



**REPORT TO: NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**REPORT BY: CONTRACT MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: SERVICES UPDATE REPORT**

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

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

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. Parc Adfer has been fully operational for nearly 3 years, having reached 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. Since the last Joint Committee meeting in March 2023, services have continued uninterrupted with no disruptions to authority deliveries.
- 3.2. The Partner Authorities are delivering circa 800 vehicles per month (around 200 per week) to Parc Adfer, with the majority of the tonnage coming in via Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's), along with Flintshire's various collection vehicles delivering to the site.
- 3.3. The plant also continues to perform 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).

### Tonnage throughput and the impact of Covid-19

- 3.4. It has been reported to the Joint Committee since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic that tonnages from the Partner Authorities had increased during 2020



and 2021. That pattern does, however, appear to have slowed during 2022, with tonnages reducing to closer to pre-pandemic levels.

- 3.5. Charts showing the comparative monthly tonnage throughput into Parc Adfer for 2022/23 so far, and the same months in from 2018 - 2022 are included in Appendix 1 below.

#### Annual Maintenance Shutdown

- 3.6. Every year Parc Adfer, like all Energy from Waste plants, needs to shut down for a period of two weeks to carry out essential maintenance. This is usually scheduled for June each year. The process is planned such that the partner authorities can continue to deliver waste to Parc Adfer with no disruptions, or waste diversions to other sites are required. Contingency plans are in place should any issues occur during the planned maintenance period that require Authority waste to be diverted from Parc Adfer. The maintenance shutdown carried out in June 2022 was successful, with no disruption to Partner Authority deliveries.

#### Emissions Monitoring

- 3.7. Monitoring of emissions from any Energy from Waste facility is a critical part of its operation and compliance with its 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.
- 3.8. As part of these requirements, Parc Adfer must undergo regular assessments of how it is performing in relation to its permit obligations, and in 2021 carried out a specific assessment in relation to how it would meet new, incoming regulations. All assessments have demonstrated that Parc Adfer are operating to the highest possible and most modern (and even incoming) site management, environmental, monitoring and emissions standards.
- 3.9. The Partnership has 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

- 3.10. Parc Adfer contributes to the Partner Authorities' recycling and landfill diversion figures through the recycling Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA), which includes metals. For the 2022/23 year to date, the overall recycling levels sites at 21.4%, which is entirely in line with expectations, and can be expected to contribute around 7% to the partner authorities' recycling figures.
- 3.11. It is also worth noting that Air Pollution Control Residues (APCR), a by-product of the emissions cleaning process, also goes to a recovery / recycling operation.



This is a very small tonnage (typically less than 1%), however has traditionally used to specific hazardous landfill sites for disposal. The technology for treating this material has developed considerably over the last few years to the point where it is now a viable option for sites such as Parc Adfer. This development is welcomed by the Partnership and ensures that the site operates to the highest environmental performance possible, successfully diverting all material from landfill.

#### Visitor Centre Education Programme Tender

- 3.12. 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.
- 3.13. A key part of the Visitor Centre and accompanying education programme is 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.
- 3.14. The Joint Committee Members have been invited to visit the site and see the Visitor Centre in person. Those Members who haven't been able to visit site yet are encouraged to contact the Contract Manager to arrange a visit.
- 3.15. A tender process for the procurement of the following is now being undertaken:-
- 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).
- 3.16. Visits have now started on site, with groups such as the U3A (University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age) having arranged visits to the site, and a series of test visits are being arranged with schools from all partner authorities with a view to receiving feedback from those schools to help the development of the materials and resources as outlined in 3.15 above.

#### Heat Study

- 3.17. Following the award of the Parc Adfer contract and during the Commissioning / early operations, the Partnership were successful in being awarded a grant of £46,900 for specialist consultants to carry out a study into the use of heat from



Parc Adfer for nearby buildings within Deeside Industrial Park. The grant was awarded by the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) of the Westminster Government.

- 3.18. Following an extensive tender process to secure specialist consultants to carry out the study, the tender has been awarded to Ramboll UK Ltd, with work on the study to commence imminently.
- 3.19. The objective of the study is to verify whether a heat offtake arrangement for Parc Adfer is environmentally beneficial and theoretically possible, based on an assessment of likely user demand, offtake revenues, capital expenditure and operational.
- 3.20. The study is split into two phases. The first phase would conclude by setting out where certain options would be impractical or unachievable and ranking any remaining options based on economics and environmental benefit. The second part of the study - the feasibility stage - would only proceed if the above indicates that there is one or more viable opportunities to be pursued.
- 3.21. Ramboll are currently in the process of the first phase of the study, seeking information from businesses and organisations close to Parc Adfer on their energy needs, to assess if exporting heat to any of those nearby buildings would be feasible.
- 3.22. The Joint Committee will be updated on the progress of the study.

### Operational Summary

- 3.23. 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.

## **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

## **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**

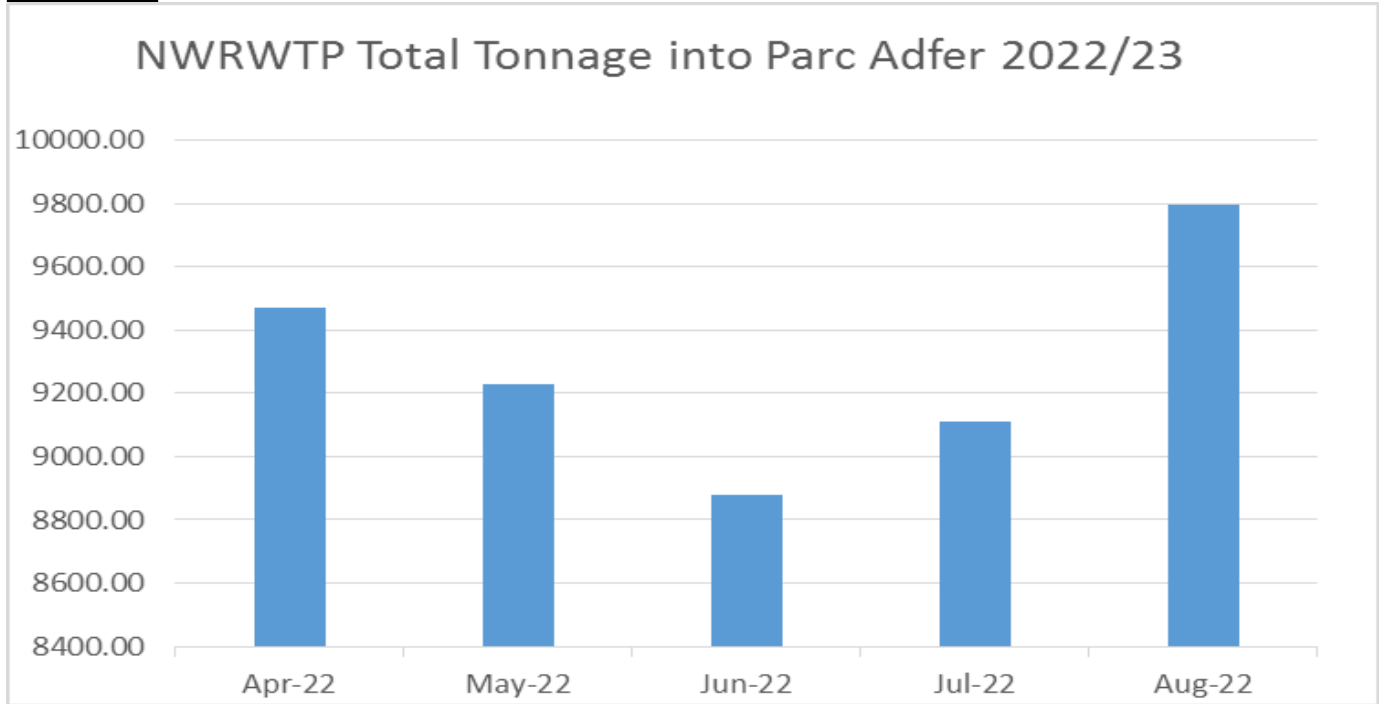
**Background Documents:**

None

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## **Appendix 1 – NWRWTP Partnership Tonnage inputs into Parc Adfer – year to date 2022/2023**





**2019/20 – 2021/22 Monthly Comparison**

