

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	19 February 2020
Location	The Barracks, Stirling
Title of Paper	Policing of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26)
Presented By	ACC Bernard Higgins
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Scottish Police Authority with a situational update in respect of COP26.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

The UK Government will host the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2020. The conference takes place at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow from Monday 9th November to Friday 20th November 2020. This will attract around 30,000 UN-accredited attendees, many of whom will attend each day of the conference, peaking at an estimated 15,000 on the busiest day.

All Heads of State for member nations will be invited but at this stage it is not known how many will actually attend, but our planning assumption is this will be high.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The SEC will be the main conference site however a number of other venues across Scotland will be utilised for conference related meetings and events. In addition, Heads of State and other delegates are expected to attend events unconnected to COP26. The conference venue will be an island site, the precise extent of which is yet to be determined as several options are being considered.
- 2.2 The Police Scotland Command Structure is in place with specialist command structures being developed. A number of individuals having been appointed to drive forward planning and delivery in respect of key business areas including Armed Policing, Public Order Policing, Road Policing, Intelligence and Logistics.
- 2.3 The UK Government have developed a Governance Framework, within which Police Scotland are represented:
 - COP26 Operations Board
 - COP26 Policing and Security Assurance Group
 - COP26 Operations Working Group (Transport and Security and Cross-Cutting Operational Issues)
 - COP26 Venue Operations Working Group

The Scottish Government has convened a Safety and Security board at which Police Scotland are represented. The initial Board meeting was held on 07 February. Police Scotland remains concerned about the current lack of governance coordination between governments, and the lack of clarity on agreed outcomes for this event.

2.4 ACC Higgins has attended the following Governance and/or Governmental meetings have been held since the date of the last sitting of the Spa Board:

- 22 January – Briefing for Cabinet Secretary for Justice
- 23 January – COP 26 Operations Working Group

The financial implications of policing COP 26 will be subject of discussion at the Justice Sub Committee being held on 20 February 2020.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The UK Government have been advised of the indicative policing costs which are estimated to be £250 million. The UK Government have been provided with a high level breakdown of these costs which are presented on the basis that there will be no financial detriment to the Scottish policing budget.

3.2 In the absence of assured planning assumptions, these figures are based on reasonable worst case scenario assumptions and will remain indicative and will be subject to internal validation and independent security and financial assurance work between now and March 2020.

3.3 The full financial implications are being reported as a standing item to the SPA Resources Committee.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A significant Police Scotland Planning Team structure has been established to ensure delivery of the Gold Strategy, drawing from Local and Specialist Divisions across Police Scotland. These officers bring significant planning experience and will engage with colleagues and multi-agency partners from across the UK to ensure best practice and organisational learning is adopted from previous major events.

4.3 The respective staff associations will perform a key role in both the planning and delivery of the operation and engagement with their representatives at a local and national level has been undertaken.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any legal implications identified throughout the planning process will be escalated to Police Scotland Legal Services who are integrated with the Core Planning Team.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are reputational implications associated with this paper. Any significant disruption to the running of the conference which inhibits delegate or Head of Government attendance within the site will impact on the reputation of Police Scotland, both at home and internationally.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Embedded within the strategy for this event is a recognition that the safety and wellbeing of conference attendees, the wider public and those who may seek to engage in protest must be paramount. Any public perception of a policing style which is not in keeping with expectations may have social implications for the relationship between the police and the public. Accordingly, the policing style and tone of this event will be planned and delivered in a manner which maintains the positive relationship between the Police Scotland and the communities it serves.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 While the event is primarily based in Glasgow, activity associated with the event is anticipated on a national basis, which may impact on communities across the country. Accordingly, work is ongoing to develop a Community Impact Assessment and a key tenet of the strategy for this event will include minimising the impact of the event on communities and providing business as usual policing services to the communities of Scotland.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is currently being developed to ascertain the implications in this regard.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The purpose of the conference is Climate Change and Police Scotland has, within the Gold Strategy, committed to embrace a sustainable approach to the planning and delivery of the event and

is able to demonstrate best value in terms of financial management. All aspects of the operation will, where possible, be tested to ensure compliance with this strategic intention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.