer term analysis. DECC were also keen to use photos from the sessions for future materials and communications.
- It would be useful if future dialogue activities in this area are set-up to include the possibility for follow-up academic research and/or open sharing of data. This will require writing a specification (and allowing resources) for audio recording and transcriptions as part of the terms of reference, including guidance on standard data archiving according to ESRC protocols. Participant recruitment processes will also need to seek the necessary permissions for use of data and images.

11. Conclusions and lessons

11.1 Conclusions

This project was a great example of how a carefully framed, designed and delivered public dialogue process can add value to open policy making without delaying the policy process. The project maintained a tight focus and was completed within 4 months. This relied on an efficient procurement process, highly experienced delivery contractors with a knowledge of the policy area, good working relationships across the team and a clear understanding in the sponsoring department of the time they would need to commit to the process.

The dialogue events highlighted the importance of enabling the groups of the public to engage directly with the makers and implementers of policy and the need for those engagements to be well designed, thoughtful encounters, with fun intervals and a sense of authenticity to the proceedings that everyone can buy into.

11.2 Lessons

The evaluation process has highlighted a number of lessons for future deliberative dialogue processes including the importance of:

- **Openness of policy makers** to engaging with the public at an early stage of policy development, setting realistic expectations about what a public dialogue process can deliver and choosing to focus in on a few 'right' questions which will help unlock issues that policy makers are stuck on.
- **Clarity about resource requirements (including demands on departmental time) and the qualities, skills and experience needed.** Sponsors recognised that they needed to contract skilled dialogue contractors with experience of the policy area to design and deliver events which reflected lessons from past dialogue processes. They also accurately predicted the time inputs required to manage such an intensive process and planned accordingly.
- **Governance** – a small carefully chosen oversight group was able to provide all the necessary expertise and independence to guide the process and ensure it was robust. The framing of the policy questions meant that wider representation from NGOs would have added little in this case. A small oversight group could be convened quickly, was cost efficient (in terms of specialist and project management time and expenses) and remained fully engaged throughout.
- **Being able to draw on existing materials** allowed the dialogue events to be carried out within a short timeframe. It also freed up time for delivery contractors to focus on the style of learning materials, which helped people get to grips with the issues quickly and to be creative in developing stimulus materials and techniques to surface underlying principles and reasoning.
- **A sense of being 'part of a process'** clearly had benefits for participants in terms of their levels of engagement (with many expressing the desire to continue to be involved) and this contrasts significantly with approaches that prioritise 'educating' or information-led approaches.
- **Actively involving specialists** - in presenting learning sessions and answering wide ranging questions in an open manner. This reassured participants that the information was robust, that DECC 'owned' the policy and that they were listening to what came out. In this case a list of FAQs of potentially difficult questions was not required but could prove useful for stakeholder events.

- **Over-recruitment** – a 10% rate proved more than adequate (although recruiters would have liked a higher margin for error). Very high retention rates reflected a number of factors including engaging design, a short elapsed time between the two events, and back-loading of a relatively generous incentive payment (£180 for 2 days).
- **Sufficient resources for facilitation** - Good facilitator ratios (9 participants per facilitator) and continuity of teams between events resulted in an environment where participants were able to contribute and felt they had been heard. Simultaneous note taking allowed a draft dialogue report with rich use of quotes to be produced very quickly after the events.
- **Academic analysis of data.** It would be useful if future dialogue activities in this area are set-up to include the possibility for follow-up academic research and/or open sharing of data. This will require writing a specification (and allowing resources) for audio recording and transcriptions as part of the terms of reference, including guidance on standard data archiving according to ESRC protocols. Participant recruitment processes will also need to seek the necessary permissions for use of data and images.

11.3 Next steps

Resources and ministerial approvals allowing, it would be useful to:

- Undertake further public involvement by going back to some or all of the public participants to test DECC's policy options at further public dialogue events (reconvened meeting or online forums) or by inviting one or two participants to share their experience of taking part in the process at stakeholder events;
- Test whether policy recommendations are equally well received by urban, semi-rural and rural audiences;
- Revisit the assessment of policy impacts in six months' time by reviewing papers presented to CRWG and their responses, DECC policy proposals and how they are received at stakeholder events and the public consultation process as an addendum to this report or as part of DECC's Lessons Learnt review.

