



NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE JOINT COMMITTEE

Thursday 10th June 2021 at 2pm – 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 Catrin Wager	Gwynedd Council
Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill	Denbighshire 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)
Katie Wilby (Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation))

Denbighshire County Council

Alan Roberts (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

Meirion Edwards noted that Councillor Richard Dew was having trouble accessing the Webex system so sent his apologies but would continue to try to join.

Tony Ward (Denbighshire County Council), Tara Dumas (Denbighshire Council)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.



3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR TO THE COMMITTEE**

Councillor Catrin Wager nominated Councillor Greg Robbins as Chair for the Joint Committee. Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill seconded.

Councillor Catrin Wager nominated Councillor Brian Jones as Vice Chair for the Joint Committee. Councillor Glyn Banks seconded.

RESOLVED:

- (a) *Councillor Greg Robbins to be Chair of the Joint Committee; and*
- (b) *Councillor Brian Jones to be Vice Chair of the Joint Committee.*

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee held on the 29th January 2021 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 29th January 2021 be approved as a correct record.*

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

No matters arising were raised from the previous meeting.

6. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

Steffan Owen went the Annual Accounts Report, and highlighted that the accounting treatment of the project had changed following a review by Flintshire County Council to include the costs of servicing the Joint committee only.

No comments were raised.

RESOLVED:

- (a) *Approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021.*



7. SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

Steffan Owen (SO) went through the Services Update Report, and noted that waste deliveries had 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 that the high tonnage trends have continued since 2020, and a comparison of 2020 to 2021 tonnages shows an increase in 2021.

Councillor Catrin Wager asked how soon authorities can receive data as found useful.

Councillor Greg Robbins noted a monthly update would be useful.

Councillor Glyn Banks asked why the annual maintenance shutdown was in June this year. SO noted that June is the month that the shutdown is scheduled to happen each year, it was only moved to September in 2020 due to Covid restricting the availability of contactors etc. It will be in June each year from now on.

SO outlined that the plans were for all Partner Authority waste to be delivered to Parc Adfer during the maintenance shutdown and that there should be no disruption to Authority deliveries. He also outlined that contingency plans were in place should waste need to be diverted, with landfill only being used as a last option should all the other contingency sites not be able to accept the waste.

SO highlighted to Members that Parc Adfer was operating well within its emissions limits, including particulate matter PM2.5's.

SO informed Members that recycling levels of ash was around 21.7%, which was in line with expectations. That translates to adding around 7% to the individual authorities' recycling levels.

Councillor Glyn Banks asked if 21% is recycled, what happens to the remaining 78-79%? SO responded that the waste is reduced in volume and weight by the process, which is converted into heat which is used to create electricity. The remainder is the ash.

RESOLVED:

(a) *That the report be noted.*

8. AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Steffan Owen went through the report as issued in the papers giving a background to some of the areas of development related to and around the Parc Adfer site.



Those included the use of heat from Parc Adfer, and SO noted that a study would be commissioned on the use of heat, which could increase the efficiency of the plant, as well as generate additional income.

SO also outlined other projects outside Parc Adfer, such as the Deeside Parkway rail station and the Deeside Hydrogen Hub. SO noted that both projects had engaged positively with Parc Adfer and Enfinium.

CE noted that the hydrogen project would be a demonstrator project to show the technology can be used for both public and commercial vehicles across the region. He also noted that KW is the lead officer, and noted that it would be a real positive if Parc Adfer could be a source of power for hydrogen.

Councillor Brian Jones asked if we were in discussion with the Mersey Dee Alliance?

CE answered yes, and that this requires cross regional working.

Councillor Glyn Banks asked if rail could be used to transport the waste to the site?

SO responded that the possibility is there and the site is designed around accepting waste via rail. He added that a lot of work was done on this during the procurement process, including stipulating that all bidders had to provide a rail based bid. The result of that was, unfortunately, the cost of rail was significantly more than the road option and was prohibitively expensive.

CE added that the cost issue was the cost of the freight rail.

Councillor Greg Robbins added that he has seen this in other projects too.

SO also added that the new owners of Enfinium are actively looking at improvements to the efficiency of all their Energy from Waste Plants.

SO outlined the work that was required on development of an education programme to support the visitor centre on site.

Councillor Catrin Wager asked if the travel subsidy for schools would still be in place.

CE stated that it would.

SO then gave a background to the Community Recovery Fund that was live.

CE added that the funds allocated for the education materials etc would be carried over.

Councillor Glyn Banks asked how much the fund was, and SO clarified that the fund is £230k per annum in total, with £30k - £50k set aside for the education materials and travel subsidy.



RESOLVED:

- (a) *That the report be noted.*
- (b) *That the Joint Committee provide support if necessary for the developments outlined above.*

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

SO went through the report as issued in the papers, with updates on the progress on discussions with Enfinium 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 Enfinium.

RESOLVED:

- (c) *That the content of the report be noted.*

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Greg Robbins thanked Colin Everett on behalf of the Joint Committee for his hard work and commitment in delivering such a large and complex project. CE noted that it was in no small part due to strong partnership working.

Councillor Brian Jones thanked Colin Everett and Steffan for being professional and wished Colin well for the future.

(The meeting ended at 3:30 pm)
