



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 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,  
INCLUSION 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.
- 2.3 Agree to temporarily close the Hawthorn Swimming Pool from the 2<sup>nd</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> August to ensure the safe operation of the Park and Ride facility at Hawthorn High School.

**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 April 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 Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (YWMP) has been developed. The changes relate to the way in which the NE has reconfigured the layout to enhance the experience of the festival.
- The NE has reviewed the location for Maes B and moved its location from Pontypridd High School to the Berw Road on land adjacent to the Eisteddfod caravan site.
- Plans have been developed to provide park and ride facilities (pre bookable) at Hawthorn High School and Abercynon with hours of operation being finalised. Discussions are ongoing in respect of the safe traffic management requirements for the site during the week of the Eisteddfod. A communication plan is being developed by the NE to inform the local residents of the details relating to the P+R facility housed in the school.
- It is proposed to close the swimming pool within Hawthorn High school for the period of the Eisteddfod (2<sup>nd</sup> August – 12<sup>th</sup> August) to ensure safe operation of the park and ride due to the large amounts of traffic entering and leaving the site.
- The Park and Ride areas will be staffed and managed by RCT employees supplemented with trained Security Staff and NE Volunteers. Security Staff will marshal traffic on and leaving the main highways and RCT staff will manage the parking of the cars and bus service. A group has been established to manage the rotas and staff compliment.
- NE volunteers will work alongside RCT staff and provide a direct NE point of contact for visitors before leaving to travel to the Maes.
- YWMP will be closed on a phased basis as the NE Maes build work is due to commence on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Officers have worked closely with the NE Team to ensure agreements are in place and operational arrangements understood to establish a

timeline overview of the Eisteddfod's occupation and use of land, to set up and remove infrastructure. Public communications will be issued as the build progresses and planned restrictions on areas of the park are put in place.

- 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, recognising that confirmation of the final traffic management plans in particular are progressing at pace with our partners in Transport for Wales and NE. Members are also updated via the Cabinet Office and members bulletins.
- 4.3 The Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) has met since the last committee meeting. The NE and third party organisation discussions are progressing well. This includes wider discussions between the Council, Emergency Planning Leads, with South Wales Police and the NE to ensure contingency plans to manage any incidents outside the main Maes are planned for and adequate resources are in place by all agencies to manage and respond as required.
- 4.4 The Council is progressing the application submitted for a licence for the event, in line with usual licensing procedures and legislation with a determination on any licence and licensing conditions to be determined in coming weeks.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 Unfortunately the cricket pitch at Ynysybwl for the ladies and junior Pontypridd Teams will not be available. This is due to the adverse weather conditions experienced in the last 6 months. Contractors have confirmed that it will not be playable and alternative facilities are being sourced that meet the Club needs. The main team will play their fixtures from August to the end of the 2024 season in Aberdare as previously agreed with the Club.

## **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. The traffic management consultant appointed to work with all partners to devise a traffic management plan is actively supporting

the development of a traffic management plan for the event and a draft plan is being finalised.

- 5.2 A single channel of communication co-ordinated by lead officers for all agencies has been agreed 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 has been finalised and work to promote messages on active travel, use of public transport and how to book park and ride spaces is being issued by the NE and Council. Further planned communications will be issued as part of ticket sale launch messages and in the lead up to the event.
- 5.3 Through the survey conducted by NE on the travel plans of previous attendees and through survey work for local people and people planning to attend this year, a clearer understanding of traffic and travel requirements for this unique NE have been identified. The information on customers travel plans being collected will assist in the understanding on pinch points and traffic management on our network.
- 5.4 Further work is also in hand regarding park and ride bus pick up and drop off points and contractual arrangements for bus operations to support the park and ride sites. As the Eisteddfod programme is finalised, the needs of ad hoc travelling coach parties is being shared by NE so that plans can be finalised 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**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE**

**10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**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,  
INCLUSION AND WELSH LANGUAGE**

**UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 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