



REPORT TO: NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 30th OCTOBER 2023

REPORT BY: CONTRACT MANAGER

SUBJECT: SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Parc Adfer has been fully operational for close to 4 years and has reached a settled operational status. Operational procedures and communication between Parc Adfer's operators, enfinium, and the Partnership are working well with no disruptions to Partner Authority waste deliveries.
- 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 November 2022, services have continued uninterrupted with no disruptions to authority deliveries, including during the annual maintenance shutdown in June 2023. The annual maintenance shutdown is a two week period in June each year where the plant shuts down and stops processing waste, allowing essential maintenance on the plant to take place. Partner Authority waste is continually accepted during this period.
- 3.2. The operational and communication processes and protocols between the Lead Authority (Flintshire County Council) and enfinium continue to work effectively.
- 3.3. The plant also continues to perform very well in terms of its efficiency and environmental management, including emissions. The plant has continued to operate within it's Environmental Permit as issued and regulated by Natural Resources Wales. Emissions levels have been well below permitted levels (see paras 3.6 – 3.8 below for further detail).



Tonnage throughput

- 3.4. It has been reported to previous Joint Committee meetings that since the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in tonnages from the Partner Authorities from pre-pandemic levels. The 2022/23 year saw tonnages reduce from those higher levels, with tonnages for 2023/24 tracking at those similar, lower, levels so far.
- 3.5. Tables and graphs showing the comparative monthly tonnage throughput into Parc Adfer are attached in Appendix 1 below.

Environmental Permit and emissions Monitoring

- 3.6. As has been previously reported to the Joint Committee, the monitoring of emissions from any Energy from Waste facility is a critical part of its operation and compliance with the relevant 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, including new, lower, emissions standards that must now apply going forward.
- 3.7. Parc Adfer has continued to operate within its environmental permit and has consistently demonstrated that it is operating to the highest possible and most modern monitoring and emissions standards.
- 3.8. In December 2022, Natural Resources Wales approved a revised environmental permit, which included updates related to new emissions standards as well as an increase in the permitted throughput in the tonnage from 200,000 tonnes per annum to 232,000 per annum. This brings the permit in line with the Planning Permission capacity of 232,000 that was amended in April 2021. It should be noted, however, that this capacity is a theoretical maximum that is unlikely to ever be reached in reality. Parc Adfer is currently operating at around the 200,000 tonnes per annum, and this it is not anticipated that this is likely to change significantly in the near future.

Other operational matters

- 3.9. As noted in 3.1 above, waste deliveries have continued to site with no significant or recurring or recurring issues, with the site performing within its required parameters. Turnaround Times of vehicles on site have been well below contractual limits throughout the period. For the avoidance of doubt, Turnaround Times refers to the length of time it takes for the vehicles delivering waste to weigh on the weighbridge going into the site, discharge their loads in the waste bunker and get on the “out” weighbridge to leave site. It is a measure of the time it takes the vehicles to empty their loads on site. This is measured using data directly from the weighbridge system on site.
- 3.10. In addition to Turnaround Times, another measure that is important is “Queueing Times”. This is a measure of how long vehicles are waiting on site before being allowed over the weighbridge to unload. The Partnership and Enfinium are now monitoring this metric for Refuse Collection Vehicles and are planning on



undertaking a trial of measuring the queueing times of the bulker vehicles (larger articulated heavy goods vehicles that haul waste from Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire to Parc Adfer. The Queueing Times are measured using a GPS tracking system on the vehicles, where a “geofence” zone has been set up in the system to measure how long each vehicle has been within that zone. This zone covers from the site entrance to the start of the “in” weighbridge.

- 3.11. Together, the Turnaround Times and the Queueing Times provide a full picture of how long it takes vehicles to arrive on site, deposit their loads and leave site. These are both important operational metrics for the Partnership, the hauliers and enfinium.

Recycling and waste diversion performance

- 3.12. Parc Adfer contributes to the Partner Authorities’ recycling and landfill diversion figures through the recycling Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA), which includes metals. For the year 2022/23, the overall recycling level achieved was 21.3%, which is entirely in line with expectations. For the 2023/24 year to date, the levels are 23.1%, again entirely in line with expectations, and previously reported these figures contribute approximately 7% to the partner authorities’ recycling levels.

Heat Study

- 3.13. It was reported to the Joint Committee that the Partnership were successful in being awarded a grant from the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) of the Westminster Government for specialist consultants to carry out a study into the use of heat from Parc Adfer for nearby buildings within Deeside Industrial Park.
- 3.14. 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. Following a tender process, Ramboll UK Ltd were commissioned to undertake the study.
- 3.15. 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. These are outlined below:-
- Work Package 1 (WP1) – Energy Mapping and Masterplan study
 - Work Package 1 (WP2) – Detailed Techno-Economic Feasibility Assessment of Recommended Scenarios
- 3.16. Ramboll completed Phase 1 of the study in January 2023, which was reported to the Project Board. The study identified 3 scenarios that could be investigated further in WP2. The scenario that was determined as the recommended scenario to be investigated further and optimised as part of WP2 (Detailed Techno-Economic analysis) included potential heat users to the North of the River Dee (Deeside



Industrial Park), as well as in the south of the River Dee (some public buildings, Deeside College etc).

- 3.17. Ramboll have begun the second phase of the study (WP2), and are at the information gathering stage. The outcome of WP2 will be reported to the Joint Committee at a future meeting.

Education and Visitor Centre

3.18. Due to unforeseen issues, the tender process for the education programme was delayed earlier in 2023, however this has now been restarted. The tender is for:-

- 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;
- Interactive on-line content to support the education programme.

3.19. Progress on the development of the education programme will reported to the Joint Committee.

3.20. Site visits to Parc Adfer have now also been restarted, with several visits by groups and some “test” visits by a small number schools over the next few months.

Operational Summary

3.21. 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.

Joint Committee Annual Return for 2022-23

3.22. The Joint Committee is classed as a smaller relevant body as its gross income and expenditure is less than £2.5m in the year of account. The type of accounts that a smaller body is required to produce is an Annual Return provided by the Wales Audit Office.

3.23. The Annual Return must be signed by the Responsible Finance Officer and approved by the Joint Committee, due to timing of this annual meeting, approval was provided by Katie Wilby on behalf of the Joint Committee to meet audit commencement dates.

3.24. The Annual Return for 2022/23 is available in Appendix 2 for members information. The expenditure, as in previous years, is minimal however due to statutory requirements the return must be produced.



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

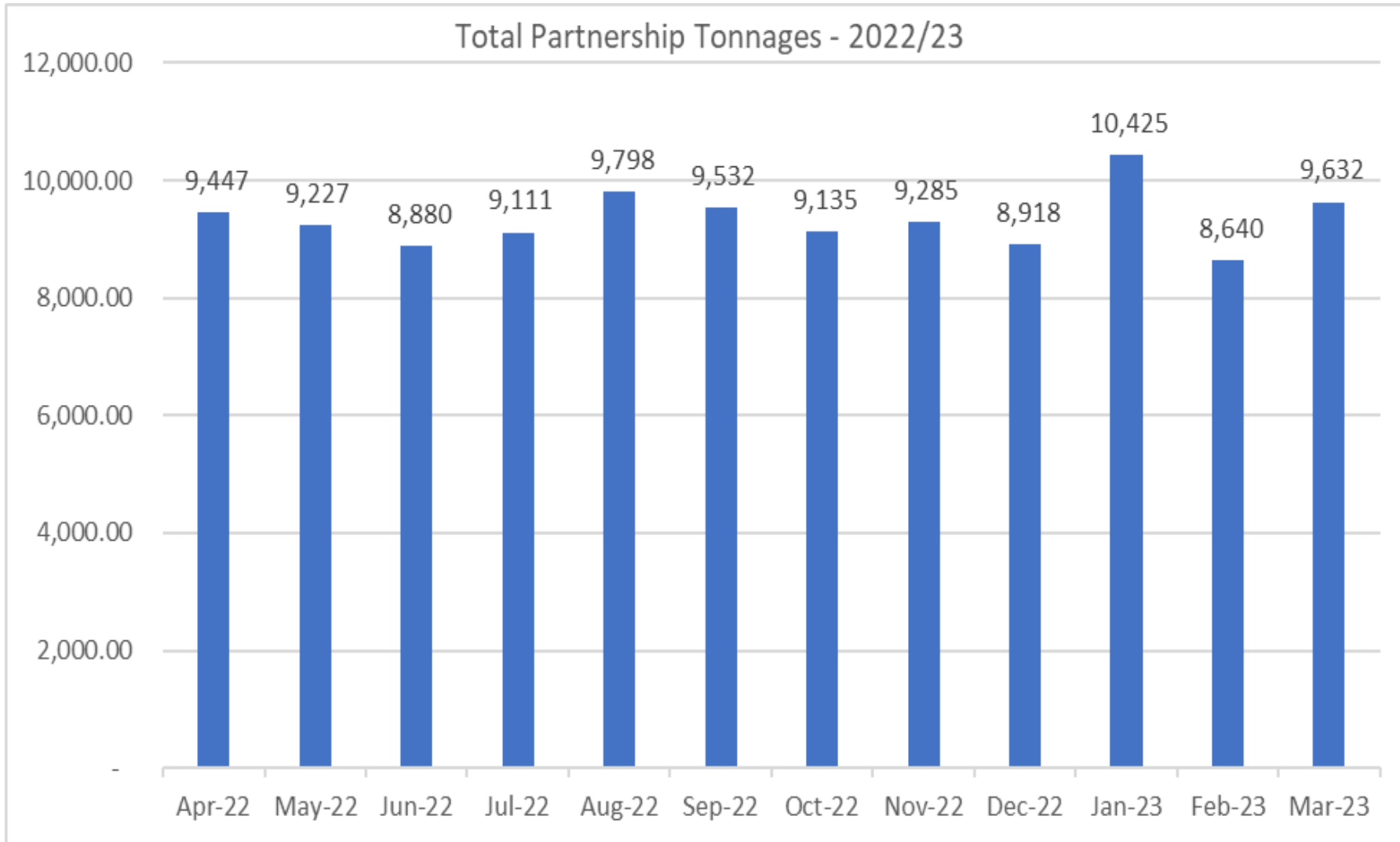
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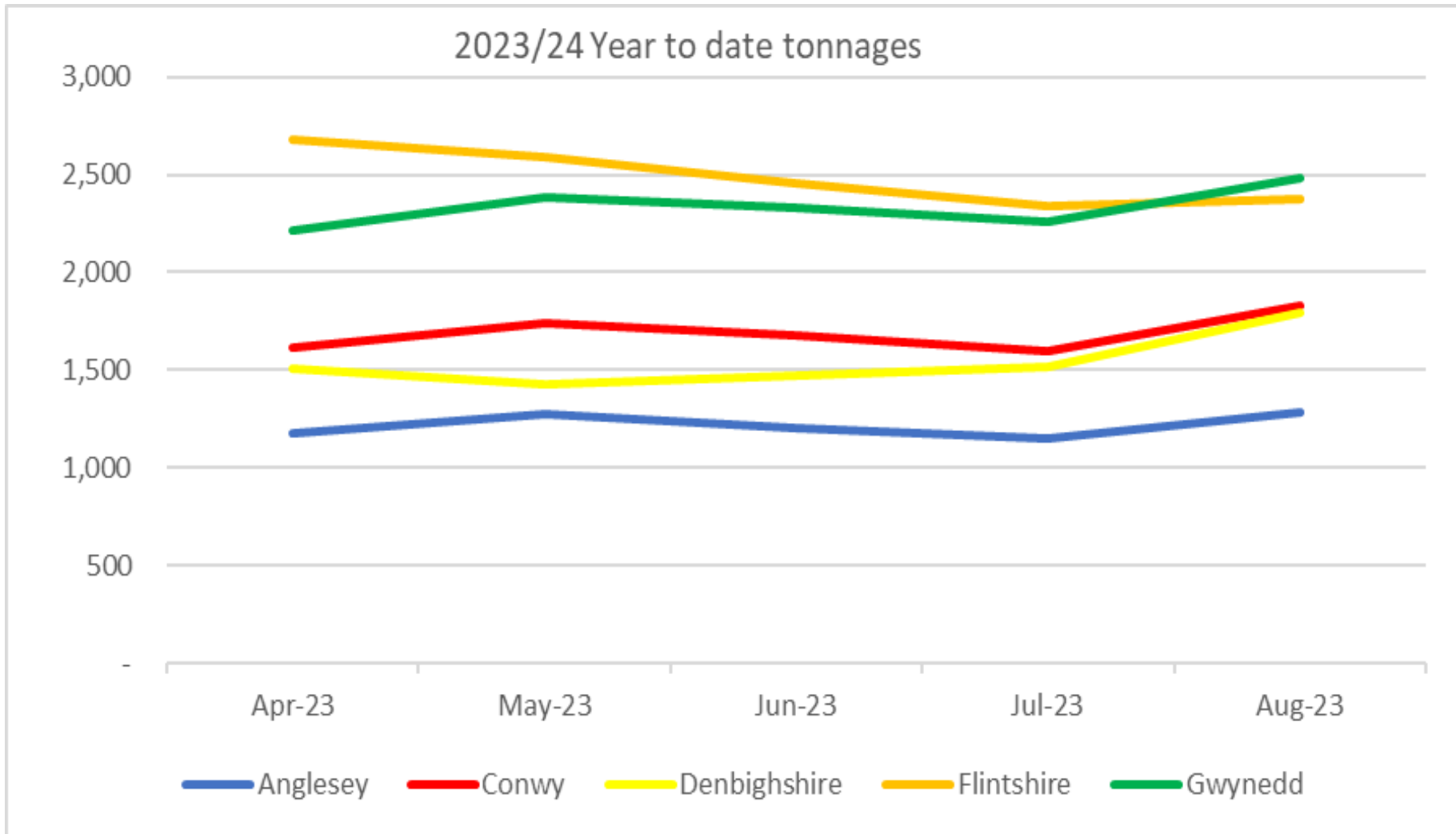
None

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Appendix 1 – NWRWTP Partnership Tonnage inputs into Parc Adfer





2020 – 2023 Monthly Comparison

