

ITEM 4

LORD MAYOR TRAVEL TO HARROGATE, ENGLAND TO OBSERVE THE 2019 UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AND MEET WITH KEY LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE EVENT

## RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council approves the Lord Mayor's travel to Harrogate and Manchester, England, from 25 to 29 September 2019.
- 2 Council note that the purpose of this travel is for the Lord Mayor to –
  - a Observe the operation and management of the 2019 UCI Road World Championships and to meet with key leaders responsible for organising this event
  - b Meet with representatives involved in the Northern Powerhouse project regarding economic development opportunities between Wollongong and Northern England.
- 3 A Leave of Absence be granted for the Lord Mayor from 25 to 29 September 2019.

## REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance and Customer Service  
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

## BACKGROUND

### UCI Road World Championships

The UCI Road World Championships are the annual World Championships for bicycle road racing organised by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). Cycling Australia has won the rights to host the 2022 UCI Road World Championships in Wollongong. The bid proposal for Wollongong was submitted by Cycling Australia with the support of the NSW Government and Wollongong City Council.

An estimated 300,000 spectators will be in Wollongong over the 8 day event, with over 500 accredited media and an international viewing audience of 200 million. The UCI Road World Championships is the most significant international event to be held in Wollongong. It presents a major opportunity to showcase the Region and create a positive, sustainable legacy from hosting the event.

The NSW Government has established a Local Organising Committee to oversee Wollongong 2022, including members with backgrounds in business, sports and media. A Legacy Sub-Committee has also been established with Council represented by the General Manager. This Group has commenced initial planning on potential legacy initiatives and projects to flow from Wollongong 2022.

The 2019 UCI Road World Championships will be held in North Yorkshire from 22 to 29 September 2019 with Harrogate as the host town. It is estimated that 1.2 million visitors will attend over the 8 days, providing significant economic benefit to the Region. The planning for Yorkshire 2019 has focussed on achieving sustained benefits for cycling and the broader community from hosting the Championships well beyond the immediate event. Generating an ongoing legacy is one of the most important issues and it will be vital for Wollongong to maximise the investment in the 2022 event.

The advice from Cycling Australia's General Manager is attendance of a Council representative at the 2019 event would be advantageous in terms of civic connections with host cities (Yorkshire 2019 and Aigle 2020) and the UCI, as well as the opportunity to observe the event, meet with stakeholders and report back to both the Council, Legacy Sub-Committee and Operations Working Party. At this stage,

Council officers are unable to attend providing the opportunity for the Lord Mayor to represent the City of Wollongong.

### **Strengthening Wollongong's relationship with Northern England**

Wollongong has an established connection with Northern England. In 2017 the Lord Mayor attended a market briefing in Manchester organised by Austrade for companies interested in business opportunities in Australia. Wollongong was used as a case study at the briefing and this provided a platform to present the 'Advantage Wollongong' story and to distribute 'Advantage Wollongong' promotional material.

Wollongong hosted the 'Wigan Warriors' Super League match in 2018, providing significant exposure for Wollongong particularly in Wigan and the Manchester area.

### **PROPOSAL**

It is proposed that the Lord Mayor travel in Harrogate to observe the operation and management of Yorkshire 2019.

The chair of the Wollongong 2022 Local Organising Committee and the General Manager of Cycling Australia will be in Harrogate to facilitate meetings with members of the Yorkshire 2019 board and local government representatives.

This will be an opportunity to understand the policy, planning and delivery of legacy initiatives in the North Yorkshire area. It will be particularly valuable to identify how the legacy planning for Yorkshire 2019 aims to -

- Increase opportunities for participation in cycling
- Develop initiatives which support active transport and bike riding
- Enhance large scale event management, including skills development and approval processes
- Ensure on-going tourism benefits arising from the increased profile of the Region
- Engage the community to maximise the benefits of the hosting the UCI Road Cycling Championships.

A delegation involved in the 2020 UCI Road World Championships to be held in Aigle, Switzerland will also give a presentation in Harrogate on the key issues for the 2020 event. This will provide insight on issues that should be considered in the 12 months prior to the running of the Championships.

It is proposed the Lord Mayor also meet with contacts in Northern England to identify economic development opportunities between our two Regions. The Lord Mayor intends to meet with representatives involved in the Northern Powerhouse project which aims to boost economic growth around Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull and Newcastle. The project involves improvement to transport links, investment in science and innovation, and devolution of powers in City Deals. This will be an opportunity, especially with Brexit fast approaching, for the Lord Mayor to promote the Advantage Wollongong Investor Prospectus.

### **CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

The General Manager of Cycling Australia has provided an indicative program for the Lord Mayor's proposed visit.

The Lord Mayor will report back to Councillors, the Legacy Sub-Committee and Operations Working Party on his findings and recommendations from observing the Championships and meeting with the key leaders.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The indicative cost for the proposed travel is \$10,125. This includes -

- Flights (premium economy): Up to \$7,000
- Accommodation: \$1,625 (\$325 per night)
- Incidentals (travel and meals): \$1,500 (\$250 per day).

## CONCLUSION

The proposed visit to Yorkshire 2019 will provide the Lord Mayor with valuable insights into hosting the UCI Road World Championships from a community, operational and legacy perspective. It is an opportunity to understand how local government authorities in Yorkshire have engaged the general community, business and the cycling community around the event. Observing the UCI Road World Championships and meeting with key leaders will provide advanced knowledge to assist Council in the preparation for Wollongong 2022.

Whilst in Northern England, the Lord Mayor will meet with representatives of the Northern Powerhouse project to promote economic development opportunities and build on relationships established in 2017.