Annex A: Independent Oversight Group, Core management team and specialists

Independent Oversight Group	
Brian D Clark	Professor of Environmental Management and Planning at Aberdeen University
David Collier	White Ox Management Consultancy
Susan Molyneux-Hodgson	Sheffield University
Gerry Thomas	Imperial College
Core Management Group	
Jessica Ellis	Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
Angela Wicks	DECC
Charlotte Williams	DECC
Emma Owens (moved at end of Jan)	DECC
Tania Celani	DECC
Glenda Crockett	DECC
Bruce Cairns	DECC
Steve Robinson	Sciencewise
Alex Humphris-Bach	Sciencewise
Rhuari Bennett	3KQ
Jane Dalton	3KQ
James Martin-Jones (3KQ)	3KQ
Anna Macgillivray	Independent evaluator, Ursus Consulting
Specialists and observers	
Cherry Tweed	Radioactive Waste Management (RWM)
Andrew Craze	RWM
Roy Payne	RWM
Ivan Stone	RWM

Annex B: Participants responses to evaluation questionnaires


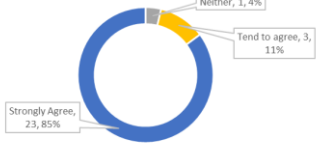
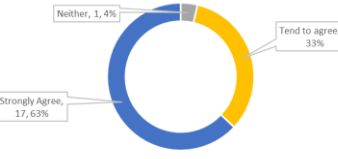
	Swindon 21 st Feb and 5 th March 2016 10:00-16:30 Venue: Jury's Inn 27 participants at both sessions 3 facilitators and 3 transcribers Over the 2 days specialists included: DECC (3), RWM (2) and IOG (2) Evaluator present on both days	Manchester 27 th Feb and 5 th March 2016 10:00-16:30 Venue: The Hive 27 participants at both sessions 3 facilitators and 3 transcribers Over the 2 says specialists included: DECC (3), RWM (2) and IOG (2) Evaluator present on both days												
Day 1: The information I received on nuclear and Geological Disposal seems fair and balanced		1. The information I received on nuclear and Geological Disposal seems fair and balanced <table border="1"> <caption>Survey Results for Statement 1</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>17</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>9</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to disagree</td> <td>1</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	17	63%	Tend to agree	9	33%	Tend to disagree	1	4%
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Comments		<i>"Various bodies represented and difference of opinion"</i> <i>"Even though it was voted as the best course of action GDF still feels there may be implications involved"</i> <i>"I learned some additional information"</i>												
2. I have been able to get all my questions answered		2. I have been able to get all my questions answered <table border="1"> <caption>Survey Results for Statement 2</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>17</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>9</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to disagree</td> <td>1</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	17	63%	Tend to agree	9	33%	Tend to disagree	1	4%
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Comments	<i>"Lots of questions were answered"</i>	<i>"Very informative and answers were given to a level of basic understanding"</i> <i>"I believe I will think of questions later but at least I can ask next week"</i> <i>"Most of them got answered but I feel we maybe should be addressing the cause not the symptoms"</i>												

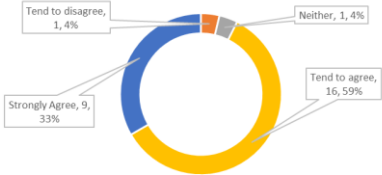
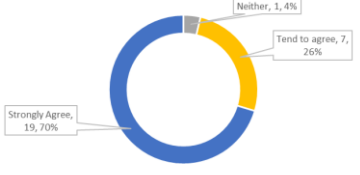
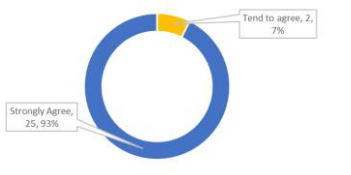
		<p><i>"Experts did their best to answer everything"</i> <i>"Yes my question answered on the graffiti wall"</i></p>										
3. I now feel well enough informed to fully contribute to the discussions		<p>3. I now feel well enough informed to fully contribute to the discussions</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Survey Results for Statement 3</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to disagree</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly Agree	48%	Tend to agree	48%	Tend to disagree	4%		
Response	Percentage											
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Tend to agree	48%											
Tend to disagree	4%											
Comments		<p><i>"[I now feel] well educated on topic and have basic knowledge"</i> <i>"Feel there are always lots of angles and views that are covered but there will be more that occur through the process"</i> <i>"It was good enough"</i> <i>"Very informative sessions"</i></p>										
4. I feel as though I have been able to have my say		<p>4. I feel as though I have been able to have my say</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Survey Results for Statement 4</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>19.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>22%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to disagree</td> <td>1.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neither</td> <td>1.4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly Agree	19.70%	Tend to agree	22%	Tend to disagree	1.4%	Neither	1.4%
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comments		<p><i>"Given reasonable time to speak"</i> <i>"Yes but it was a complicated topic"</i> <i>"Very interesting informative and friendly"</i> <i>"Informative, really well organised, good session"</i> <i>"Everyone was encouraged to speak"</i></p>										

<p>Day 2 1 I feel the recruitment process and advance details for the event were well-handled</p>	<p>1 I feel the recruitment process and advance details for the event were well-handled</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly disagree</td><td>1</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Tend to agree</td><td>3</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>23</td><td>85%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly disagree	1	4%	Tend to agree	3	11%	Strongly Agree	23	85%		<p>1 I feel the recruitment process and advance details for the event were well-handled</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>22</td><td>81%</td></tr> <tr><td>Tend to agree</td><td>5</td><td>19%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	22	81%	Tend to agree	5	19%							
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<p>5. I found the recap session this morning helpful in getting me back into the subject</p>	<p>5. I found the recap session this morning helpful in getting me back into the subject</p>		<p>5. I found the recap session this morning helpful in getting me back into the subject</p>	
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<p>comments</p>			<p><i>"Yes formulated appropriately"</i></p>	
<p>7. I found the information presented over the two days to be balanced and unbiased</p>	<p>7. I found the information presented over the two days to be balanced and unbiased</p>		<p>4. I feel as though I have been able to have my say</p>	
<p>comments</p>	<p><i>"A lot of info to take in and process"</i></p>	<p><i>"Very informative"</i></p>		
<p>8. I had enough time to discuss the issues over the two days</p>	<p>8. I had enough time to discuss the issues over the two days</p>		<p>8. I had enough time to discuss the issues over the two days</p>	
<p>comments</p>	<p><i>"Sessions were well managed"</i> <i>"Make shorter breaks, shorter days"</i></p>	<p><i>"Yes adequate space provided"</i></p>		

<p>9. The facilitation was independent, professional and effective</p>	<p>9. The facilitation was independent, professional and effective</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>23</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Tend to agree</td><td>4</td><td>15%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	23	85%	Tend to agree	4	15%	<p>9. The facilitation was independent, professional and effective</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>21</td><td>78%</td></tr> <tr><td>Tend to agree</td><td>6</td><td>22%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	21	78%	Tend to agree	6	22%				
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<p>comments</p>	<p><i>“Expert input was especially welcome”</i> <i>“Especially Bruce”</i></p>		<p><i>“They were specialists who brought understanding”</i></p>																					
<p>11. I feel confident that these events will help inform DECC in their open policy making about siting of a GDF</p>	<p>11. I feel confident that these events will help inform DECC in their open policy making about siting of a GDF</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>15</td><td>56%</td></tr> <tr><td>Tend to agree</td><td>12</td><td>44%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	15	56%	Tend to agree	12	44%	<p>11. I feel confident that these events will help inform DECC in their open policy making about siting of a GDF</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>17</td><td>63%</td></tr> <tr><td>Tend to agree</td><td>9</td><td>33%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neither</td><td>1</td><td>4%</td></tr> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	17	63%	Tend to agree	9	33%	Neither	1	4%	
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<p>comments</p>	<p><i>I felt we were listened to and our views taken seriously</i></p>		<p><i>“Yes, stressed to us”</i></p>																					

<p>12. I learned something new about nuclear energy, waste and how a GDF will be sited in future</p>	<p>12. I learned something new about nuclear energy, waste and how a GDF will be sited in future</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>21</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>3</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	21	78%	Tend to agree	3	11%		<p>12. I learned something new about nuclear energy, waste and how a GDF will be sited in future</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>23</td> <td>85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>3</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neither</td> <td>1</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	23	85%	Tend to agree	3	11%	Neither	1	4%			
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Tend to agree	3	11%																									
Neither	1	4%																									
<p>If so what?</p>	<p><i>“Learning that the waste is on top land at the moment”</i> <i>“What a GDF is and nuclear waste”</i> <i>“Safety concerns are paramount”</i> <i>“Health and safety issues; storage and disposal; the need for nuclear energy; how the GDF will be (illegible); how DECC will deal with the proposal”</i> <i>“What nuclear waste is and what needs to happen”</i> <i>“How to dispose; where to dispose; how long it takes to find a GDF”</i> <i>“That we have nuclear waste regardless of whether or not nuclear power continues to be used and it would be safer if stored below ground”</i></p>	<p><i>“It was made clear about the new nuclear energy waste and how a GDF will be sited in the future”</i> <i>“How important it is to become operational”</i> <i>“Yes, I had a greater understanding re nuclear waste and the mechanisms used for its safer storage”</i> <i>“How nuclear waste will be disposed of”</i> <i>“DECC [working with] communities”</i> <i>“It's not as dangerous as I previously thought”</i></p>																									
<p>13. I am more convinced of the value of public dialogue around these sorts of topics</p>	<p>13. I am more convinced of the value of public dialogue around these sorts of topics</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>35</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>11</td> <td>41%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neither</td> <td>1</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	35	55%	Tend to agree	11	41%	Neither	1	4%		<p>13. I am more convinced of the value of public dialogue around these sorts of topics</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>17</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tend to agree</td> <td>9</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neither</td> <td>1</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	Percentage	Strongly Agree	17	63%	Tend to agree	9	33%	Neither	1	4%
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<p>comments</p>	<p><i>“Interesting now the government listens”</i></p>	<p><i>“Very informative maybe it would be a good idea for government to consult communities more in the future”</i> <i>“The event was very informative and I feel that the involvement of various groups is the way forward”</i></p>																									

<p>14. I am more likely to get involved in these kinds of events in future</p>	<p>14. I am more likely to get involved in these kinds of events in future</p> 		<p>14. I am more likely to get involved in these kinds of events in future</p> 	
<p>Comments</p>			<p><i>“I would love to be involved in more market research like this”</i> <i>“This is my first market research, it was a good experience and I learnt a lot about decision making, team work and communication”</i></p>	
<p>15. Overall I am satisfied with the event I took part in</p>	<p>15. Overall I am satisfied with the event I took part in</p> 		<p>15. Overall I am satisfied with the event I took part in</p> 	
<p>Other Comments</p>	<p><i>“Good sessions! Thank you”</i> <i>“Felt the venue in a hotel and facilities enhanced the experience and combined with attitude of staff made us feel valued”</i> <i>“Very nice people”</i> <i>“Very informative and interesting”</i> <i>“As per board: would be helpful to research global awareness and existing info and views expressed on the internet which can then influence local opinion”</i></p>	<p><i>“Thanks for an enjoyable market research”</i> <i>“The whole experience was enjoyable and interesting and I feel I have made a contribution to an important matter”</i> <i>“I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has been great insight into an area that I knew little about. Thankyou”</i> <i>“Very engaging couple of days”</i> <i>“Enjoyable to be able to listen and voice on an area I had no prior knowledge of”</i> <i>“Very informative on a subject I knew nothing about”</i> <i>“Overall a great couple of days”</i> <i>“Found it very enjoyable and learnt quite a lot”</i> <i>“I really enjoyed the two days”</i></p>		

