



CABINET – 29TH APRIL 2015

SUBJECT: VELOTHON WALES 2015 – PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the responses to the public consultation on road closures for the proposed Velothon Wales 2015 event, and determine whether or not to proceed with advertising a temporary road closure order.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A new cycling event called 'Velothon Wales' is proposed to be held on 14 June 2015 that will involve establishing three routes affecting the county borough: a 50km and a 140km route for up to 15,000 cyclists to take place as a sportive (mass participation) event followed by a 194km UCI class race for up to 200 elite (Professional) cyclists. In order to cater for the event, extensive road closures are required along the proposed routes for the duration of the event to permit the safe passage of the participating cyclists, restricting vehicular access across and along these roads and effectively isolating local communities, businesses, churches and other stakeholders
- 2.2 A public consultation on the proposed road closures was undertaken between the 17-24 April 2015, and the responses received at the time of writing this report are included in this report for Cabinet's consideration. As Members will see, some of the responses are opposed to the staging of the event and the necessary road closures while others are in support. Any subsequent responses received will be reported to Cabinet at the meeting.

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.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Major Events Unit (MEU) of Welsh Government is supporting the Event Organiser, Lagardère Unlimited UK to establish a new cycling event called 'Velothon Wales' on 14 June 2015 as part of a planned global roll out of the UCI Velothon Majors Series. The event will involve establishing three routes: a 50km and a 140km route for up to 15,000 cyclists to take place as a sportive (mass participation) event followed by a 194km UCI class race for up to 200 elite (Professional) cyclists.

- 4.2 The Council has previous experience of involvement with major cycling events with the Tour of Britain cycle race but, the scale of the Velothon Wales event is substantially larger as is the impact, disruption and inconvenience it will result in within the county borough. However, the Welsh Government has made it clear they see this 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.
- 4.3 In order to cater for the event, roads along the proposed routes will need to be closed between 07:00 and potentially 18:00 hours to permit the safe passage of the participating cyclists, restricting vehicle access across and along these roads and effectively isolating local communities, businesses, churches and other stakeholders. There is potential for restricted trading for businesses affected by this route and normal Sunday bus timetables will be impossible to maintain.
- 4.4 Following scrutiny of the detailed Traffic Management Plan and the proposed road closures necessary to safely hold the event, Cabinet agreed (at its meeting on 25 March 2015) to proceed with a public consultation exercise on the proposed road closures.

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 is undertaken following a wide public consultation on the detailed proposals and the publication of the proper order, allowing for objections to be made by local residents. Any negative impact on individuals or groups raised will be considered in the final decision.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There was 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 although a request could be passed to the Event Organiser to pay for these additional costs.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.
- 7.2 In order to protect the authority's interests and to support the staging of the event nominated Officers have been invited to participate in the running of the Command, Communication and Control centre on the day of the event. Officers have also requested that they are present on the day of the event in the Advance Route Inspection vehicle to ensure that the proposed Traffic Management Plans are being implemented as proposed.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The proposals were consulted upon in accordance with the Councils approved procedure between the 17 -24 April 2015. A list of all stakeholders is included in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 At the time of writing this report 31 responses were received to the proposals as detailed in Appendix 2. As Members will see, some of the responses are opposed to the staging of the event and the necessary road closures while others are in support. Any responses received subsequently will be reported at the meeting.

- 8.3 The Event Organiser has separately implemented a Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan with those directly affected by the proposed routes. A helpline has been set up by the Event Organiser so that the public can engage directly with them.
- 8.4 All responses from consultations on this report have been incorporated in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Cabinet consider the responses to the consultation summarised in Appendix 2.
- 9.2 Cabinet decide whether or not to proceed with 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 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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Background papers: 'Velothon Wales 2015' report to Cabinet – 25 March 2015

Appendices:

Appendix 1: List of stakeholders consulted

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