



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

**THE RHONDDA CYNON TAF NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR. ANN
CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
AND CLLR. RHYS LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH
PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE**

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Chris Richards - Visitor Attractions Manager
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee in relation to the infrastructure and spatial planning for The RCT National Eisteddfod of Wales 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report and considers whether further information is required.
- 2.2 Approves the use of Council owned (or controlled) land identified in the Infrastructure Plan for use by the National Eisteddfod and delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services and the Director of Corporate Estates to ensure appropriate agreements are in place to secure the same.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee are aware of the current planning infrastructure requirements to deliver a successful festival in partnership with the National Eisteddfod.
- 3.2 To allow the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee the opportunity to comment on the progress of the work as the need arises.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As Members will be aware, in 2018 the Council completed a successful Expression of Interest to host for the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 2022. However due to the pandemic and disruption to the forward calendar for the National Eisteddfod, Rhondda Cynon Taf being host was delayed until August 2024.
- 4.2 In August 2023 the official home for the National Eisteddfod 2024 was officially announced as Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (YWMP) in Pontypridd. The RCT National Eisteddfod will therefore be in Pontypridd from the 3rd to 10th August 2024.
- 4.3 Under the direction of a Council Senior Leadership Oversight Board, two Workstream groups, made up of RCT officers and partners, have been established to work directly with the National Eisteddfod to deliver the comprehensive infrastructure and community engagement aspects of the Eisteddfod.
- 4.4 The Infrastructure Group meets monthly to discuss the following topics:
- Highway/Traffic Infrastructure.
 - Transport.
 - Car Parks/Park and Ride.
 - Hospitality.
 - Camping, Tourism.
 - Licensing.
 - Town Centre liaison.

Departmental Managers take responsibility for their specific work tasks as set out in the Council's Project Plan. Additional Sub-Groups are in place where required to progress specific priorities, for example transport management plans.

Infrastructure

- 4.5 While the main festival site will be in YWMP, Officers have worked with the National Eisteddfod to identify land and infrastructure to enable the Authority to host Europe's largest cultural festival making best use of existing resources and facilities. This has required identification of sites for caravan and camping sites, park and ride arrangements and maximising use of the public transport network.
- 4.6 The National Eisteddfod has confirmed the proposal locations of key features of the festival, in and around Pontypridd and have worked with Council Officers to produce an infrastructure plan which is provided at Appendix 1. The plan includes use of private, Council and other

publicly owned lands for a range of purposes including the main camping and caravan site location, Maes B (the National Eisteddfod Youth Fringe Festival) and key park and ride sites. The Council owned (or controlled) sites identified for use are:

- Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (main Eisteddfod Site)
- Hawthorn School site (park and ride)
- Pontypridd High School Fields (Maes B)

The Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee will note that use of the Pontypridd High School Playing Fields for Maes B is subject to decision and specific agreement between the School Governors and the National Eisteddfod.

- 4.7 On the 4th March, a briefing was held by Key Officers and the National Eisteddfod Chief Executive for Members representing Pontypridd Area Wards and localities hosting elements of the infrastructure plans. This forms part of an ongoing commitment from the National Eisteddfod and Council Officers to work with local members as the detailed plans are developed for operationalising the Spatial Plan set out in this report.
- 4.8 Pontypridd Town Centre benefits from excellent public transport links, which will be further enhanced in time for the Eisteddfod as the Metro infrastructure work is progressed. The RCT Eisteddfod will therefore promote a greener travel message to visitors, and a number of initiatives to promote use of the train network and wider park and ride facilities will be in place. A specific working group of the National Eisteddfod, Council and Transport for Wales is ensuring detailed transport and traffic management plans are in place for the Event. These plans will be presented to the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee for consideration at the earliest opportunity once a final draft is available.
- 4.9 The arrangements put in place for the National Eisteddfod will be subject to further scrutiny and approval in due course by the Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG). ESAG is a multi-agency group that ensures robust security and safety considerations for large events are in place by organisers. Membership of ESAG includes Police, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Planning, Community Safety Licensing and wider event safety management input by Council departments. The first meeting of ESAG to consider the emerging National Eisteddfod Plans was held in January 2024.

Pontypridd Spatial Plan

- 4.10 The National Eisteddfod Main Site (or Maes) will be in the YWMP and draft plans for the location of the Maes key features are being

developed, maximising the natural and built features of the Park for the benefit of visitors and competitors.

