



**REPORT TO: NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**

**REPORT BY: CONTRACT MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: VISITOR CENTRE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME REPORT**

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. To provide the Joint Committee with an update on progress on and plans for the Parc Adfer visitor centre and accompanying education programme.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. A key stipulation of the development of Parc Adfer was to have a Visitor Centre on site, that would be able to take visits from groups and communities across the Partner Authorities. It was also planned that it would need to be able to sit within the wider education programmes of the partner authorities and would therefore need an education initiative that would work with schools to support visits to the site.
- 2.2. A key part of the Visitor Centre and accompanying education programme as outlined in 2.1 above was the allocation of £30k - £50k per year of the Community Benefit Fund (as outlined in agenda item 6) towards the operation of and access to the Visitor Centre for schools and groups across the five partner authorities. This includes the development of educational materials etc, sessional workers for student / school groups and subsidised school/college transport to the facility for the partner councils.
- 2.3. The Partner Authorities were consulted during the development the Visitor Centre, and it was completed at the end of 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that the development of the education programme and visits to site have not commenced, however work has now begun, which is outlined in this report.

## **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

### Visitor Centre Facility

- 3.1. The Visitor Centre at Parc Adfer consists of 4 rooms. The first room is a reception room. This is meant to welcome visitors and provide a place to wait whilst they're welcomed to site by their host. The room's decoration mimics the look of the waste



- bunker, including a miniature crane on the ceiling. It also has a large screen to show various footage, including time-lapse video of the construction.
- 3.2. Once visitors are leave the reception room, they are taken to a the main, multi-function room. This can be set up with desks, conference style or whatever the requirement of the group is. There is also a large screen to show the site safety video.
  - 3.3. The main part of the visitor experience at Parc Adfer is the Interactive Room. This room has a number of interactive features that help educate and demonstrate Energy from Waste facilities like Parc Adfer's place within the waste hierarchy, and then takes visitors through the site's actual waste treatment, electricity generation, air quality control and ash recycling processes. A series of photos is provided in Appendix 4 below.
  - 3.4. Lastly, there is a viewing gallery where visitors can see the site's control room, and there is an interactive model of the site, which lights up when a lever is pulled to demonstrate the site generating electricity.

### Next Steps and Timetable

#### Procurement of Education Programme

- 3.5. Work has commenced on the procurement documentation for the education programme, which will include the following:-
  - A comprehensive education programme that not only outlines Parc Adfer itself and Energy from Waste, but where that sits within the waste hierarchy;
  - Educational materials to support site visits, and to support schools across the Partnership if they are unable to visit the site;
  - On line content to support the education programme (a 5 minute site visit video has been produced, and a video showing the Visitor Centre's Interactive room is currently being developed – both of these will be available to the Partner Authorities when complete);

#### Staffing to take site visits

- 3.6. As well as the above procurement, another aspect that is being considered is how to support site visits. This will require staff with specialist training that can lead groups and support teachers on visits. Part of the work of the Regional Contract Manager is now doing is liaising with the both the Streetscene and Education Departments of the Lead Authority on how best to meet that need. Key issues to consider are:-
  - Flexibility – as the use of the Visitor Centre is unknown at present and will hopefully grow over time, it is not known exactly what the staffing requirement is. It will therefore need to be flexible – either through an external “call off” contract, or met internally within the Lead Authority or other Partner Authorities' with existing staff that are suitably trained.
  - Being able to take visits through the medium of Welsh will be critical;



- Flintshire, as Lead Authority, will manage the Visitor Centre visits through a shared calendar with Enfinium – schools will be able to contact direct to book their visits.

Subsidising school travel costs

3.7. As noted in 2.2 above, part of the fund that has been set aside for the Visitor Centre and education programme is to be allocated to subsidise school/college transport to the facility for the partner authorities. The details of the subsidy will be developed as part of the development of the work outlined in 3.6 above in relation to hosting visits.

Timetable

3.8. An outline timetable for the above work is provided below:-

When	Action
March 2022	Start Procurement of Education Programme (materials, on line content etc)
April 2022	Finalise arrangements for meeting staffing needs for visits
May 2022	Open the Visitor Centre for early, simple, site visits (likely to be non school groups initially)
End May 2022	Award contract for development of materials
May 2022	Launch school visit subsidy scheme with Partner Authorities,
June – September 2022	Development of educational materials, on line content, visits etc, and start accepting bookings for school visits from September 2022
September 2022	School visits to commence at Parc Adfer

**4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1. The Joint Committee is asked to:-
1. Note the content of the report.

**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**

The Project Board will be consulted at all key stages of the programme.

**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 4 – Visitor Centre





# NWRWTP

North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project





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