

ITEM 9 LORD MAYOR TRAVEL TO GLASGOW FOR UCI MEETINGS

From 3 – 13 August 2023, Glasgow City is hosting a Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Championship event covering 7 different cycling disciplines. It is the largest UCI event ever held and an opportunity for Wollongong to continue building a lasting relationship with the world governing body for sports cycling. The Lord Mayor attended the UCI Road World Cycling Championships in Harrogate in 2019 and this proved valuable in identifying challenges and issues with hosting and managing Wollongong 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the Lord Mayor's travel in August 2023 to Glasgow, Scotland.

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

Wollongong City Council and Destination Wollongong have been working closely with AusCycling to capitalise on the success of Wollongong 2022 and have been actively pursuing commitments for future World Championships in Wollongong. This includes new disciplines such as Mountain Biking, BMX and Trials, all of which feature in the World Championship schedule for Glasgow.

The UCI Director of International Relations and Protocol has advised that a program of events and meetings will be prepared for the Lord Mayor in Glasgow. This will provide an opportunity for the Lord Mayor to directly advocate with the UCI regarding future events in Wollongong.

Glasgow City – Cycling

Wollongong and Glasgow City share a similar strategic commitment to promote and enable cycling for recreation, active transport and sport. In 2019 Glasgow was awarded the UCI Bike City Label in recognition of their vision to create a vibrant cycling city where cycling is accessible, safe and attractive to all.

Glasgow has a goal of creating 400km of cycling network by 2025 and a 10% modal share target for cycling. The Lord Mayor will meet with Glasgow City Council to learn about the implementation of their Strategic Plan for Cycling 2016-2025 and to share information on Wollongong's progress in providing improved and equitable distribution of cycling infrastructure across our city.

Glasgow City – Sustainability

Glasgow City is implementing successful local initiatives to address climate change. The city achieved a target of reducing CO2 emissions by 30% in 2020. That same year Glasgow City Council's Climate Emergency Working Group made 61 recommendations ranging across all areas of city activity.

Sustainable Glasgow is a partnership with Council and local businesses which has been established to support the city's ambition of becoming Net-Zero Carbon by 2030. The Lord Mayor plans to meet with Glasgow City Council to learn more about their approach to local emissions reduction. This will provide valuable insights regarding Wollongong's Climate Change Mitigation Plan and updating Council's Emissions Reduction Target with city leaders. Information will also be gathered about Glasgow's approach to developing a circular economy.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Lord Mayor represent Wollongong for 4 days in Glasgow during the UCI World Championship. This is an opportunity to strengthen Wollongong's relationship with the international cycling organisation, promote Wollongong's Bike City status and engage with Glasgow City Council on sustainability initiatives.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 6. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
6.2 Wollongong continues to build infrastructure and programs to fulfil its role as a UCI Bike city.	Implement actions from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The adopted *Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy* states the following in relation to approved international travel:

6.13. *For international travel, the class of air travel is to be premium economy if available. Otherwise, the class of travel is to be economy.*

The indicative cost for the proposed travel is up to \$15,100 which includes:

- Flights (premium economy): Up to \$11,000
- Transfers: \$600
- Accommodation: \$2,500 (\$500 per night)
- Incidentals (travel and meals): \$1,000 (approx. \$200 per day)

In addition to the above, as part of networking with UCI and Glasgow City Council representatives, there may be a requirement for the Lord Mayor to host meetings with associated hospitality costs. Any such costs will be met from Council's Civic Events budget.

Cr Bradbery is Chair of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO). From a regional perspective, there is benefit in Cr Bradbery meeting with Glasgow City Council and Sustainable Glasgow to learn about their circular economy initiatives and how this might be adapted in the Illawarra Shoalhaven. The level of ISJO support and sharing of travel costs is yet to be determined, however there may be opportunity to offset a portion of the above detailed costs to Council if ISJO contribute. At this point in time ISJO have not been formally approached to contribute to the costs of travel.

CONCLUSION

The Lord Mayor's proposed travel to Glasgow provides an opportunity to create positive economic and reputational outcomes for Wollongong by continuing to build our relationship with the Union Cycliste Internationale. In addition, it is an opportunity for the Lord Mayor to learn more about how Glasgow City Council is implementing several initiatives which are highly relevant to Wollongong and our region, including cycling infrastructure, local climate change mitigation and adaption, and the circular economy.