



CABINET – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: VELOTHON WALES 2016 – PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the responses to the public consultation on road closures for the proposed Velothon Wales 2016 event and determine whether or not to proceed with implementing and advertising a temporary road closure order.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In 2015, a new cycling event called 'Velothon Wales' was held on 14 June 2015 involving three routes affecting the county borough: a 50km and 140km route for 15,000 cyclists to take place as a sportive (mass participation) event followed by a 194km UCI classified race for up to 200 elite (professional) cyclists.
- 2.2 Run 4 Wales, a social enterprise organisation set up by Welsh Athletics have been given the role of delivering a Velothon Wales 2016 event under licence by the Lagardère Group to be held on 22 May 2016. In order to cater for the event, extensive road closures will be required along the proposed route for the duration of the event to permit the safe passage of the participating cyclists, restricting vehicular access across and along these roads impacting on local communities, businesses, churches and other stakeholders.
- 2.3 A delegated Decision Notice to consult on the route proposal for the 2016 event was published on 1 February 2016 and extensive public consultation on the road closures associated with the route proposal took place between 22 February and 4 March 2016.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 To work towards the Council's corporate objective of improving peoples' living environment through targeted actions, regulation, information and advice.
- 3.2 Engineering Services Division Objective: To work towards a safer environment through positive measures to reduce road accidents and particularly for protecting and providing for vulnerable road users.
- 3.3 The event supports the Single Integrated Plan 'Prosperous Caerphilly' priority measure 1 'Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographic area' and Healthier Caerphilly priority measure 2, 'Improve lifestyles of the population in the county borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being and make use of the opportunities and support available to them'.

- 3.4 The Council has agreed to a five-year regeneration programme entitled "People, Businesses and Places". The staging of the event supports a number of Activity aims within the strategy including 'Increasing economic activity' and 'Protecting and developing the economy' and Service Improvement Objectives to, 'Increase the range of employment opportunities for local residents' and 'Increase the number of tourists visiting Caerphilly County Borough'.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Welsh Government has made it clear they view the Velothon Wales event as an important high profile event for promoting Wales and tourism especially and has made a significant financial contribution to attract the event to Wales.
- 4.2 In order to cater for the event, roads along the proposed route will need to be closed between 08:30 and potentially 18:15 hours to permit the safe passage of the participating cyclists, restricting vehicle access across and along these roads and impacting on local communities, businesses, churches and other stakeholders. There is potential for restricted trading for businesses affected by this route and normal Sunday bus timetables affected by the proposed route will be impractical to maintain.
- 4.3 The Council undertook an extensive consultation exercise in April 2015 prior to agreeing to close roads along the proposed routes for the 2015 event and subsequently undertook a post event consultation exercise to gain feedback on the staging of the event.
- 4.4 Following the 2015 event the Major Events Unit (MEU) of Welsh Government undertook a debrief exercise that led to a number of recommendations being put forward to the Event Organiser, the Lagardère Group in respect of staging an improved Velothon event in 2016.
- 4.5 A delegation representing the Event Organiser met with Cabinet members on 18 November 2015 to present their approach to the 2016 event and to outline their proposal to retain the long route as close to the 2015 route as possible and to cease the short (50km) route.
- 4.6 A delegated Decision Notice to consult on the route proposal was posted on 1 February 2016 and a two week consultation period took place between the period 22 February to 4 March 2016.
- 4.7 Officers have been meeting with the Event Organiser to discuss some of the mitigation measures planned to overcome the following concerns outlined by members:
1. Earlier communication to affected stakeholders.
 - (i) A direct mail letter outlining the proposed route details was sent out week commencing 22 February 2016, 12 weeks in advance of the event to approximately 105,000 properties on and in the vicinity of the route.
 - (ii) A follow up letter is planned for April that is intended to include more detailed information on route crossing points and road closure timing information.
 2. Where possible deploy stewards with local knowledge to engage with affected stakeholders on the day of the event.
 - (i) A stewarding company has been engaged by the Event Organiser and is attending regular meetings to understand this issue and to plan accordingly with a greater emphasis on briefing stewards on Traffic Management plans and to place stewards with local knowledge at key points on the proposed route, where possible.
 - (ii) Run4Wales have a database of local volunteers that they will be looking to utilise at the event to support the work of the stewarding company.
 - (iii) The Council events team will contact their local stewards to ask that they consider working at the event.
 3. Identify potential points on the route that may require a Police presence.
 - (i) A 'Risk Register' has been set up to identify risks and hazards on the route.
 - (ii) The Police are looking to deploy PCSO's around the route at such identified

