



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

15th JULY 2024

**UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE AND 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.

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 (NE) in August 2024.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Ynysangharad War Memorial Park

- 4.1 The site build began on 17th June and construction is progressing as expected. The NE build team have been accommodating to park

visitors in order to minimise disruption so far as reasonably practicable, and in line with decisions taken by the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Sub-Cabinet Committee on the 19th June 2024. Public communications will continue to be issued as the build progresses and planned restrictions on areas of the park are put in place. Signage is in place around the park to inform visitors of the phased restrictions.

- 4.2 A plan to allow the Park Run to continue until 14th July 2024 was developed and put in place with organisers of the event. As the popular Pontypridd Park Run has been postponed for selected dates in July and August, the Council has made available free use leisure facility vouchers to encourage runners to continue with their training at one of our leisure sites during this period.
- 4.3 Officers are continuing to work with all established sporting groups and organisations directly affected by the Eisteddfod to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. As reported in the previous meeting there have been some difficulties relating to the newly laid playing surface at Ynysybwl for the Pontypridd Ladies and Junior Cricket Teams. This has now been resolved and following positive engagement with Hopkinstown Cricket Club, these teams will play matches at Hopkinstown for the rest of this season.

Park and Ride Locations

- 4.4 Plans are being finalised to operate the park and ride (P&R) facilities at Hawthorn High School and Abercynon, with hours of operation being 07.00 until 00.00 (midnight) each day. The NE has advised that these facilities tend to be vacated earlier in the evening, as the Eisteddfod programme of acts ends before 10.30pm, meaning that any large scale potential disruption to local residents during late evening is kept to a minimum.
- 4.5 Discussions are ongoing in respect of the safe traffic management requirements for the sites during the week of the Eisteddfod. A communication plan has been developed by the NE and the Council to inform the local residents of the details relating to the P&R facility housed in the school. A link has been developed to allow Eisteddfod visitors to express an interest in P&R [Park and ride | Eisteddfod](#)
- 4.6 As per agreement from Sub-Cabinet at the last meeting, Hawthorn Pool will be closed from Friday 2nd August and will re-open on Monday 12th August 2024. Customers and hirers have been made aware and information about alternative centres has been provided. This message will continue to be communicated in the run up to the NE.
- 4.7 The P&R areas will be staffed and managed by RCT employees including the Council's Transport Team, trained Security Staff and NE

Volunteers. A rota is being finalised currently and training will take place on site for team members to understand their roles in the days leading up to the NE.

- 4.8 Contractors have been appointed to operate the P&R bus services. Detailed communications have been issued to inform visitors to the event encouraging use of the free P&R services, that will run every few minutes from each site and take people directly into the town centre. **Visitors travelling from the north** of Pontypridd can use the existing Abercynon P&R (postcode CF45 4UQ) which is off the A470. The pick-up/drop-off location in Pontypridd will be on Bridge Street. **Visitors travelling from the south** of Pontypridd can use the Hawthorn P&R (CF37 5AL), which has been set up temporarily for the event. The Hawthorn P&R will be based at Hawthorn School. The pick-up/drop-off location in Pontypridd will be opposite the train station. The NE Traffic Management Contractor will be responsible for ensuring there is signage for both P&R upon exit from the A470 for the benefit of visitors.

Community Safety and Licensing

- 4.9 The Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) has continued to meet with the NE and third party organisation discussions progressing well. This includes wider discussions between the Council, Emergency Planning Leads, 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. A number of sessions have been conducted by the NE with ESAG members, using a table-top emergency planning exercise to identify any potential issues and understand the impact of the Eisteddfod on the wider community.
- 4.10 The Council, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, is progressing the application submitted for a licence for the event, in line with usual licensing procedures and legislation. Representations from all statutory consultees have been received and the final licence, with appropriate licensing conditions for the Maes and Maes B, will be determined in coming days.
- 4.11 A comprehensive Policing Strategy will be in place by South Wales Police for the duration of the NE. This will include additional resources in the town and command structures in place to oversee the transport system and wider public safety and crowd order requirements.
- 4.12 As part of our wider community safety responsibilities, the Council has arrangements in place for additional CCTV monitoring for Pontypridd Town Centre and additional taxi marshals provided at the night-time taxi ranks for all 8 days. The Council's Community Safety Wardens will also ensure a visible presence in the town as part of our established

public assurance service, and to encourage responsible and acceptable behaviours in the town.

Traffic and Transport

- 4.13 The NE and RCT Traffic Team are continuing to meet with Transport for Wales as part of a Working Group, regarding the movement of visitors around Pontypridd and surrounding areas during the festival. The event transport management consultant appointed to work with all partners to devise a traffic management plan is finalising the traffic management plan for the event. Travel demand data is continually being collected and analysed from local people, businesses and visitors, and the traffic and transport plan evolving to cater for demand.
- 4.14 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, NE, Transport for Wales communications officers and South Wales Police teams. A strategic communications plan has been finalised and work has started to promote messages on active travel, use of public transport and how to book P&R spaces is being issued by the NE and Council. Further planned communications will be issued throughout July and the event period in August.
- 4.15 Active travel, safe walking and cycling routes are being promoted around the event, and work to ensure safe routes for pedestrians from the main campsite at Berw Road have been undertaken. A walking route assessment has been concluded and a preferred walking route between the camp site and Maes has been established. Highway improvement works are underway to enhance the walking route and are due to be completed mid-July. The NE appointed Traffic Management Contractor will be responsible for the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians between the highway and camp site. There will also be ample cycle storage within the Maes to support visitors who wish to cycle to the event too.
- 4.16 Public transport will continue to be promoted as one of the best ways to access the Eisteddfod. There are now more frequent rail services on the South Wales Metro, with 8 trains per hour between Cardiff and Pontypridd, and more frequent evening services to Aberdare, Treherbert and Merthyr Tydfil. In addition, there are regular public buses connecting the town from adjacent communities. Between 22nd July and 1st September, there will be £1 bus fares for journeys within Rhondda Cynon Taf. Further details of terms and conditions will be available on the Council Website.
- 4.17 A survey of Pontypridd Town Centre businesses has been conducted in partnership with the Pontypridd BID, in order to understand business

requirements during the planned restrictions on vehicle access to Taff Street. Proposed restrictions will operate from 09.00 to 01.00 between the 3rd and the early hours of 11th August, with permit access only available to Gas Road Car Park. In line with confirmed, business critical needs, businesses affected by the restrictions will be issued with a permit from the Council to access that car park.

4.18 As previously reported to this Sub-Cabinet Committee, St Catherine's Car Park will be the designated accessible parking location for blue badge holders attending the event, with the NE responsible for overseeing access to and operation of the car park throughout the Eisteddfod.

4.19 The main taxi rank for the town will operate from the daytime rank, outside Llys Cadwyn and the Unite Union which represents the trade has been advised. When the bollard controlled area at Taff Street is opened up by 01.00, the rank and trade will move to the night-time rank location outside the B&M Store.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

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

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 report.

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 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.
- 10.2 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.

11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

- 11.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod, whilst based mainly in the Pontypridd and adjacent areas, will affect and benefit wards across the County Borough. 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 the final traffic management plans are being confirmed by the NE in partnership with the Council and Transport for Wales. All elected members are also updated via the Cabinet Office and members bulletins.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee should note the significant work that has been undertaken 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