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Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr

Head of Legal and Democratic Services Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democrataidd

To:

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Richard Dew, Brian Jones, Dafydd Meurig, Bob Parry, Greg Robbins, Sam Rowlands, Julian Thompson-Hill and Catrin Wager (+1 Vacancy from Flintshire County Council) CS/NG

4th June, 2021

Nicola Gittins 01352 702345 nicola.gittins@flintshire.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

A virtual webex meeting of the **NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held on **THURSDAY**, **10TH JUNE**, **2021** at **2.00 PM** to consider the following items.

Yours sincerely

Robert Robins
Democratic Services Manager

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
- 4 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** (Pages 3 8)

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5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

6 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (Pages 9 - 18)

For the Joint Committee to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.

7 **SERVICES UPDATE REPORT** (Pages 19 - 26)

To update Members on the Operational aspects of the Parc Adfer contract.

8 AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT (Pages 27 - 36)

To inform Members of the various workstreams that are in development in relation to Parc Adfer or close to the Parc Adfer site.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The reports contain details relating to the financial affairs of the 5 councils. Those details are commercially sensitive and the public interest in protecting that commercial position outweighs the public interest in revealing the information during the lifetime of the contract.

9 **COMMERCIAL ITEMS** (Pages 37 - 40)

To update Members on the commercial, legal and contractual aspects of the Parc Adfer contract.

10 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**











NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE JOINT COMMITTEE

Thursday 29th January 2021 at 9am – virtual meeting hosted via Webex video conferencing service

PRESENT:

Councillor Brian Jones (Vice Chair)
Councillor Greg Robbins (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Banks
Councillor Carolyn Thomas
Councillor Catrin Wager

Denbighshire County Council Conwy County Borough Council Flintshire County Council Flintshire County Council Gwynedd County Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Flintshire County Council

Colin Everett (Lead Chief Executive)
Gareth Owens (Chief Officer (Governance))
Tina Roberts (Project Accountant)
Gill Ainscow (Parc Adfer Administrative Officer)
Stephen O Jones (Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation))

Denbighshire County Council

Tara Dumas (Waste and Recycling Manager)

Conwy County Borough Council

Andrew Wilkinson (Head of Neighbourhood Services)

Gwynedd Council

Steffan Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal)

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Meirion Edwards (Chief Waste Management Officer)

North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project

Steffan Owen (Regional Contract Manager)

APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES











The minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee held on the 18th June 2020 were submitted for approval. They were accepted as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee held on the 18th June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arising were raised from the previous meeting.

5. SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

Steffan Owen (SO) went through the Services Update Report, and noted that waste deliveries continued to site with no significant or recurring issues, noting that this was, of course, during the Covid 19 pandemic. The plant is also performing very well in terms of its efficiency, emissions etc with emissions well below permitted levels.

SO outlined the increase in tonnages that the authorities had experienced in the summer of 2020, and whilst the tonnages had dropped into the winter, they were still at a higher level than previous years. He went through various graphs showing tonnages from the authorities during 2020.

Cllr Carolyn Thomas asked how the tonnages are affected by the population of the authorities, and Steffan replied that the tonnage levels from each authority did reflect their population size.

Cllr Brian Thomas asked about tonnages forecasts for 2021. SO noted that higher levels were anticipated in 2021. Tara Dumas and echoed the comment from SO from DCC's perspective.

Steffan Jones (SJ) from Gwynedd added that Gwynedd's tonnages reflected that they have a successful commercial element of their service, and that they have seen an increase in the domestic waste stream also. He also noted that with "staycations" etc likely to be significant in Gwynedd, higher levels are expected in 2021.

Stephen Jones (SOJ) commented from Flintshire that their levels will likely be steady with the increased levels in household waste, and he also noted that recycling levels had also increased, with recycling levels being 30% higher than previous years.

Andy Wilkinson (AW) echoed the comments from the other authorities from Conwy's perspective, and added that the largest increase was in the domestic waste stream, whiphabas4been a consistent increase since











May/June 2020. He noted that it is unknown how this develop in the future beyond 2021.

Cllr Glyn Banks commented on how well the first year has gone and asked about the recycling levels quoted in the report. SO responded that the recycling levels quoted in the report (22%) is the bottom ash and metals that come from the facility which is all recycled.

Cllr Catrin Wager asked if fluctuations in tonnages had caused issues on site. SO responded that that it hadn't from an authority perspective, but that it had meant that Parc Adfer have to manage and adjust their third party waste inputs accordingly.

SO noted that some of the authorities have successfully put claims in to Welsh Government's (WG) Covid hardship fund to cover costs of the increase in tonnages. Cllr Brian Jones thanked WG for the fund and that it was very welcome in the current climate.

SO informed Members of Parc Adfer's first annual maintenance shutdown that happened in September 2020, and that it was successfully carried out. Some waste was diverted for a few days which meant around 1,000 tonnes of authority waste was treated elsewhere. All the waste was diverted from landfill. The shutdown itself was carried out successfully and within timescales. SO also noted the shutdown for 2021 was scheduled for June.

Cllr Greg Robbins asked where was the waste diverted? He also noted a concern in relation to the higher tonnages expected in June and if that would affect the shutdown in 2021. SO answered that Flintshire's waste went to local waste operator called Thorncliffe's, and that other authorities' waste went to WSR in Widnes, with all the waste going on to the Runcorn energy from waste facility. SO noted that the increase in tonnages are not expected to cause any problems in relation to the shutdown, however it is possible that some diversion will be needed in the second week of the shutdown as a result. SO added that the key requirements from the authorities' perspective is that the waste is diverted from landfill and that Flintshire have a local drop off point for their collection vehicles.

Cllr Glyn Banks asked what happens to the third party waste, noting that the partnership's waste appears to make up around half of Parc Adfer's throughput. He also asked if we were ever compromised by commercial / third party waste? SO responded that no, the partnership is not compromised and that partnership waste has priority on site and that Parc Adfer adjust their third party tonnages as required.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the report be noted.











6. WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS REPORT

Steffan Owen went through the report as issued in the papers giving a background to the development of waste transfer stations in Conwy and Denbighshire. SO asked Conwy and Denbighshire to provide an update from their authorities in relation to the development of their waste transfer stations.

TD noted that Denbighshire (DCC) had planning permission for a single central site in Denbigh (they currently work from two sites), and is part of a wider development which has added to the timetable. She noted that they successfully received WG funding, and they anticipate the development to be complete in 2 years from now.

AW noted that Conwy now have a new preferred site identified as part of an existing part used industrial estate. They have approval in principal, and are now going through the design work. Start of construction is likely at least 12 months away, however they do now have certainty to continue.

SO highlighted that in early 2020 the Partnership put in a successful bid to WG for capital funding of the WTS's, which had contributed to both WTS above. He went on to note that it was acknowledged at the time that should the application be successful, it would mean that the £2.5m (£500k per authority) the five partner authorities allocated to fund the residual WTS's for Conwy and Denbighshire would be funded by WG and therefore not be required any longer and the partner authorities would retain their £500k for their own use.

SO noted that given the above, the capital funding is no longer required and the Joint Committee's approval is sought to allow the individual authorities to retain their own £500k share of the £2.5m for their own use.

CE noted that this is very good outcome and that thanks should be given to WG and everybody for their teamwork.

Cllr Carolyn Thomas echoed Colin's comments, and asked about the timescales with the developments and if that works with the grant. TD confirmed that there are no issues with timescales of the grant.

Cllr Glyn Banks also reiterated CE and Cllr Thomas's thanks to WG.

Cllr Greg Robbins thanked all involved in the project noting its success.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Joint Committee formally approve that the £2.5m capital funding for Conwy and papeighshire's WTS's is no longer required,











and the individual authorities (£500k per authority) are able to draw on their share for their own use with immediate effect.

7. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING (VERBAL)

SOJ that the purpose of the agenda item was to provide reassurance to the JC on two elements. Firstly the resilience of the contract management function and that it is important that JC have confidence in the lead authority's resilience, and secondly that the lead authority's recharge is appropriate.

SOJ gave an outline of the staffing at Flintshire that make up the Contract Management Team, including the Contract Manager, Project Accountant and Project Administrative Support. He also outlined other areas of support and resilience from Flintshire from the Streetscene department where cover resilience is being built into the process.

SOJ noted that the recharge level is naturally falling as we enter a "business as usual" state and staffing requirements fall.

SOJ also noted that the Regional Contract Manager's role can look at working in other areas of collaborative working as capacity becomes available. CE added that the Regional Contract Manager's role will positively support other areas of collaborative working.

Cllr Councillor Thomas and Cllr Greg Robbins thanked CE and SOJ for their work on this project.

Cllr Banks noted that it would helpful to show the reduction of tonnages into landfill.

RESOLVED:

(c) That the verbal update be noted.

8. **COMMERCIAL ITEMS REPORT (PART 2)**

Steffan Owen went through the report as issued in the papers, with updates on the progress on discussions with WTI in relation to two contractual matters. A discussion was held on progress on dialogue with WTI, the next steps and basis for reaching agreement with WTI.

RESOLVED:

- (d) That the report be noted.
- (e) Receive a written update on the outcome of discussions on both aspects.











9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion was had on potential areas of other collaborative working, including the idea of North Wales Regional waste authority. Whilst Officers felt that was some way off, other areas of regional working was to be welcomed, hence the discussion earlier in the agenda.

(The meeting ended at 10:30 am)









AGENDA ITEM NO: 6

REPORT TO: NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 10 JUNE 2021

REPORT BY: CORPORATE FINANCE MANAGER (FCC)

SUBJECT: ANNUAL RETURN YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To present to Members of the Joint Committee the Annual Return Year Ended 31st March 2021 for the North Wales Residual Waste Project (NWRWTP) partnership for their approval.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Joint Committee is classed as a smaller relevant body as its gross income and expenditure is less than £2.5m in the year of account. The type of accounts that a smaller body is required to produce is an Annual Return provided by the Wales Audit Office.
- 2.02 The Annual Return must be signed by the Responsible Finance Officer and approved by the Joint Committee before the deadline of 30th June. The audit commences after the Joint Committee has approved the Annual Return.
- 2.03 The audit must be completed and the Annual Return published by no later than 30th September. If no amendments are made to the Annual Return during the audit there will be no requirement for the Joint Committee to approve the amended Annual Return before publication.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Annual Return for 2020/21 is attached at Appendix 1.











4.00 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 Members are requested to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix A – Annual Return

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contact Officer: Dave Ledsham Telephone: 01352 704503

Email: dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk

Minor Joint Committees in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

LANGUAGE PREFERENCE

Please indicate how you would like us to communicate with you during the audit. Note that audit notices will be issued bilingually.



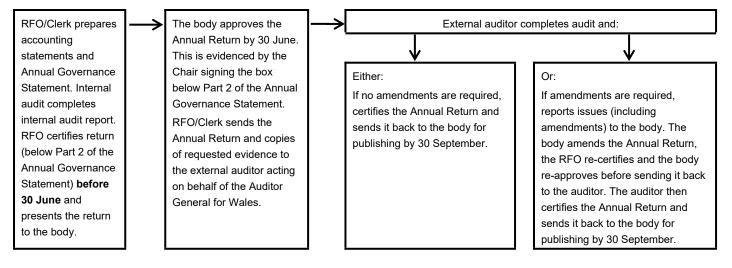




THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT PROCESS

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires local government bodies in Wales (including joint committees) to make up their accounts each year to 31 March and to have those accounts audited by the Auditor General for Wales. Regulation 14 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 states that smaller local government bodies i.e. those with annual income and expenditure below £2.5 million must prepare their accounts in accordance with proper practices.

For minor joint committees with income and expenditure below £2.5 million, proper practices are set out in the One Voice Wales/Society of Local Council Clerks publication, **Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide** (the Practitioners' Guide). The Practitioners' Guide requires that they prepare their accounts in the form of an Annual Return. This Annual Return meets the requirements of the Practitioners' Guide. The accounts and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.



Please read the guidance on completing this Annual Return and complete all sections highlighted pink.

APPROVING THE ANNUAL RETURN

The Committee must approve the Annual Return BEFORE the accounts and supporting documents are made available for public inspection under section 30 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

If it is unable to complete the approval process by 30 June 2021 or publish the audited return by 30 September, the Committee must publish notices as required by the Regulations.

The Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report is to be completed by the auditor acting on behalf of the Auditor General. It MUST NOT be completed by the Clerk/RFO, the Chair or the internal auditor.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the body for publication and display of the accounting statements, Annual Governance Statement and the Auditor General for Wales' certificate and report.

Accounting statements 2020-21 for:

Name of body:

NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE JOINT COMMITTEE

		Year	ending	Notes and guidance for compilers
		31 March 2020 (£)	31 March 2021 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.
St	atement of inco	me and expen	diture/receipts	and payments
1.	Balances brought forward	0	0	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2.	(+) Income from local taxation/levy	0	0	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3.	(+) Total other receipts	2,557	920	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4.	(-) Staff costs	0	0	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.
5.	(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6.	(-) Total other payments	-2557	-920	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7.	(=) Balances carried forward	0	0	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal $(1+2+3) - (4+5+6)$.
St	atement of bala	nces		
8.	(+) Debtors	1,991	1,000	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body.
9.	(+) Total cash and investments	0	0	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10.	(-) Creditors	-1,991	1,000	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11.	(=) Balances carried forward	0	0	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12.	Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13.	Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

		Agre	eed?	'YES' means that the	PG Ref
		Yes	No*	Council/Board/Committee:	
1.	 We have put in place arrangements for: effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	©	C	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2.	We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	©	E	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3.	We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	©	C	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4.	We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	©	E	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5.	We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	©	E	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6.	We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	©	E	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7.	We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	©	C	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8.	We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	c	6	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23

^{*} Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

Total % Share of				
	%		enditure	
Anglesey	13.43%	£	123.53	
Conwy	18.28%	£	168.19	
Denbighshire	15.07%	£	138.63	
Flintshire	30.12%	£	277.10	
Gwynedd	23.10%	£	212.55	
	100.00%	£	920.00	

^{*} Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Committee approval and certification

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Committee under minute reference:				
payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2021.	Minute ref:				
RFO signature:	Chair of meeting signature:				
Name:	Name: GARY FERGUSON				
Date:	Date: 03/06/2021				

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of:

Auditor General's report	
Audit opinion	
[Except for the matters reported below]* On the basis of my review, in my opinion no mat cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Re • has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices; • that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met; • is not consistent with the Committee's governance arrangements; and • that the Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure econuse of resources.	eturn:
Other matters arising and recommendations I draw the Committee's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do be addressed by the body. / There are no further matters or recommendations that I wish	
External auditor's name:	
External auditor's signature:	Date:

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

^{*} Delete as appropriate.

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body:

NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE JOINT COMMITTEE

The Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Committee.

			Agreed?			Outline of work undertaken as part of	
		Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)	
1.	Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	0				Insert text	
2.	Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	O	E		C	Insert text	
3.	The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	O		C	E	Insert text	
4.	The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	C	C	©	E	Insert text	
5.	Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	©	C		C	Insert text	
6.	Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			o		Insert text	
7.	Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	©	C	•	C	Insert text – no salaries paid	
8.	Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.			C	E	Insert text	

		Ą	greed?		Outline of work undertaken as part of
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	©	C	0		Insert text
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	©	C	С	C	Insert text

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

		Ą	greed?		Outline of work undertaken as part of
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
11. Insert risk area	6	C	c		Insert text
12. Insert risk area	C	C	c		Insert text
13. Insert risk area	С		o	D	Insert text

^{*} If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

During 2020/21 NWRW did not have its own separate book of accounts, bank account etc as they were part of the Flintshire Financial systems. During 2020/21 Internal Audit reviewed the General Ledger and Sundry Creditors. NWRW Risk Register was not covered. The Annual Internal Audit report is formed based on the overall work completed during 2020/21 which will be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on the 2nd June 2021.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Committee's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Lisa Brownbill

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: Please accept my covering email as my electronic signature

Date: 02.06.2021

^{**} If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

Guidance notes on completing the Annual Return

- 1. You must apply proper practices when preparing this Annual Return. Proper practices are set out in the Practitioners' Guide.
- 2. Make sure that the Annual Return is fully completed ie, no empty red boxes. Please avoid making any amendments to the completed return. If this is unavoidable, cross out the incorrect entries, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of the body, properly initialled and an explanation for them is provided to the external auditor. Please do not use correction fluid. Annual returns that are incomplete or contain unapproved and/or unexplained amendments or correction fluid will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs. Ask your auditor for an electronic copy of the form if required.
- **3.** Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps the Chair or a member, to review your Annual Return for completeness before sending the original form to the auditor.
- 4. Make sure that your accounting statements add up, that the balance carried forward from the previous year (line 7 of 2020) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (line 1 of 2021). Explain any differences between the 2020 figures on this Annual Return and the amounts recorded in last year's Annual Return.
- **5.** Explain fully any significant variances in the accounting statements. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a detailed analysis to support your explanation and be specific about the values of individual elements making up the variances.
- 6. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation you send to your auditor with the Annual Return covers all your bank accounts and cash balances. If there are no reconciling items, please state this and provide evidence of the bank balances. The auditor should also be able to agree your bank reconciliation to line 9 in the accounting statements. More help on bank reconciliations is available in the Practitioners' Guide.
- 7. You must send to the external auditor, information to support the assertions made in the Annual Governance Statement. Your auditor will tell you what information you need to provide. Please read the audit notice carefully to ensure you include all the information the auditor has asked for. You should send copies of the original records to the external auditor and not the original documents themselves.
- **8.** Please do not send the auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful.
- **9.** If the auditor has to review unsolicited information, repeat a request for information, receives an incomplete bank reconciliation or explanation of variances or receives original documents that must be returned, the auditor will incur additional costs for which they are entitled to charge additional fees.
- **10.** Please deal with all correspondence with the external auditor promptly. This will help you to meet your statutory obligations and will minimise the cost of the audit.
- 11. Please note that if completing the electronic form, you must print the form for it to be certified by the RFO and signed by the Chair before it is sent to the auditor.

Completion	checklist – 'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements	Do	ne?
Initial subm	ission to the external auditor	Yes	No
Accounts	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year?		
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2021 agree to Line 9?		
Approval	Has the RFO certified the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement (Regulation 15 (1)) no later than 30 June 2021?		
	Has the body approved the accounting statements before 30 June 2021 and has Section 3 been signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which approval was given?		
All sections	Have all pink boxes in the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement been completed and explanations provided where needed?		
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.		

If accounts	are amended after receipt of the Auditor General's report on matters arising	Yes	No
Accounts	Have the amended accounting statements been approved and Section 3 re-signed and re-dated as evidence of the Committee's approval of the amendments before re-submission to the auditor?		











AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

REPORT TO: <u>NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE</u>

DATE: <u>10th JUNE 2021</u>

REPORT BY: CONTRACT MANAGER

SUBJECT: <u>SERVICES UPDATE REPORT</u>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. To update the Joint Committee on progress on the operational aspects at Parc Adfer.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Parc Adfer has been receiving waste from the partner authorities since late August 2019 and commenced full services in late December 2019. Services at Parc Adfer have continued uninterrupted throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 2.2. This report provides a summary of the operational performance of Services at Parc Adfer for the Services period.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

Operations

- 3.1. Whilst Covid has understandably placed pressure on Parc Adfer, the protocols and processes put in place on site have ensured that the site has remained fully operational throughout the Covid pandemic to treat partner authority waste. Some limited site visits have now restarted on site (key meetings etc), with additional measures in place for those meetings.
- 3.2. As was reported to the Joint Committee at the last meeting in January 2021, waste deliveries have continued to site with no significant or recurring issues. The Partner Authorities delivering circa 700 vehicles per month (around 175 per week) to Parc Adfer, with the majority of the tonnage coming in via Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's), along with Flintshire's Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV's) delivering to the site.
- 3.3. The plant is also performing very well in terms of its efficiency, emissions etc with emissions well below permitted levels (see paras 3.9 3.11 below for further detail).











