



REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 JUNE 2021

UPDATE ON TOUR OF BRITAIN

1 Reason for Report/Summary

- 1.1 This report updates members on the progress of Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen City Council jointly hosting the final stage of the 2021 Tour of Britain professional cycle race which is scheduled to take place on Sunday 12 September 2021.
- 1.2 The first decision to host the race was taken by this Committee on 20 June 2019 ([Item 16](#)).

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the progress of preparations for the Tour of Britain; and**
- 2.2 Note the continued uncertainty around Covid restrictions and its impact on sponsorship, promotion and event planning.**

3 Purpose and Decision- Making Route

- 3.1 During the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting of 26 November 2020 (Item 13) members requested an update on progress after the original race was postponed from September 2020 to September 2021. A [bulletin](#) has been provided in the meantime and this report provides the most up-to-date information available before the summer recess.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 Organisers of the Tour have driven and approved the proposed route. Route details have not been publicly announced but it is known that the race will start in Stonehaven, climb the Cairn O' Mount and finish in Aberdeen. The route will be announced as part of a planned marketing campaign in partnership with the race organisers.
- 4.2 The route will impact Kincardine and Mearns, Marr and Garioch, with the greatest activity within Aberdeenshire occurring at the start of the race in Stonehaven. A rolling road closure system will operate once the race is out of Stonehaven so as to minimise disruption to local residents and businesses.
- 4.3 Businesses and communities on or close to the route will be communicated with so they are aware of opportunities and potential disruption. A larger piece of work is being planned to ensure Stonehaven residents are aware of temporary road closures and parking restrictions.

- 4.4 The event involves a number of Council services and the Area Manager for Kincardine and Mearns is leading a multi-disciplinary team to ensure operational coordination across services.
- 4.5 Continued uncertainty over the timetable for the lifting of Covid restrictions is having an impact on a number of areas.
- 4.6 The impact of Covid restrictions means the new contract for the 2021 event is still being discussed and no further payments have been made since the last event was postponed. Officers from the legal departments of both Councils are working with race organisers to reach an agreement that suits both parties.
- 4.7 Council representatives are working closely with EventScotland to seek Scottish Government clarification on the anticipated event responsibilities and expectations.
- 4.8 Race organisers, Sweetspot, are currently drawing up a Covid plan. It is expected that the race will be able to go ahead but the planned activities linked to the event may be restricted. This in turn may limit the outcomes that both Councils expect from this event and impact the value of the event to the region.
- 4.9 Enquiries are ongoing with potential sponsors and a number of leads are being pursued. There is an appetite for commercial involvement, but firm commitments are likely to be late owing to the ongoing uncertainty around restrictions and what sponsorship activities will be permitted. Although there are positive enquiries the risk of not covering all costs through sponsorship remains higher than originally anticipated.
- 4.10 Local marketing and promotion is currently on hold until there is more certainty that the event is going ahead and can be run safely. Assurance has been given by the Tour of Britain marketing group that promotion can quickly be put in place in the run up to the event.
- 4.11 Given the high national profile of this event and the current uncertainties over possible restrictions, officers will provide a further update to this Committee on 19 August 2021.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority Health and Wellbeing within the Pillar Our People.
- 5.2 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority Resilient Communities within the Pillar Our Environment.
- 5.3 This report helps delivery the Strategic Priority Economy and Enterprise within the Pillar Our Economy.

5.4 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	x		
Staffing	x		
Equalities		x	
Fairer Scotland Duty		x	
Town Centre First	x		
Sustainability	x		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	x		

5.5 There will be staffing and financial implications arising from the content of this report. The cost of staffing to support the event are incorporated in the overall estimated costs, which were approved in 2019.

5.6 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out for the original proposal and identified that while this is a men's only race, for professionals, women will be encouraged to participate as spectators and in the cycling festival events, as will children and young people. No other negative impacts were identified as part of the assessment.

5.7 A Town Centre Impact Assessment was carried out for the original proposal and there is a positive impact through increased visitor spend to any town centres on the identified route.

5.8 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#):

- ACORP001 – budget pressures
- ACORP004 – business and organisational change
- ACORP005 – working with other organisations
- ACORP006 – reputation management

The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Strategic Level](#):

- ISSR008 – economic development

6 Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.

- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider [and take a decision on] this item in terms of Section F1.1 (b) of the [List of Committee Powers in Part 2A](#) of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to policy and resources matters for Economic Development.

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