- 4.11 Building the National Eisteddfod Maes requires a significant lead in time and incorporating key features of the Park and Town Centre into this unique Eisteddfod offer will mean some disruption to normal users of those facilities. This will be during the build and deconstruction phases of the Maes. This work has been discussed in detail with the National Eisteddfod and a phased approach to release of areas of the Park for the National Eisteddfod will be adopted and issued once fully completed.
- 4.12 In addition to YWMP, Members will specifically note that the following Council venues and sites in the town and locality are proposed for inclusion in the overall National Eisteddfod Maes or wider Infrastructure plans:
- Pontypridd Library (Welcome Centre and Ticket Office)
 - St Catherine's St Car Park (accessible parking)
 - Taff Vale Park (Eisteddfod Staff camping)
- 4.13 Individual licenses will be issued to The National Eisteddfod for Council land that is occupied during the festival.
- 4.14 Officers are working with existing sporting groups and organisations directly affected by the Eisteddfod to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum during the site construction, festival itself and decamp periods. Engagement from those clubs and organisations has been very positive to date with alternative arrangements being made where necessary to meet their needs.
- 4.15 The National Lido of Wales will be working on a unique experience for those visitors to Eisteddfod 2024 and this will form part of the ticketing offer for visitors to the National Eisteddfod when tickets go on sale in coming months. The National Lido will remain open for public use, as will Lido Play and the main footbridges into the Park until the 31st July 2024, ensuring the main park facilities are available for as long as practicable during the phased build of the National Eisteddfod Site.
- 4.16 For Committee awareness, other non-council locations that are subject to separate private agreements between the National Eisteddfod and the relevant third party, and will form an integral part of the National Eisteddfod Spatial Plan will include:
- Private Land off Berw Road (Caravan and Camping Site)
 - The Muni (Performance and Competition Venue)
 - YMa (Performance and Rehearsal venue)
 - University of South Wales Sites at Glyntaff and Treforest (Trader and Staff parking, Park and Ride and Accommodation Offer)

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 This is an information report and therefore no equality and diversity screening is necessary.
- 5.2 The National Eisteddfod does have their own Equality and Diversity policies that will be available for Members information.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This is an information report and therefore no Welsh Language assessment is necessary.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 There is no requirement to carry out a consultation in relation to this event. As part of the ESAG function and the wider consultation work that relates to the Eisteddfod, engagement will be undertaken with Stakeholders, including the business community, transport providers and Highways Wales.
- 7.2 Members representing the Pontypridd Area wards and localities hosting elements of infrastructure for the National Eisteddfod have been briefed on the Spatial Plan components. The National Eisteddfod and Senior Officers of the Council will ensure they are routinely involved in the detailed operational plans as these are being developed over coming weeks to ensure the views of the residents they represent can be duly considered.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. The National Eisteddfod is a charitable organisation and the costs of the Event are met through community and corporate fundraising, income from the event (traders/ tickets) and a Welsh Government Grant.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 10.1 **A Prosperous Wales** – Providing an opportunity for local business to benefit from the additional visitors to Pontypridd and the surrounding areas and re-enforce RCT as a tourist destination.
- 10.2 **A Wales of More Cohesive Communities** – Involving communities from throughout the County Borough the opportunity to be involved in the largest cultural festival in Europe.
- 10.3 **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language** – The National Eisteddfod will highlight the culture and language of Wales through RCT and beyond to an international audience.
- 10.4 **A Globally Responsive Wales** – The Eisteddfod will further highlight Wales and RCT in a positive light across the world.
- 10.5 **Long Term** – The Eisteddfod will help to establish RCT as a tourist destination. The legacy of the Eisteddfod and community engagement will also benefit those learning and already fluent in the Welsh language across RCT.
- 10.6 **Integrations** – The Eisteddfod will provide a fully accessible and integrated festival for all those wishing to attend.
- 10.7 **Collaboration** – The Council will continue to work effectively with the Eisteddfod to ensure the festival and legacy impact on residents of RCT in the future.

11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

- 11.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf Eisteddfod, whilst based mainly in the Pontypridd and adjacent areas, will affect and benefit wards across the County Borough.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod offers a great opportunity to showcase the County Borough and Pontypridd. The work required to host such a large event in a non traditional location for the Eisteddfod will result in some disruption to usual activities in and around the Town. This will be offset by the economic and long term benefits to the welsh language and locality that this event is known to deliver. Detailed work will continue by the National Eisteddfod, supported by Council Officers, Transport for Wales, local memebtrs and other partners, over coming months to develop the necessary Transport and Traffic Management Plans, Event Safety Management Plans that are required to ensure the event is successful and safe. The Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee should note the report and agree the frequency of future update reports and meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

27th FEBRUARY 2024

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
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**INITIAL REPORT IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF
WALES 2024 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

Background Papers:

None

Officer to contact:

Keith Nicholls – Head of Leisure, Sport and Parks

Relevant Scrutiny:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee