



AGENDA ITEM 6

REPORT TO: **NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **10th OCTOBER 2022**

REPORT BY: **CONTRACT MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND REPORT**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To inform and update the Joint Committee 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 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.
- 3.3. With the closure of the short term CRF, the eligibility criteria of the main, long term CBF were then developed in line with the original intention of the fund. These were approved by Flintshire County Council's Cabinet and the fund is now ready to launch. 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 map in Appendix 2 below). 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 statutory responsibility of a public body; • Applicant must demonstrate ability to maintain any equipment bought (if applicable); • Applicant must demonstrate any details in relation to



		<p>ownership of any assets purchased with any awarded funds;</p> <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;
- No administrative costs have been incurred to date, however this may include aspects such specialist expert advice (e.g. on renewable technology) if required.

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 with relevant experience / roles, and external bodies’ representatives, specifically Natural Resources Wales and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC). Specialist external expertise will be brought in as and when required in assessing applications.



Next Steps

- 3.11. The Contract Manager has been working with FLVC in arranging a launch / meet the funder event in October in the Connah's Quay / Deeside area. This will be advertised as part of the launch of the fund with a press release and with the support of the FLVC.

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 Appendix 2 below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985



Background Documents:

None.

Contact Officer: Steffan Owen - NWRWTP Contract Manager