

## **Great West Run 2013**

Report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

***Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.***

**Recommendation: It is recommended that the report be noted.**

### **1. Introduction**

At the meeting of this Committee on 5 November 2013, it was resolved that, inter alia, a report be submitted to this meeting regarding the debrief meeting that was to be held for the Great West Run for 2013. This report summarises the points that were raised.

### **2. Background**

The Great West Run is an annual event that has been held in the City since it was first staged in 1985. The event has had a range of formats but the current half marathon format has been in place for a number of years.

### **3. 2013 Event**

For the first time in the history of the event, the race was organised by an events management company, GO2 Events. In addition to the Great West Run, GO2 Events also organised similar half marathon races in Plymouth and Cheltenham. As part of the organisation for the event, a traffic management company was employed to put in place all the road closures and other traffic management measures associated with the event. This is probably the first time that this has happened for this event. In addition to a number of pre event planning meetings, the organisers attended the meeting of the Exeter Safety Advisory Group on 29 August 2013 when they gave a short presentation and answered questions from the Core Members present. Prior to the event, as well as the standard advance warning signs for the road closures, approximately 50 signs in and around the City, the organisers had delivered some 10,000 leaflets to residents and businesses along and adjacent to the route. This was carried out some eight weeks before the event and was repeated two weeks prior to the event.

### **4. Debrief Meeting**

A debrief for this year's Race was held on 20 November 2013 and was attended by representatives from the Police, Ambulance Service, Stagecoach, City Centre Manager, the Highway Authority and GO2 Events.

The race organisers reported that from their point of view it had been a very successful event. This race had attracted 2,733 entries of which 2,181 actually took part on the day. This number was a significant increase on previous years.

From the survey of the runners that took part, some 50% were new to the event and there was an overall support for the new route particularly as it was a single lap route. Some 100 bedroom spaces had been booked in the city for overnight accommodation and over 50% of

the runners bought their food and drink in the City Centre. The organisers accepted that there was an undue delay in clearing the litter after the event and that will be addressed for any future event. From the public feedback, the main problem appeared to be traffic issues for travelling from the Crediton/Tiverton direction and access to the City Centre. The course marshals had some issues with drivers at the road closures.

The Police reported that there were some issues early on with some of the radios that didn't work. They did have some problems with the York Road junction and they considered that some of the road closures were put in place earlier than necessary. They also considered that there were too few marshals, but their overall impression was that the event went very well.

The Ambulance Service had no problems on the day but did ask that for future years blue light routes need to be established in order that they can get around the City.

The City Centre Manager reported that there had been a very positive feedback from the businesses in the City Centre and that it had been a very good decision to bring the start and finish into the City Centre. The event had brought more people into the City and there were good reports from the event village in Northernhay Gardens. The route was a good challenging route and he considered that the single lap would help the event develop in future years.

Stagecoach reported that overall they coped very well on the day with not too much disruption to services. However, there were issues with access to St. David's Station. They also thought that Bonhay Road was closed longer than planned. However it was confirmed by the organisers that the road was reopened as per the schedule.

From the Highway Authority's point of view, it became clear from the eleven complaints received that there were some problems caused on the day due to the road closures being properly put in place. There were also some issues regarding the timing of some of the road closures.

Apart from the issues with the road closures, the overall view was that it was a very successful day with a very positive feedback from the participants.

## **5. Conclusions**

It would appear that the complaints received this year were due to the road closures being properly managed, which has not been the case in previous years. The organisers have taken away all the comments from the respective agencies and were also given full details of the eleven complaints received so that they can carry out their own assessment of the event.

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**Electoral Divisions: All in Exeter**

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
Nil		

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