

Living With Environmental Change

Strategic Advisory Group for Public Engagement

Terms of Reference

March 2011

Background

Living with Environmental Change aims to bring together researchers from across the different disciplines in the natural, engineering, economic, social, medical, cultural, arts, and humanities. It involves working with businesses, government bodies, non-governmental organisations and the public to understand the research challenges the social and economic implications of environmental change.

The partnership will provide the foresight, knowledge and the tools that are needed by people, government and business to make informed choices about the future. The research will help inform predictions and analysis of environmental change to aid in adaptation and resilience.

The Partners Board has agreed that in order for Living with Environmental Change to be successful, public engagement needs to be incorporated fully into the partnership.

Definition of Public Engagement for Living with Environmental Change

Public engagement can mean various forms of interaction with the public from one way communication to integrated dialogue and participation. For the purposes of this group, engagement has been defined as: a form of deliberative participatory engagement where the outcomes are used to inform decision-making.

Purpose of Public Engagement in Living with Environmental Change

Public engagement is an important part of the partnership. All six of the Challenges conduct research into living with environmental change and the public engagement strategy will go across the partnership, integrating dialogue into the research process, from upstreaming to dissemination.

The Strategic Advisory Group

The purpose of the Strategic Advisory Group is to:

- Advise the partners, the Partners Board, and the Directorate in the development of an engagement strategy for the partnership.
- Advise on and oversee the activities undertaken to achieve the strategic aims.
- The members and the Chair to champion Living with Environmental Change public engagement activities where appropriate.

Terms of Reference

The group will:

- Assist the Partners, the Partners Board, and the Directorate to develop an engagement strategy by providing guidance and ensuring the appropriate framework is set.
- Agree the strategy.
- Oversee the implementation of the strategy.
- Assist in developing activities to meet strategic needs.
- Advise the Partners Board regarding public engagement.
- Provide long-term management, evaluation and reflection of public engagement within the partnership.
- Other activities, such as attending engagement activities or dissemination events, can be allocated to members as agreed by the group.

Method of working

The group will:

- Meet approximately twice a year in London.
- Send a colleague to deputise if unable to attend the meeting.
- Help develop, finalise and agree an engagement strategy.
- Agree different activities to achieve strategic aims.
- Oversee the successful implementation of public engagement activities where appropriate.
- Review progress of the strategy and its activities.