



2023 UCI Cycling World Championships

Date of meeting 25 August 2023

Date of report 15 August 2023

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To update the Committee on the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships hosted in Scotland in August 2023 and SPT's role in supporting the event.

2. Background to report

Members will recall that an update on progress was provided to the Committee on 28 April¹. Further to this, the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships took place from 3-13 August 2023 at various locations across Scotland. Major components of the event were held in and around Greater Glasgow. Further details on the event are available at:

<https://www.cyclingworldchamps.com/>

The Championships were the biggest cycling event ever held, combining 13 separate world championships of various cycling disciplines into one event for the first time and involved 2,600 athletes from more than 120 countries, with over 8,000 participants overall.

It is estimated that over one million spectators attended the event (with around 1 billion people watching on TV across the world) and it is expected that this will have had a positive economic impact on the economy of the city and wider region. However, as with previous major events hosted in our region, there were significant impacts on the transport network. SPT, in partnership with others, sought to ensure that any impact was minimised as far as possible and contributed extensively to the plans and co-ordination.

In addition to this significant impact, regular activities including football events on both weekends and international rugby in Edinburgh meant that the transport network overall was extremely busy.

3. Outline of proposals

The main impacts of the event on the transport network in the SPT area were as follows:

- Junior Men's and Junior Women's Road Races, Saturday 5 August, affecting a circuit of the City Centre and West End;
- Elite Men's Road Race, Sunday 6 August, affecting approaches to Glasgow via East Dunbartonshire, and a circuit of the City Centre and West End;

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/0zcgofie/ops280423_agenda8.pdf

- Mixed Relay Time Trial, Tuesday 8 August, affecting a circuit of the City Centre and West End and Glasgow Green;
- Men's Under 23 Road Race, Saturday 12 August, affecting the Balloch area of West Dunbartonshire, approaches to Glasgow via East Dunbartonshire, and a circuit of the City Centre and West End; and
- Elite Women's and Women's Under 23 Road Races, Sunday 13 August, affecting the Balloch area of West Dunbartonshire, approaches to Glasgow via East Dunbartonshire, and a circuit of the City Centre and West End.

In addition to the above, City Centre and West End circuits were closed to traffic from 4 to 8 August and again on 12 and 13 August. Approach roads leading into the city were managed by means of rolling roadblocks. Furthermore, several cycling events were held at venues within Glasgow, including Knightswood BMX Centre, Glasgow Green, the Emirates Arena and the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome.

Various 'Go-Live' sites were also in operation, most noteworthy being George Square in Glasgow city centre, which involved an extensive closure of the south side of George Square, from 17 July to 31 August.

SPT was involved in various workstreams in preparing for the event, including:

- Hosting and attending the National Transport Working Group.
- Hosting and attending the Glasgow Venue Transport Working Group.
- Liaising with UCI in respect of any additional Subway requirements on the Sundays of the event and deployment of volunteers to assist with visitor wayfinding.
- Liaising with UCI in respect of deployment of volunteers to assist with visitor wayfinding at Buchanan Bus Station (BBS) and Subway. Footfall at both BBS and Subway was significantly higher than usual during the event, with an increased requirement for passenger assistance.
- Liaising with the bus industry in respect of connecting the event management with the industry in order to keep them informed of the extensive impact of the event on bus operations, particularly of the road races. Meetings were held with bus operator representatives to this end.
- Participation in the operational phase of the championships, by means of input to the relevant Command and Control structures. This took the format of a Transport Control Centre with SPT represented at twice daily meetings, liaising between bus operators, bus station and subway colleagues and the event organisers.
- SPT strengthened subway operation on Sunday 6 August and Sunday 13 August 2023 to an 08:00–21:00 operation, in recognition of the major impact on the road and bus network of the road races on these two dates and the large numbers of spectators and visitors which were in the city accordingly. Similarly, Subway resources were strengthened on Saturday 5 and 12 August for similar reasons to the above. Subway patronage during the dates concerned was as follows:

Thu	03/08/2023	38,583
Fri	04/08/2023	49,074
Sat	05/08/2023	52,402
Sun	06/08/2023	31,130
Mon	07/08/2023	39,238
Tue	08/08/2023	45,500
Wed	09/08/2023	51,560
Thu	10/08/2023	40,765
Fri	11/08/2023	42,453
Sat	12/08/2023	59,207
Sun	13/08/2023	27,972
Total		477,884

- SPT sought support for this Subway additional resource, recognising the importance of making available transport alternatives during this period of disruption. However, this request was not supported by Transport Scotland / Scottish Government and no funding was available from Transport Scotland or the event organisers for this augmentation despite approaches from SPT in this respect.
- SPT also hosted a 'Get Smart, Get Cycling' free non-ticketed event at Kelvinbridge Station on Sunday 13 August, partnering with the Bike for Good charity. This included charities 'Dr Bike' offering free bike maintenance, 'Play Together on Pedals' offering learn to ride and skills development sessions for pre-school and school age children, and 'Own yer Bike' teaching children how to repair their bikes and how to build bikes from scratch from waste materials etc.
- SPT liaised with other key partners including Scotrail, BTP and SPFL to ensure that communications on the need to prepare travel plans were consistent and co-ordinated, particularly around travel to and from football venues on both weekends.

Additionally, an internal SPT Steering Group was established to coordinate the above activities across the organisation.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to note this report and SPT's work in assisting with the smooth running of the Championships.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>The event supported RTS priorities around low carbon growth, inclusive economic growth and a transport system that helps everyone to have healthier and more active lives.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>Any additional costs of supporting this event will need to be accommodated within existing revenue budgets.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>Additional staffing and security requirements at Subway and Buchannan Bus Station.</i>

Equalities consequences	<i>The event organisers published an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework and Supporting Pledge aimed at ensuring the event was accessible, inclusive and community focussed.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>The event organisers acknowledged negative carbon impacts given its scale but mitigated this by consolidating thirteen championships into one, encouraging sustainable travel to the event and promoting the role of cycling in limiting climate impacts.</i>

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