



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

29th APRIL 2024

**UPDATE ON THE RCT 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**

Authors: Keith Nicholls - Head of Leisure, Sport and Parks
Chris Richards - Visitor Attractions Manager
Scott Treeby - Events Manager.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Note the content of the update report.
2.2 Considers whether further information is required.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The report is to provide the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee the opportunity to comment on progress with the work required to deliver the infrastructure, transport and traffic, and spatial planning arrangements for the National Eisteddfod in August 2024.

4. **INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

4.1 For Cabinet Members information, there are a number of changes to the spatial plan previously reported to Committee in March 2024. These changes mainly reflect the evolving needs of the National Eisteddfod (NE) customers with the aim of providing them with a greater overall experience. These changes include:

- A new plan for the Maes in YWMP. The changes relate to the way in which the NE has reconfigured the layout to enhance the experience of the festival.
- The main site for the caravan park off Berw Road, Pontypridd, has been secured by legal agreement with a private landowner and plans are being devised to maximise use of the public transport network and safe walking routes for people staying on the site.
- The NE is reviewing the proposed location for Maes B in order to improve the visitor experience and provide a safer and better experience for Maes B attendees. This follows the scoping exercise by the Eisteddfod which deemed a pedestrian bridge to connect the location to the main caravan park off Berw Road was not viable. A further update on the outcome of the NE review on location for Maes B will be provided, if available, to Members during the committee meeting.
- Plans have been developed to provide park and ride facilities (pre bookable) at Hawthorn High School, site plans will be provided once all considerations have been confirmed. Discussions are ongoing in respect of the safe traffic management requirements for the site during the week of the Eisteddfod.
- Park and Ride facilities are no longer available at the University of South Wales Treforest Campus, due to pressures on usage of the USW campus at that time for other events. The Glyntaff Campus car park and associated land will continue to be available for trader and NE staff parking. Early indications from the NE are that additional parking will not be required elsewhere but officers are continuing to review this situation and look for contingency options should they be required.
- Following engagement with South Wales Police over the safe management of people in the close proximity to the MAES entrance at (Llys Cadwyn), and use of Yma and the Muni as venues for the NE, it is being proposed that both Taff Street and Gas Road Car Park will have controlled access during the Eisteddfod week. Logistics and operational procedures will be developed to support

this and further information will be provided to Cabinet Members when confirmed.

- 4.2 Officers continue to communicate with local ward members regarding the Eisteddfod and where possible provide updates and information in a timely manner when enquiries are made. Members are also updated via the Cabinet Office and members bulletins.
- 4.3 The Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) has met on 2 occasions since March 2024 and are working through the specific event safety and licensing act requirements with the NE Team. These meetings will continue monthly and as and when required in the lead up to the event. Relevant officers and third party organisations have been given access to a file sharing platform where regular updates can be communicated in a timely manner.
- 4.4 Officers are continuing to work with existing sporting groups and organisations directly affected by the Eisteddfod to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum.
- 4.5 Officers are working closely with the NE Team to ensure agreements are in place and operational arrangements a timeline overview of the Eisteddfod's occupation and use of land to set up and remove infrastructure.

5. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

- 5.1 The RCT Traffic Team are continuing to meet with the NE and Transport for Wales as part of a Working Group, regarding the movement of visitors around Pontypridd and surrounding areas during the festival. A traffic management consultant has been appointed to work with all partners to devise a traffic management plan. Further information will be provided when the plan has been drafted.
- 5.2 Part of the traffic management plan will involve co-ordination of a single channel of communication across all partners streams of communication (including social media channels and the NE website), working with RCT Council and Transport for Wales communications officers and NE and South Wales Police teams. A strategic communications plan will be created in the coming weeks for delivery in the weeks leading up and during the event.
- 5.3 In order to inform the traffic management and communications plans for visitors, the NE has agreed to provide customer data to the Working Group around customers' self-reported preferred transport method and geographical locations of their place of stay. This information on customers travel plans will be collected as general tickets go on sale

and this will assist in the understanding on pinch points and traffic management on our network.

- 5.4 Scoping works are currently underway on the logistical implications on traffic light sequencing in and around Pontypridd to assist with the traffic demand at the time of the Eisteddfod. Further work is also in hand regarding park and ride bus pick up and drop off points and contractual arrangements for the same, as well as work with the NE to understand the event programme in order to support coach parking requirements for those attending as day visitors for large-group competitions.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 This is an information report and therefore no equality and diversity screening is necessary.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

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

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1 There is no requirement to carry out a consultation in relation to this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 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.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

- 11.1 There are significant links to both the Corporate Plan 2024-2030 (Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language priority) and the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. As a Council we are committed to promoting and enabling use of the Welsh language in our communities and the NE is a national event that is providing a platform from which we can continue to make progress.

- 11.2 The NE is being delivered in partnership with the organisers, communities, businesses, sector partners and visitors to RCT. The approach to delivering the event is an inclusive one to ensure everyone can feel part of the largest cultural event in Europe and that we derive a long term legacy from our hosting of the event.

12. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

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

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee should note the significant progress being made to ensure the infrastructure, transport and spatial plan requirements of the event are delivered successfully and efficiently.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers:

None

Officer to contact:

Keith Nicholls – Head of Leisure, Sport and Parks

Relevant Scrutiny:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee