



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)	Denbighshire County Council
Councillor Greg Robbins (Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council
Councillor Glyn Banks	Flintshire County Council
Councillor Carolyn Thomas	Flintshire County Council
Councillor Catrin Wager	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)

1. 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, which has been 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 Thornccliffe'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 Denbighshire'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)

DRAFT