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Tonnage throughput and the impact of Covid-19

- 3.4. It was reported at the last Joint Committee meeting in January 2021 that tonnages from the Partner Authorities had increased during 2020 after an initial decrease in April and May 2020. That increase in tonnages has continued into spring 2021 with levels for January to April 2021 being higher than the comparative months in 2020. Even allowing the initial dip in tonnages in April / May 2020 due to the first national "lockdown", 2021 tonnages are still higher.
- 3.5. With travelling abroad likely to be more difficult during the summer of 2021 and therefore the likelihood of people taking breaks and holidays in North Wales as well as residents staying locally, it anticipated that the pattern of increased tonnages during the summer months is anticipated for summer 2021, with possible a slightly higher level than 2020.
- 3.6. Tables showing the comparative monthly tonnage throughput into Parc Adfer for January to April 2020 and the same months in 2021 are included in Appendix 2 below.

Annual Maintenance Shutdown

- 3.7. All plants such as Parc Adfer require an annual maintenance shutdown to ensure the safety, efficiency and longevity of the plant. This process involves shutting down the plant's waste processing for a period of two working weeks whilst the essential maintenance works and safety checks take place. Parc Adfer's first such shutdown successfully took place in September 2020.
- 3.8. Parc Adfer's 2021 Annual Maintenance shutdown will be taking place in June 2021. Authority waste will continue to be delivered to Parc Adfer during the shutdown with no diversions to other sites planned, however a Contingency Plans are in place in the event that diversions are required. The shutdown is also being utilised by the Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor, CNIM, to finalise all minor items on the "snagging" list from the construction.

Emissions Monitoring

- 3.9. Monitoring of emissions from any Energy from Waste facility is a critical part of its operation and compliance with the relevant environmental permit, as issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in Wales. There are stringent regulations in place for the monitoring and the levels of all emissions which plant operators must comply with.
- 3.10. Whilst NRW are the regulatory body for Parc Adfer, part of the commitment made as part of the Parc Adfer contract was to specifically report on the emissions of small particulate emissions (known as PM2.5) to Members of Flintshire County Council, as the host authority for the site.
- 3.11.As Parc Adfer has now been in full operation for circa 18 months, specific monitoring of PM2.5 emissions has taken place for a long enough period for a report to be given to Members of Flintshire County Council as per the commitment noted above. A report is therefore currently being put together by specialist consultants, and will be reported on as soon as it is completed. The report will also be shared with this Joint Committee.

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Other operational matters

- 3.12. As noted in 3.3 above, waste deliveries have continued to site with no significant or recurring or recurring issues, with the site performing within its required parameters. Turnaround times of vehicles on site have been well below contractual limits throughout the period.
- 3.13. In January 2021 circa 900 tonnes of partnership waste need to be diverted to other Energy from Waste facilities for a period of 3 days. This was due to an unexpected breakdown of the boiler. No waste was taken to landfill during that period, and no other breakdowns have occurred since then.
- 3.14. The Partnership have worked constructively with Parc Adfer to resolve small day to day issues that inevitably occur during the operation of a plant such as Parc Adfer including waste acceptance criteria, vehicle entry to site, staffing etc, with the constructive approach ensuring the continuation of the safe treatment of partner authority waste at Parc Adfer.

Recycling and waste diversion performance

3.15. Parc Adfer contributes to the Partner Authorities' recycling and landfill diversion figures through the recycling Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA), which includes metals. For the 2020/21 year the overall recycling levels was 21.7%, which is entirely in line with expectations.

Operational Summary

3.16. In summary, operations and performance at Parc Adfer have continued to do well, despite the on-going Covid pandemic. There have been no disruptions to Partner Authority deliveries, low overall turnaround times with minimal delays to deliveries, emission levels have been well below permitted levels and other performance measures have been good. The above has all been achieved whilst in the midst of the on-going Covid 19 pandemic.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. The Joint Committee is asked to:-
 - Note the content of the report.
- 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
- 5.1. N/A
- 6. ANTI-POVERTY IMPACT N/A

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7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The environmental impact of the Parc Adfer facility has previously been reported to the Joint Committee.

