

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th January 2022
Report Subject	Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Streetscene
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the procurement of the Parc Adfer contract and the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership (“NWRTP”), it was agreed to fund and manage a Community Benefit Fund (“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).

To date the CBF has been used to fund an initial Parc Adfer Community Recovery Fund, which is now closed for applications. It awarded grants to over 10 projects with a total value of over £60,000. Details of the main Community Benefit Fund (CBF), including project and eligibility criteria are outlined in this report, seeking approval for a launch in early 2022.

The existing panel and governance arrangements set up for the Community Recovery Fund will remain largely in place for the main CBF when it is launched, as will many of the overarching eligibility criteria (e.g. projects to be within the Deeside Partnership area or cannot be used to replace expenditure that is the statutory responsibility of a public body etc.). It should be noted, however, that the type of projects to be funded will be different to reflect the original intention of the fund which was to fund community projects which provide environmental benefit to the local area. Further details are provided in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the main eligibility and project criteria for the Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund and supports the proposed launch of the fund in early 2022.
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2	That delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene, to make amendments to the necessary documentation (e.g. guidance notes) that are contained within the fund's intentions and desired outcomes, and to make minor changes to the governance arrangements (e.g. panel membership, officer support etc.).
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	As part of the procurement of the Parc Adfer contract and the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership (NWRWTP), 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).
1.02	It is an annual fund of £230,000, made up of £180,000 per annum from the five partner authorities and £50,000 per annum from Enfinium, and funds began to accrue at the contract's commencement date (20th December 2019).
1.03	During the latter half of 2019 a consultation took place with key stakeholders 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.
1.04	One of the conditions set out for the governance was that the accrued funds from the commencement date to 31 st March 2020 were to be set aside for the production of educational materials for the visitor centre and curriculum materials for schools across the five partner authorities. From 1 st April 2020 the fund has started accumulating for projects and will operate every year until the expected contract expiry date on 15 th October 2044. All funds are ring-fenced and held in a specific, interest bearing FCC account as per contractual requirements.
1.05	It was also stipulated that between £30,000 and £50,000 annually of the fund would be set aside to support the use of the Visitor Centre at Parc Adfer. This includes the development of educational materials etc., provision of sessional workers for student / school groups and subsidised school/college transport to the facility for the five partner councils.
1.06	As 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.
1.07	In the summer 2020, arrangements were put in place to use 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. The Parc Adfer CRF was set up a short term interim fund and was

	<p>launched in late 2020. This fund is now closed for applications and has funded over 10 projects with a value of over £60,000 (this was reported to COT in July 2021, with a small number of additional projects approved for grants since that update).</p>									
1.08	<p>The Council now needs to set out the scheme criteria and governance for how the fund will be managed in future.</p>									
1.09	<p>Eligibility Criteria Organisations that that can apply must all be based or serve residents / communities within the Deeside Partnership Area (see map - Appendix 1).</p> <p>In addition they must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, 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. <p>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.</p> <p>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 Panel.</p>									
1.10	<p>There are six main project criteria that the Parc Adfer CBF will support, which are outlined in Table 1 below:-</p> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="290 1413 1385 2027"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="290 1413 341 1451"></th> <th data-bbox="341 1413 612 1451">Criteria</th> <th data-bbox="612 1413 1385 1451">Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1451 341 1928">1</td> <td data-bbox="341 1451 612 1928">Renewable energy</td> <td data-bbox="612 1451 1385 1928"> <p>Schemes that either promote the use of or investment 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; </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1928 341 2027">2</td> <td data-bbox="341 1928 612 2027">Carbon reduction</td> <td data-bbox="612 1928 1385 2027"> <p>Schemes that either promote the use of or invest in the development of the reduction of carbon emissions.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Criteria	Details	1	Renewable energy	<p>Schemes that either promote the use of or investment 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	<p>Schemes that either promote the use of or invest in the development of the reduction of carbon emissions.</p>
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2	Carbon reduction	<p>Schemes that either promote the use of or invest in the development of the reduction of carbon emissions.</p>								

3	Waste reduction, reuse and recycling	Schemes that either promote or directly reduce waste production or increase re-use or recycling. Examples include community re-use projects.
4	Biodiversity and improvements to local environment quality	Schemes that either promote, directly benefit or improve the local natural environment (including enhancing the biodiversity) or provide green space for a community within the Deeside Partnership area. This can include the restoration or support of wildlife and natural habitat.
6	De-carbonisation of transport	Schemes that either promote the use of or investment in the development of transportation that reduces the carbon emissions. Exemptions include: <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 ownership of any assets purchased with any awarded funds; Examples include the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

1.11

Exclusions

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 the costs or expenses of any group, party, or candidate (whether prospective or confirmed) in any election, referendum, poll or vote;
- 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.

1.12

Allocation of funds

As has previously been outlined to COT and Members, the allocation of the CBF is as outlined in Table 2 below:-

Table 2

	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 **

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;
- Applications for the Small Grants Scheme (2) will be open access via the application process; and
- Applications for the Large Grants Scheme (3) will be made by invitation only via the Council, local Town Councils, statutory partners and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) to manage demand and avoid raised expectations/wasted applicant time.

1.13

Governance arrangements

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.

1.14

The panel membership currently consists of a number of FCC members, FCC officers, and external bodies’ representatives, specifically Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and 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).

1.15	Next Steps Following Cabinet approval the North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee (NWRWJC) will be briefed of the outcome and revised eligibility criteria for the CBF.
1.16	Once the above steps are complete, the CBF can be launched publicly with the issue of a press statement, update of the page on FCC's website and letter written to stakeholders to inform them. It is currently anticipated that this can occur in late February / early March 2022.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Revenue: There are no implications for the approved revenue budget for either the current financial year or for future financial years and the CBF is not intended to incur any additional revenue expenditure.
2.02	Capital: There are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years.
2.03	Human Resources: There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	N/A

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	As outlined in the report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – map of Deeside Partnership Area Appendix 2 – draft Guidance notes for the Parc Adfer Community Benefit Fund

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	N/A

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Steffan Owen, Regional Contracts Manager Telephone: 07917 306462 E-mail: steffan.r.owen@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	None.