- points.
4. Identify vehicle Emergency Local Access Points (ELAP) across the route and ELAP operating times.
 - (i) Officers have discussed with the Event Organiser retaining the following mitigation measures:
 - Access from Crumlin Road and the A467 (Northbound) and return journey.
 - 2 way traffic controlled access between Panside and the A467 (Southbound) and return journey.
 - At Wyllie roundabout, maintain access across the route North and South for buses only.
 - Access from Gellideg Heights under 'Moto' escort to Newport Road via Heolddu Road and return journey.
 - Access across route between Maesycwmmmer and Thomas Street.
 - Installation of Contraflow arrangement from the South of Llanbradach leading to Pwll y pant roundabout (no left turn at roundabout).
 - 2 way traffic controlled access between Bedwas (B4600) and Caerphilly Park and Ride via the Mornington Meadows distributor road.
 - 2 way traffic controlled access between Bedwas (B4600) and Castle Court shopping centre car park via Lansbury Park.
 - Managed access, outside of race times, between Meadowlands Close Park and the Mornington Meadows distributor road across the route (Bedwas Road - B4600).
 - Managed access between King Edward Avenue and St. Martins Road.
 - (ii) Recently received feedback from the Event Organiser indicates that safety concerns currently make it difficult to introduce ELAP's at the following points on the route that Officers have been exploring with the Event Organiser:
 - Bedwas Road.
 - A4048, across Wyllie roundabout.
 - Access across Cedar Tree roundabout from Corbetts Lane.
 - (iii) Officers have asked that Organisers identify the following ELAP:
 - Bartlett Street (one way).
 5. Earlier production of Traffic Management documentation to an agreed timescale.
 - (i) Officers have received detailed Traffic Management plans for the route and are currently reviewing the detail of the plans.
 6. Additional community engagement with stakeholders where identified.
 - (i) The organisers have offered to meet with community representatives as part of their Engagement Plan and have agreed to undertake.
 - A Councillor 'Drop In' session.
 - To meet with representatives of Bedwas and Maesycwmmmer communities.
 7. Target quicker removal of temporary Traffic Management Infrastructure to open closed roads sooner than in 2015 following the transit of the elite race along the route.
 - (i) Information on opening and closing times has been received for roads on the proposed route.
 8. Setting up a contact centre to handle public enquiries with local staff knowledge.
 - (i) A local contact centre has been engaged to deal with enquiries in relation to the event.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken on this report, however all operational work concerning the proposed road closures would be undertaken following a wide public consultation on the proposals and the publication of the proper order. Any negative impact on individuals or groups raised will be considered in the final decision

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is no financial obligation on the authority in relation to the staging of the event.
- 6.2 There could be a relatively low financial cost to the authority of Officers attending the event on the day in order to protect local stakeholder interests, if warranted.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.
- 7.2 In order to protect the authority's interests and to support the staging of the event Officers have been invited to participate in the running of the Command, Communication and Control centre on the day of the event.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The consultation period for the route proposal was arranged for the period between 22 February and 4 March 2016 in accordance with the Councils approved procedure. A list of all stakeholders is included in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 Responses received are included in Appendix 2.
- 8.3 The Event Organiser has separately implemented a Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan with those directly affected by the proposed routes. The plan will focus on engagement with residents and businesses directly affected by the road closures and will aim to raise awareness of the event to the wider community across South East Wales. A range of activities will be undertaken including letter drops to key stakeholders, advanced signage along the route, media relations, an advertising campaign, direct engagement with businesses and a dedicated helpline has also been set up by the Event Organiser so that the public can engage directly with them.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Cabinet consider the responses to the consultation summarised in Appendix 2.
- 9.2 Based on the consultation responses received and the mitigation measures offered by the organisers it is recommended that the Council proceed with implementing and advertising a temporary road closure order for the event.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure due consideration is given to the consultation responses prior to deciding on whether or not to proceed with implementing and advertising the temporary road closure order.

11 STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000. The Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 as amended by Road Traffic Regulation (Special Events) Act 1994.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: List of stakeholders consulted

Appendix 2: Summary and consideration of objections/support received to the advertised proposals.