- 8. EQUALITIES IMPACT N/A
- 9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS
- 9.1. As described in the body of this report
- **10. CONSULTATION REQUIRED**None.
- 11. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN
- 11.1. As outlined in the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

Background Documents:

None

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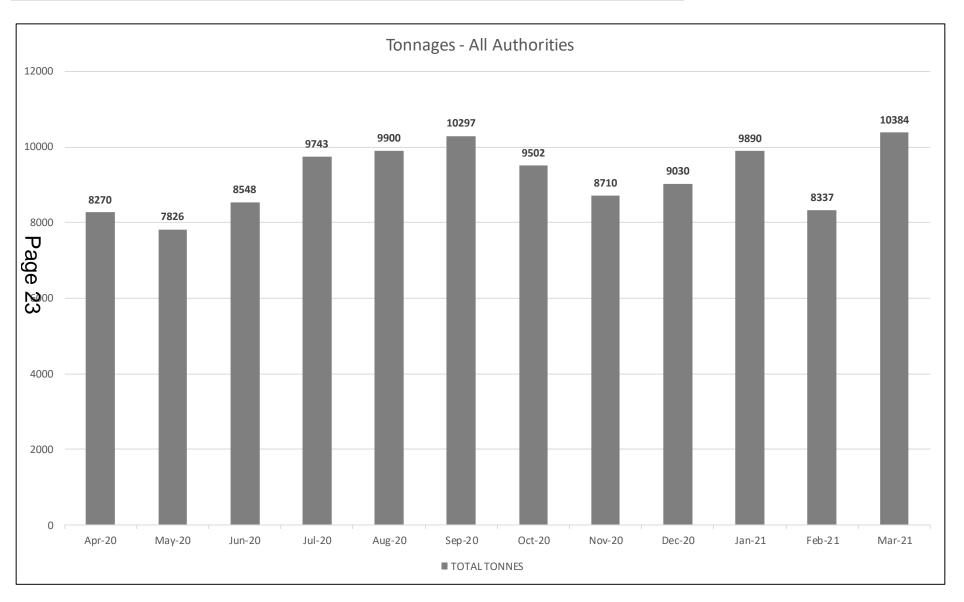








Appendix 2 – NWRWTP Partnership Tonnage inputs into Parc Adfer – full year 2020/2021



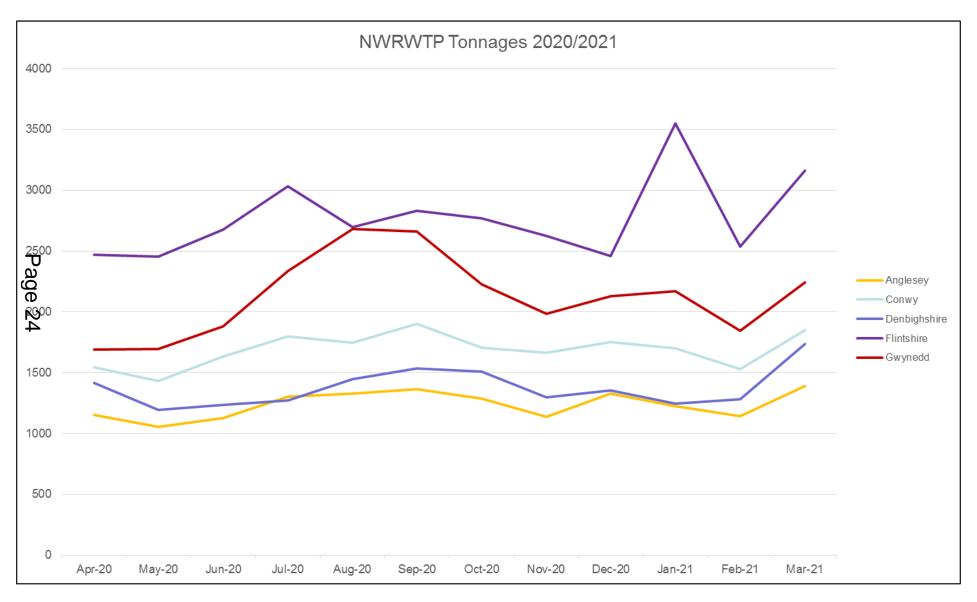














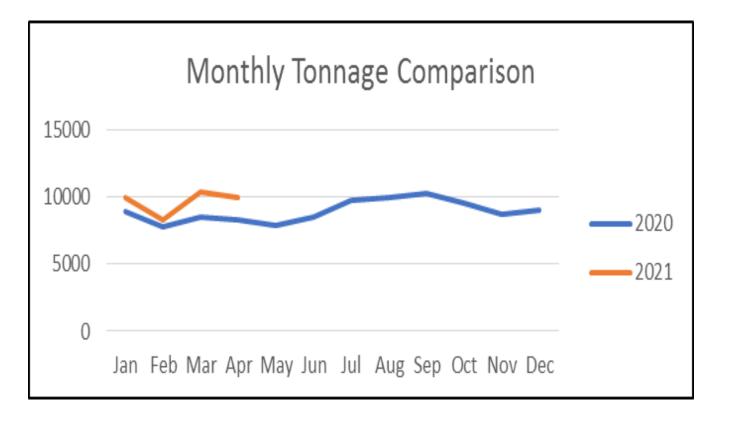








January - April 2020 and January - April 2021 Comparison















AGENDA ITEM NO: 8

REPORT TO: <u>NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE</u>

DATE: <u>10th JUNE 2021</u>

REPORT BY: <u>CONTRACT MANAGER</u>

SUBJECT: AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. To provide the Joint Committee with a summary on progress on the various areas of development related to the Parc Adfer facility.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. There are several areas of development related to Parc Adfer where work is currently on going, which are summarised in this report.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

Utilisation of Heat from Parc Adfer

- 3.1. Energy from Waste facilities such as Parc Adfer produce electricity which is exported to the National Grid. They also produce heat as a by-product of the process (in the form of steam / hot water), which, under the right circumstances, can be utilised to heat nearby buildings. Facilities that provide this heat are often referred to as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facilities. When such systems can be put in place, they can increase the efficiency of the plants, as well as providing low carbon energy for the nearby heat customers and therefore, in turn, provide environmental and some potential economic benefits.
- 3.2. There are, however, many challenges for the successful implementation of such schemes, both in technical / practical terms and also in commercial / financial terms and as a result they have historically been very difficult to implement in the UK.
- 3.3. Both Parc Adfer's operators, Enfinum (formerly Wheelabrator Technologies Inc (WTI)) and the Partnership have been supportive of investigating the opportunities of utilising the heat from Parc Adfer, and have been working in partnership on the issue. The Partnership commissioned specialist advisors to investigate the possibility of the use of heat during the procurement process of the Parc Adfer contract.











- 3.4. Since Parc Adfer became operational, Flintshire County Council, as lead authority, were successful in securing funding from the Heat Network Distribution Unit (HNDU) of the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The purpose of the funding was to secure specialist consultants to investigate the possibility of the use of heat from Parc Adfer (taking into account the findings of the historical report referred to above).
- 3.5. The procurement process for the appointment of the advisors will start in June 2021, with the work to begin later in the summer of 2021. Enfinium have also committed to not only work with the consultants but also providing internal resources to the project.
- 3.6. Whilst there are significant challenges in relation to developing a successful heat network, it is clear that the drive and commitment is present with all parties to give the project its best chance of success.

<u>Developments with Deeside Industrial Park – Deeside Parkway Rail Station and Deeside Hydrogen Hub</u>

- 3.7. The Welsh Government (WG) are in the process of developing a new railway station in Deeside Industrial Park on the Wrexham Bidston rail line. The new station would enable employees to get to the Deeside Industrial Park by train and at the same time provide easy access from the network of dual carriageways to park and ride facilities for rail services to Birkenhead, Liverpool, Wrexham and beyond.
- 3.8. The location of the site is adjacent to the Parc Adfer site just to the North, and team behind it have started discussions with Enfinum in relation to the development. Enfinum have stated their willingness to work proactively with the developers given its close proximity to the Parc Adfer site.
- 3.9. Another development in Deeside Industrial Park is a project for the development of a hydrogen hub. This project is part of the work of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and using funds from the Growth Deal to drive the project forward.
- 3.10. As with the Deeside Parkway rail station, Enfinium have been engaged by the project's leaders, and have again stated their willingness to work proactively with the developers, including any potential role Parc Adfer may be able to play as part of the Hydrogen Hub.

Environmental Improvements at Parc Adfer

3.11. As noted above, Enfinium has made clear their commitment to improving the efficiency and environmental performance of all their UK Energy from Waste facilities, including Parc Adfer. As well as working positively on all the above projects, they have stated that they are investing in the resources to achieve those aims, and are developing medium and longer term plans. New and innovative technologies and developments are being considered such as carbon capture.

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Visitor Centre and Educational Programme

- 3.12. Joint Committee Members will be aware that the creation of a fully interactive, modern and innovative Visitor Centre was part of the development of the Parc Adfer site. Whilst the Visitor Centre was completed as part of the build in December 2019, it has been unable to be utilised as intended due to the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020.
- 3.13. The Contract Manager has started planning the development of a range of educational materials for the Visitor Centre and planning for the re-opening of the visitor centre when restrictions allow. This will mean working with various stakeholders including the Education Department of Flintshire County Council, the partner authorities, Enfinium and Parc Adfer itself as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund

- 3.14. As part of the procurement process of the Parc Adfer project it was agreed that a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) would be set up. It is not unusual for community benefit schemes to be introduced in conjunction with large highprofile developments.
- 3.15. The Fund was approved by this Joint Committee and all five partner authorities during the approval of WTI as the Preferred Bidder in early 2014, with the purpose of supporting environmentally beneficial projects in the locality of the site in Flintshire.
- 3.16. Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as the CBF was in the late stage of development, it was decided in late summer 2020 to utilise the CBF funds for a Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund (CRF). It was launched in late 2020.
- 3.17. The Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund is a short term interim fund to help local organisations support the community though the challenges faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Fund will run until autumn 2021, when the main, long term Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund will become live.
- 3.18. Organisations that can apply must all be based or serve residents/communities within the Deeside Partnership Area (close to the Parc Adfer site). Groups must also be not for profit groups, community or voluntary organisations, community and social enterprises (e.g. co-operatives, development trusts); or local charities based within the defined Deeside Partnership Area
- 3.19. There are seven main activities that the Parc Adfer CRF can support, which are outlined below:-
 - 1. Co-fund minor building works for the safe re-opening of community buildings;
 - Co-fund equipment purchase for the safe-reopening of community building and services;
 - 3. Co-fund community activities to support vulnerable groups;
 - 4. Support the development costs of a new community organisation;
 - 5. Support volunteering activities which will aid community recovery;











- 6. Co-fund local environmental schemes which promote public access to and use of the open space for health and well-being;
- 7. Compensate for the loss of income during the lockdown period

A table summarising the projects funded by the CRF is provided in Appendix 3 below.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. The Joint Committee is asked to:-
 - 1. Note the content of the report.
 - 2. Provide support if necessary for the developments outlined above.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. As outlined within this report.

