



Agenda item 6

REPORT TO: **NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **4th MARCH 2022**

REPORT BY: **CONTRACT MANAGER AND LEAD CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND REPORT**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. To update on the development and launch of the Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund (CBF).

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. As part of the procurement of the Parc Adfer contract and the NWRWTP partnership, it was agreed to fund and manage a CBF that would run for the duration of the contract. The CBF is a contractual commitment between the Authority and Enfinium (formerly Wheelabrator Technologies Inc (WTI)) and is also a contractual commitment for each individual partner authority within the Second Inter Authority Agreement (IAA2).

2.2. It is an annual fund of £230,000, made up of £180,000 per annum from the 5 partner authorities and £50,000 per annum from Enfinium, and funds began to accrue at the contract's Commencement Date (20th December 2019).

2.3. In June 2019, the Joint Committee approved the delegation of the development and operation of the CBF to Flintshire as the beneficiary authority, and agreed to set aside a proportion of the Fund (between £30k and £50k as a guide) for operation of and access to the Visitor Education Centre for schools 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 five partner councils.

2.4. As part of that development of the CBF, a consultation took place during the latter half of 2019 with key stakeholders close to the facility including local community councils (e.g. Connah's Quay Town Council) and local Members in relation to the governance of the fund and the eligibility criteria etc. No significant changes were required to the proposed governance



arrangements following feedback. Those governance arrangements are outlined in this report.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund

- 3.1. When the implementation of the CBF was being prepared in early 2020, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that it was not possible to progress the fund for a number of months. Following from then, in the summer 2020, plans were made to utilise the CBF as a Community Recovery Fund (CRF) to help communities with the Deeside Partnership Area with the challenges faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.2. The Parc Adfer CRF was set up a short term interim fund, and was launched in late 2020 and closed for applications in November 2021. It funded over 12 projects with a value of nearly £70,000. See Appendix 2 below for further details.
- 3.3. With the closure of the short term CRF work began in late 2021 to finalise the project and eligibility criteria of the main, long term CBF. These were approved by Flintshire County Council's Cabinet in January 2022, and the fund is ready to launch in March 2022. The eligibility criteria, project criteria and governance arrangements are outlined below.

Eligibility Criteria

- 3.4. Organisations that that can apply must all be based or serve residents/communities within the Deeside Partnership Area (see separate map). In addition they must be:
 - Not for profit groups;
 - Community or voluntary organisations;
 - Community and social enterprises (e.g. co-operatives, development trusts);
 - Local charities based within the defined Deeside Partnership Area; or
 - Public bodies such as schools are eligible to apply, however only for expenditure that is outside the Local Education Authority's statutory duties – the fund is to support additional benefits and not to replace the Local Authority's financial duties.
- 3.5. Applicants will need to have a written constitution, a set of rules, or a governing document, plus a bank or building society account with a minimum of two signatories in place, before applying for a grant. New organisations without these arrangements in place can discuss their project with the fund team to see if help can be provided. Successful applicants are



not able to re-apply for another grant from the Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund unless explicitly granted by the Community Benefit Fund

3.6. There are five main project criteria that the Parc Adfer CBF will support, which are outlined in Table 1 below:-

Table 1 - Project Criteria

	Criteria	Details
1	Renewable energy	<p>Schemes that either promote the use of, or invest in the development of, renewable energy (i.e. energy from a source that is not depleted when used, e.g. solar or wind). Exemptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be used to replace expenditure that is the statutory responsibility of a public body (e.g. end of life replacement of boiler, or as part of a the build of a new public building that is already planned); • Applicant must demonstrate ability to maintain any equipment bought (if applicable); • Applicant must demonstrate any details in relation to ownership of any assets purchased with any awarded funds;
2	Carbon reduction	Schemes that either promote the use of or invest in the development of the reduction of carbon emissions.
3	Waste reduction, reuse and recycling	<p>Schemes that either promote or directly reduce waste production, or increase re-use or recycling.</p> <p>Examples include community re-use projects.</p>
4	Biodiversity and improvements to local environment quality	<p>Schemes that either promote, directly benefit or improve the local natural environment (including enhancing the biodiversity) or provides green space for a community within the Deeside Partnership area.</p> <p>This can include the restoration or support of wildlife and natural habitat.</p>
5	De-carbonisation of transport	<p>Schemes that either promote the use of, or invest in the development of transportation that reduces the carbon emissions. Exemptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be used to replace expenditure that is the



		<p>statutory responsibility of a public body;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must demonstrate ability to maintain any equipment bought (if applicable); • Applicant must demonstrate any details in relation to ownership of any assets purchased with any awarded funds; <p>Examples include the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.</p>
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Exclusions

3.7. The exclusions to the grant are as follows, noting that the CBF may not be used:-

- to make payments to individuals, commercial organisations or private membership-based sports clubs and facilities;
- for projects that will only benefit one individual;
- for making speculative investments;
- to co-fund statutory activities carried out by Flintshire County Council;
- to pay fines or other penalties imposed on groups, organisations or individuals;
- for schemes or groups/organisations based outside of the Deeside Partnership Area;
- by applicants for purposes solely connected with their day-to-day business;
- to promote religious beliefs or practices;
- to promote political views or to finance election campaigns by prospective candidates in local and / or general elections;
- to cover retrospective payments for events or services that have already taken place or been delivered;
- for projects with the sole purpose of promotion or feasibility studies;
- for projects that may endanger the natural or built environment;
- for works considered a statutory responsibility, such as improvements to public highways or car parks.

Allocation of funds

3.8. The CBF is to be allocated as per Table 2 below:-



	Amount (estimate per annum)	Allocated to	Comment
1	£30,000 - £50,000	Support the use of the Visitor Centre at Parc Adfer:- a. Sessional workers for student / school groups. b. Subsidised school/college transport to the facility for the five partner councils.	This allocation will be dependent on the number of visits to the site;
2	£30,000	Small Grants Scheme – up to £5,000	
3	£145,000 - £165,000	Larger Grants Scheme – 3-6 projects of up to £50,000 per year	
4	£5,000	Administrative Costs	Estimate only – this is minimised as much as possible. No costs have been incurred to date.

Additional Notes

- Sessional Workers will be recruited and trained to lead the visits to the Visitor Centre (e.g. schools, community groups etc). These may be retained on a flexible “call-on” basis;

Governance Arrangements

3.9. The governance arrangements set up for the CRF will remain largely in place for the main CBF. This includes the Parc Adfer Contract Management Team providing the administrative function such as liaising with applicants, receiving applications, updating the relevant pages on FCC’s website, assessing the applications against the main eligibility criteria etc). This will be supported by other FCC officers as necessary within relevant departments. The decision to award or refuse grant application will be undertaken by the Panel, which was established for the CRF.

3.10. The Panel Membership currently consists of a number of FCC Members, FCC officers, and external bodies’ representatives, specifically Natural Resources Wales and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC). It is intended to keep the panel Membership largely the same, with a very small number of changes / additions to reflect the new aims and criteria of the grant (e.g. relevant Portfolio Member and specific officers with expertise / responsibilities / roles within environmental protection functions of the Authority).



Next Steps

3.11. Now that the governance arrangements, eligibility and project criteria have been approved by Flintshire County Council's Cabinet, the next stage in relation to the CBF is for Flintshire's Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) to sign off the final versions of the Guidance Notes and application pack, and a press release launching the scheme can then be issued during March 2022 (see Appendix 3 below).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee:

- 4.1. Notes the progress report, and
- 4.2. Receives updates on the fund's allocation and successful projects at Joint Committee meetings going forward.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. As set out in 2.2 above.

6. ANTI-POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.1. The intended use of the Fund will benefit some of the most deprived areas in Flintshire.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1. The intended use of this Fund will be beneficial to the local environment e.g. through the five project criteria.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1. Not applicable.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.1. None.

11. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.1. None.



12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendices 2 and 3 below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

Background Documents:

None.

Contact Officer: Steffan Owen - NWRWTP Contract Manager



Appendix 2 – Summary of allocation of Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund

Applicant	Type of organisation	Project Title	Summary of project / use of funds	Grant awarded
Ysgol Bryn Deva - Foyle Library Scheme	School	Foundation Phase Playground Development	Purchase of Galleon ship for school playground to allow further outdoor learning (Galleon costs were £16,000 the school fundraised the remainder).	£ 10,000
Enbarr Foundation CIC	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:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Playgroup (within school hall)	Tŷ Ffynnon Playgroup	Purchase of age appropriate resources for two year old children, both indoor and outdoor:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Company Limited by Share or Guarantee - "Charitable Community Benefit Society"	A Place for You	<p>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.</p> <p>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'.</p>	£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	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 - sits within a groups structure that has a charitable status	Well-Fed at Home Meal Box Service	Delivered box meals to vulnerable (elderly and school children inc pre school) - 100% of grant used for food. Other costs will be met by CC/WF.	£ 10,000



Groundwork North Wales	Registered Charity	Love your Space	Provide support with gardening tasks to vulnerable people in the Deeside area. Beneficiaries are mainly people who are older or have disabilities/health conditions, including those on low incomes. Tasks which supported with included grass cutting, trimming back overgrown shrubs, weeding, and general tidying/simple repairs. This project will take place over the summer of 2021 so that people could enjoy their gardens over the summer. The beneficiaries were 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.	£ 5,000
Cambrian Aquatics	Company Limited by Guarantee (Community enterprise)	More Changing Rooms	Cambrian Aquatics Ltd required 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 safely.	£5,896.80
Art and Soul Tribe	Community Interest Company (CIC)	Community Revival Fair	Arranged Community Fair at the Clock Tower site on the river Dee, for residents to "enjoy some music, food and nature to help rebuild their wellbeing and mental health after the turmoil of COVID". The application stated that a "sudden uplift in demand and sales of tickets, and local crafts people wanting stalls and over 12 bands playing across the day, it has turned into a bigger affair we did not budget for"	£4,284
Book of You CIC	Community Interest Company (CIC)	Celebrating Life, Sharing Memories, Connecting People	Book of You is a digital "book" that focuses on memory prompts (e.g. photos, music, film, diaries and spoken messages) to add value to people's lives through shared conversations, capture memories and important times in people's lives. It is available in the digital cloud so is available to share with family and friends. Trained staff help with technical support, suggest ideas and get them started etc. The aim of this specific project is to work with Hwb Cyfle daycare centre in Queensferry to bring Book of You to that centre.	£5,000
Connah's Quay Old People's Association	Registered Charity. Charity no: 243148	Subsidise Transportation	To subsidise transport costs for Members of the group for their weekly gatherings - there are members that need transport to get to the venue, using buses or taxis (unable to drive or unwell). Quote from application - "These gatherings help reduce isolation and help mental wellbeing"	£1,040



Appendix 3 – Draft Press Release for launch of Community Benefit Fund

Today, the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP) Partnership (known as the Partnership) and Enfinium are pleased to announce that the Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund is now up and running and open for applications.

The NWRWTP was formed by five North Wales Councils – Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council – to jointly manage the residual waste generated by the populations from the five local authorities. Residual waste is the waste which is left over after recycling and composting as much as possible.

The Enfnium Parc Adfer Waste to Energy facility is located in Deeside Industrial Park and started to treat waste in 2019, diverting waste from landfill and generating enough renewable electricity for around 30,000 homes.

As part of their commitment to the local community, the Partnership and Enfnium have pledged to fund the long term Community Benefit Fund – worth £230,000 a year - for communities in the Deeside area. To date the fund has been used to fund an initial, short term, Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund which is now closed for applications. It awarded grants to 13 projects with a total value of over £60,000.

The types of local organisations who can qualify for support are community and voluntary organisations, community and social enterprises and local (not national) charities based within the defined Deeside Partnership Area.

The fund is intended to support projects that help or will benefit the local environment, and there are five main project criteria that it will support, which are:-

1. Renewable energy
2. Carbon reduction
3. Waste reduction, reuse and recycling
4. Biodiversity and improvements to local environment quality
5. De-carbonisation of transport

Flintshire’s Cabinet Member for Streetscene, Councillor Glyn Banks, said:

“The Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund is a long term fund intended to benefit communities within the Partnership area, in particular those living closest to Parc Adfer, with a focus on funding projects that help or benefit the environment. This is a really beneficial scheme and I would encourage all those organisations who are eligible to apply. This scheme will help with the continuation of the positive environmental work already taking place.”



NWRWTP
North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project

Applications for the Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund can now be taken, and anyone interested in accessing the fund should contact the team on 01352 704783 or emailing ParcAdferCommunityFund@flintshire.gov.uk.