



**Glasgow City Council**  
**City Administration Committee**

## **Item 3**

24th January 2018

**Report by Councillor David McDonald, Depute Leader of the Council and City Convener for Communities**

**Contact: Billy Garrett Ext: 70989**

### **UCI WORLD CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023**

#### **Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of funding from members of the Committee, for Glasgow to host events as part of the inaugural UCI World Cycling Championships 2023. The proposal to host these events has been considered by the Glasgow Event Board where it was agreed to recommend this funding request.

#### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) considers the contents of this report; and
- (ii) approves the funding request for Glasgow to host events as part of the inaugural Championships in 2023.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

#### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

*Any Ordnance Survey mapping included within this Report is provided by Glasgow City Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function to make available Council-held public domain information. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. The OS web site can be found at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> "*

*If accessing this Report via the Internet, please note that any mapping is for illustrative purposes only and is not true to any marked scale*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In June 2018, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the world governing body for cycling, announced its intention to launch a new event in 2023: the UCI Cycling World Championships, which would for the first time combine 13 existing individual cycling world championships into one mega event.
- 1.2 As a result of an approach made by Glasgow and EventScotland to the UCI, and in recognition of Glasgow, Scotland and the UK's track record in delivering exceptional world-class sporting events, an exclusive window of opportunity has been offered to Glasgow/Scotland until February 2019, to consider and present its case to host the first Championships in 2023. The final submission now has to be made including funding commitments from the major partners.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This will be the biggest cycling event in the world with over 100 countries represented and over 200 World Champions being crowned during the course of the Championships. The huge media interest will guarantee worldwide broadcast coverage delivering massive international profile for both Glasgow and Scotland
- 2.2 Being the first ever hosts of this event which will become the pinnacle of the international cycling competition calendar and will cement Glasgow and Scotland's position as a worldwide leader and innovator in the planning and delivery of major sporting events.
- 2.3 Uniquely, Glasgow and Scotland have the opportunity to host a World Championships of this scale, unchallenged, and without the resource and cost implications of undertaking a formal and time-consuming bid process as would be the case for any other World Championships.
- 2.4 In order to determine the feasibility, appetite and ambition to host this event, a partnership approach has been adopted by EventScotland, Glasgow Life, UK Sport, British Cycling and the Scottish Government to work collaboratively to develop a robust Business Case, the main elements of which have been included in the narrative herein.

## **3. THE EVENT**

- 3.1 The UCI World Cycling Championships will comprise all the major cycling disciplines: Road Cycling, BMX, Mountain Biking, and Track Cycling. All disciplines will include both male and female competition, and para disciplines will also be staged alongside able-bodied competition.
- 3.2 Venue locations have been identified across the city and Scotland which make use of the existing facilities investment made for the 2014 Commonwealth Games and 2018 European Championships (such as the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and the Glasgow BMX Centre in Knightswood), as well

as recognising the opportunities provided by the wider geographical spread of world-class cycling infrastructure across Scotland (e.g. mountain biking locations in the Highlands and the Borders).

- 3.3 In addition to maximising existing venue assets, staging this event will provide opportunities to continue the positive developments made in the areas of volunteering and workforce development, as well as supporting Scottish and Team GB athletes in their preparation and qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics and other major cycling events.
- 3.4 The first UCI Cycling World Championships are indicatively scheduled to take place in early August 2023 over a two week period – the same timeframe the Glasgow 2018 Championships took place.
- 3.5 The UCI currently stages 13 World Championships annually in each of its disciplines across the year in different host cities around the world. The newly proposed UCI Cycling World Championships will, in a single region, bring all 13 disciplines together (except cyclo-cross) every four years starting from 2023. The disciplines and proposed 2023 locations are;
- UCI Road World Championships – men’s, women’s and juniors finishes in Glasgow
  - UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships – central belt
  - UCI Gran Fondo World Championships - Dundee
  - UCI Track Cycling World Championships – Glasgow
  - UCI Track Para-cycling World Championships – Glasgow
  - UCI Indoor World Championships – Glasgow
  - UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country World Championships – TBC (Cathkin Braes/Fort William/Glentress)
  - UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Championships – Fort William
  - UCI Mountain Bike Marathon World Championships – Glentress
  - UCI BMX World Championships – Glasgow
  - BMX Freestyle Park World Championships - Glasgow
  - UCI Trials World Championships – Glasgow
  - UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country Eliminator – Glasgow
- 3.6 In addition the UCI will plan to host its annual Congress during the World Championships, and there is an opportunity to host a trade and consumer biking expo, both in Glasgow, in order to capitalise on the interest that this event will generate.

## **4 GLASGOW'S POSITION**

- 4.1 The UCI has on numerous occasion cited its belief in Glasgow as an exceptional host of major events, in part due to the success of the first European Championships in the summer of 2018. Glasgow is keen to continue this relationship with UCI, matching and indeed succeeding its expectations for the management and delivery of the World Cycling Championships 2023.

- 4.3 Glasgow is unique in the sporting world for having 4 cycling venues that can host the main cycling disciplines in one city. The Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Glasgow BMX Centre and the city centre for the road race finishes have all been agreed as locations. Cathkin Braes is currently under consideration as the location for the Mountain Bike Cross Country Championships, along with Fort William and Glentress. The UCI Technical Committee will make a decision at the start of 2019. If, in the event Cathkin Braes is not selected, the city will host a festival/participation event as part of the overall Championships to utilise and animate the track.
- 4.4 Over the past few months, numerous discussions, meetings and work has taken place between the principal partners involved in assessing the feasibility of hosting the event. The Scottish Government are currently considering the request for them to become the majority funder for this event and provide the financial underwrite. All the partners are working to ensure this is a Scotland – wide event and that the benefits are felt across the nation.
- 4.5 Naturally, owing to operational requirements and the aspiration to ensure nationwide benefit some disciplines will be held outwith Glasgow. However, in order for Glasgow to benefit from an investment of up to £15m, there needs to be a concentration of activity in the city. For this reason, in addition to the events already viewed as being hosted in Glasgow, it has recently been agreed that the Urban World Cycling Championships (comprising 3 events: BMX Freestyle World Championships, UCI Trials World Championships and UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country Eliminator) will take place in the city. In terms of the event title and naming rights, subject to final sign – off by the UCI, the ‘top line’ title of the event will be: UCI World Cycling Championships – Glasgow and Scotland 2023.
- 4.6 Glasgow would be the accommodation hub for the UCI, the vast majority of athletes, team personnel and media. Glasgow has an array of world class accommodation across all levels of budget, with direct routes into 3 international airports all within 1 hour’s drive of the city centre.
- 4.7 Building on the immense success of the 2018 European Championships, which saw the BBC broadcast its coverage from a purpose built studio in George Square, Glasgow will accommodate the host broadcaster, potentially again in its iconic city centre location.
- 4.8 Glasgow would also be the hub of an associated cultural and community programme and festival for the World Championships 2023. Therefore it is anticipated that c. £3m of the £15m would be retained for a cultural and community festival in the city. A successful model at European Championships saw the full integration of the Festival 2018 and ‘Go Live’ model, which animated key sites within the city centre, reached diverse communities and offered the rest of Scotland a chance to be involved through programming and funding. Following G2014 and G2018 there is evidence of the importance of an associated festival and it would be imperative to the success of the Championships that a major cultural and community programme is developed. Furthermore for the cultural sector in Glasgow, it

will be extremely valuable that another mega event is hosted in Glasgow and that they will have opportunity to secure funding to contribute to the programme.

- 4.9 Glasgow should build on the legacy which high profile events have provided, such as the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2018 European Championships, ensuring accessible pathways and the capacity to respond to the interest generated. Consideration should be given to a 4/5 year pre-event engagement plan to build on successful initiatives such as Bikeability and offering young people and disadvantaged communities' access to cycling.

## **5. BUDGET**

- 5.1 Initial modelling based on the partners' combined knowledge of hosting major cycling events in the UK, as well as information provided by the UCI, suggests a total expenditure of approximately £45m-£50m will be required to deliver the event itself. This includes a contingency of 15% due to this being a new event which has not been delivered before in this format.
- 5.2 While there will be opportunities to generate some event income through commercial partnerships and ticket sales, as well as the potential to receive UK Sport major event funding, it is important to recognise that the majority of event costs will need to be sourced from public sector partners in Scotland.
- 5.3 An initial independent assessment of the economic impact of hosting this event has been undertaken using information from previous major international cycling championships held overseas and in the UK, which estimates that conservatively the event should deliver £67m total direct benefit to the Scottish economy.
- 5.4 The projected budget at this stage is £45.76m. Inflation has been set at 3% compound per annum over 5 years from 2018 to 2023. The contingency of 15% will, at a future detailed project planning phase, be reprofiled to encompass both optimism bias and contingency.
- 5.5 GCC investment of up to £12m towards the hosting of the event, and the additional £3m for city specific activation, will provide strong arguments in favour of activating contributions from the other potential funding partners and would bring significant benefits to Glasgow. A substantial proportion of this overall investment will be spent in Glasgow, with tangible impacts on the venues being used to host the Championships including the Emirates Arena and the Glasgow BMX Centre. Glasgow would ensure that Cathkin Braes, if not selected as a Championships venue, would also benefit from venue enhancements, legacy works and activation as was evident in Glasgow 2018.

## 6 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* The Committee is asked to approve funding of up to £15m to deliver a world class event with a large proportion of activity happening in Glasgow.

The funding would be drawn from the City's Culture and Recreation fund which supports the Events portfolio. This has been considered as part of a long-term assessment of the available funds within this budget.

*Legal:* Necessary legal agreements to be completed in due course.

*Personnel:* To deliver an event of this scale there will be significant personnel requirements. All the costs of dedicated event resource would be covered by overall event budget. Furthermore, there may be savings to GCC by not backfilling posts who are working on the Championships as was the case in G2018.

*Procurement:* Significant procurement will take place should the city be successful in hosting this event. Depending on the governance model developed for this event, there could be options for utilizing Glasgow City Council's framework to ensure longer terms advantages.

**Council Strategic Plan:** Glasgow Life sits under the Vibrancy theme of the GCC Strategic Plan. The key outcomes of the Vibrant City are:

- Glasgow is a world class destination for tourism, culture, sport, events and heritage.
- Glaswegians are active and healthier.
- All citizens have access to the city's cultural life and its heritage.
- Glasgow acknowledges and promotes its history, heritage and culture.

The key priorities under this, which the UCI World Cycling Championships will deliver against are:

- Contribute towards maintaining Glasgow's reputation as a world class city for heritage and events building on the legacy of 2014 and support Glasgow to become more active and meet the outcomes set for an Active Scotland (priority no 13).
- Deliver outcomes in the Glasgow Tourism and Visitor Strategy (priority no 15).
- Through a cultural programme the Championships will help to develop cultural engagement in the city (priority no 16).

The inaugural UCI World Cycling Championships 2023 is of a considerable size and scale that the impacts from hosting the event will reach far beyond the vibrant theme, with benefits being delivered across a sustainable and low carbon city, a healthier city and a thriving economy.

### **Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22*

Yes, regarding Outcome 8, this event will provide service users with protected characteristics targeted, improved and more accessible information about the event and wider services provided by the Council Family.

With regards to Outcome 9, this event will further lessen and remove barriers to participation in physical activity and sport but also learning, arts and culture for people with people with protected characteristics.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

The event will support the continued use of information road shows at city and community events to raise awareness about accessing the event and its activities, particularly those for people with protected characteristics.

The event will support Glasgow Life in continuing to deliver programmes of sport and physical activity that are tailored to support disabled people become more active.

The event will enable Glasgow Life to continue to improve venue access, both through physical adaptations and cultural ones.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.*

An objective to hosting this Championships is helping people to sustain and improve their health especially in disadvantaged communities. Active Scotland has a vision of Scotland where more people are more active, more often. The new Active Scotland Delivery Plan aims to reduce physical inactivity in adults and teenagers in Scotland by 15% by 2030.

This is a unique opportunity to put cycling centre stage in creating a better place to live, work and visit. In doing so it could make a valuable contribution to the six Active Scotland outcomes of:

- Encouraging and enabling the inactive to be more active
- Encouraging and enabling the active to stay active throughout life
- Developing physical confidence and competence from the earliest age
- Improving our active infrastructure – people and places
- Supporting well-being and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport
- Improving opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in sport

### **Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:*

Hosting this event will contribute in a tangible and meaningful way to the city's cycling strategy's vision "to create a vibrant Cycling City where cycling is accessible, safe and attractive to all". The Championships has the potential to act as an accelerator for capital works to improve the city's cycling infrastructure.

*Social, including Article 19 opportunities:*

This event will assist in making cycling a popular mode of travel for those people who live, work and visit the city. It will support the health and well-being of our residents and will contribute to Glasgow's aim of being one of the most sustainable cities in Europe. The event will support cycling as a participation activity for all and will build on the



accomplishments of, and continue to support, Glasgow's talented, competitive cyclists.

*Economic:*

The event will create jobs and support business in the city. It will attract visitors to the city, delivering an estimated £67m of total direct benefit to the Scottish economy – with a significant proportion of that benefiting Glasgow, which will be the main accommodation hub for the event.

**Privacy and Data  
Protection impacts:**

None at this stage.

**7 Recommendations**

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) considers the contents of this report; and
- (ii) approves the funding request for up to £15m for Glasgow be a host city of this inaugural event in 2023.