6. ANTI-POVERTY IMPACT

N/A

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The environmental impact of the Parc Adfer facility has previously been reported to the Joint Committee.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

N/A

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. As described in the body of this report

10. CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None.

11. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.1. As outlined in the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

Background Documents:

None

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Appendix 3 – summary of projects funded by the Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund

Applicant	Type of organisation	Project Title	Summary of project / use of funds	Grant Amount
Ysgol Bryn Deva - Foyle Library Scheme	School	Foundation Phase Playground Development	Purchase of Galleon ship for school playground to support outdoor learning	£ 10,000
Enbarr Foundation CIC age 0 32	Company Limited by Share or Guarantee	Beacon of Hope	Re-establish the John Summers Steel works historic Victorian gardens & surrounding site into a sustainable wild meadow, gardens, wetlands and woodland. Key aspects: • Soak away & restore pathways. • drinking water fountains • equipment for clearing Invasive species • Biodiversity Equipment – Beehives, Rainwater Butts, animal Habitats and Boxes, Plants and Seeds and new trees	£ 6,961.84
Ysgol Tŷ Ffynnon	"Other - Playgroup within school hall being established"	Tŷ Ffynnon Playgroup	Purchase of age appropriate resources for two year old children, both indoor and outdoor: Storage facilities eg. Shed & cupboards. Wipe clean cushioned seating that can be used indoor & outdoor. Work tables and seats at appropriate age and height. Trikes and bikes for outdoor use. Exploration resources indoors eg. Small world, Duplo, jigsaws and water etc.	£ 4,997.90













Queensferry War Memorial Institute	Registered Charity	N/A	Allow the Institute to continue operating at its present level - provide a financial cushion enabling the Institute to continue providing a venue for community use. To offset the fixed costs of running the building in these times of reduced income. Notably the building insurance and liability cover.	£ 1,079
North East Wales Care & Repair Ltd Page 33	Company Limited by Share or Guarantee - "Charitable Community Benefit Society"	A Place for You	The wider aim is to develop the 35-acre site, including sports fields and the adjoining Dee Park and woodland to provide a community hub for Deeside that C&R call 'A Place For You'. The ambition is to provide an exemplar community health and wellbeing and education location with accessible activities for all on our new 35-acre site. The site is located on the River Dee coastal path. C&R want to develop an education package that engages with local schools and sports groups. They have indicated the need to create an online presence with functionality that will allow us to educate, engage, inform and involve a wide range of people that includes schools, community groups and residents of Flintshire about the regeneration the site and increasing function of a 'A Place for You'.	£ 6,750
Deeside Community Trust	Registered Charity	Green Space Hub	Purchase of 5m octagonal outdoor gazebo / shelter, ramp and handrail that will become a permanent part of the land.	£ 7,700
Connah's Quay Town FC	Other - "grass roots football club"	Dock Road Project - Barriers	Pitch barrier installation to meet football governing body's criteria	£ 2,025













Can Cook/Well Fed	Company Limited by Share or Guarantee - "also sits within a groups structure that has a charitable status"	Well-Fed at Home Meal Box Service	Delivered box meals to vulnerable (elderley and school children inc pre school) - 100% of grant will be used for food. Other costs will be met by CC/WF	£ 10,000
Groundwork North Wales GO O O O	Registered Charity	Love your Space	Provide support with gardening tasks to vulnerable people in the Deeside area. Beneficiaries are likely to mainly be people who are older or have disabilities/health conditions, including those on low incomes. Tasks which we will support with could include grass cutting, trimming back overgrown shrubs, weeding, and general tidying/simple repairs. This project will take place over May-August 2021 so that people can enjoy their gardens over the summer. The beneficiaries will be people who could not otherwise afford gardening services, cannot maintain their gardens themselves due to age or health reasons, and/or have no family or friends who can help. We will use our links with housing associations and other local partners to identify and take referrals of clients who need support	£ 5,000













Cambrian Aquatics	Company Limited by Guarantee	More Changing Rooms	Cambrian Aquatics Ltd requires more changing room to improve social distancing and to enable more customers to use the centre following easing of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. After the previous lockdown they reopened but were only able to allow 15 customers through their one-way system for each session. They are hoping with the extra changing rooms they can slowly increase the number of customers back into the centre safety.	£5,896.80
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Agenda Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted - Not for Publication

