

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	25 March 2020
Location	Tele-conference
Title of Paper	26th Conference of the Parties (COP26)
Presented By	Tom Halpin, Chair of Policing of COP26 Oversight Group
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Scottish Police Authority with an update following the most recent meeting of the SPA Policing of COP26 Oversight Group.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper

Update from 18 March Meeting

The meeting, as usual, focused on the three workstreams.

- **Finance:** Revised planning assumptions were reviewed at the Operations Working Group of 20 February, during which a 'moderate' risk appetite was proposed, subject to HM Government ministerial approval. This has resulted in the proposed budget reducing significantly. This is, however, contingent on this risk appetite being agreed and adopted. Currently no budget figure has been agreed with UK Government, however, a memorandum of understanding is being drafted by the COP26 Unit in Cabinet Office. A recent letter from the Director General leading the COP26 preparations stated that the UKG have committed to working with the SPA and Police Scotland to ensure adequate financial cover is provided and operational delivery is not put at risk.
- **Health, Safety and Wellbeing:** A dedicated wellbeing lead has been identified by Police Scotland and the SPA Head of HR Governance will work closely with that Officer on wellbeing issues. The current key areas of consideration include the capacity of existing wellbeing supports should additional demands be placed on them during COP 26 (and also whether these could/should be available to others providing mutual aid); the potential for event-specific additional wellbeing supports to be provided (for example, through Police Mutual); and consideration of the key role of line managers in relation to supporting the wellbeing of their teams.
On health and safety, it was confirmed that an overarching risk assessment will be completed for the event. As well as considering general risks associated with transport, shift length, weather conditions, PPE, rest breaks, food/water and toilet facilities, the risk assessment will give particular consideration to event-specific risks, for example around the proximity of the event to the waterfront and linking with other agency partners around predicted sites for protest events. They also hope to be involved in any considerations regarding COVID-19 implications for the event, if applicable.
- **Local Policing and Other Priorities:** The areas of focus for this workstream are - how PS plan to engage with the public and partners to provide reassurance about the potential impact of the event on local communities; the mitigating structures, processes and actions being put in place to ensure that 'business as usual' activities continue to be delivered to an appropriate standard

across the whole country and that a sufficient number of specialist resources will be available to respond to serious incidents which occur in local communities in the run up to and during COP26; the process being put in place for deprioritising other commitments, assessing and reporting the implications of these proposals and the mechanism for engaging with the SPA as this develops; the anticipated impact on specific support and corporate functions and how it is envisaged this will be managed. Police Scotland advised that ACC Hawkins has been identified as the lead Officer for this area of work.

COVID-19

Unsurprisingly, COVID-19 featured heavily in the discussion. The pressure that will be put on COP26 planning teams was acknowledged. The group asked DCC Kerr if he thought it was right to proceed with the conference given the unprecedented set of circumstances that now exist. DCC Kerr advised that, as things stand, his view is that Police Scotland are still in a position to deliver a safe and secure Policing operation for COP26, however, that position may change over the coming months. The current COVID-19 situation may also impact on the ability of the Metropolitan Police to provide operational assurance.

Forward Look

The group were keen to receive further information in relation to call handling and the anticipated increased demand on that service before and during the conference. It was agreed to invite ACC Hawkins to a future meeting of the group to discuss this issue.

Background

As the Board is aware, the UK Government will host the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) from 9-20 November 2020 at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow.

As this is a UK Government event, they are the funding authority and have responsibility for overall governance and assurance of all aspects of the event. They have formed an operational board and a Policing and Security Assurance Group. The SPA Chief Executive is a member of the latter.

The Scottish Government have established governance arrangements within their structures and the SPA is a member of their Safety and Resilience Board. Police Scotland have formed a Strategic Oversight Board, chaired by the Chief Constable.

The SPA have established a Policing of COP26 oversight group which will meet monthly until November 2020. The first meeting took place on 11 February 2020, followed by the second meeting on 18 March. The group comprises SPA Board members and officers and Police Scotland representatives, with HMICS and the Scottish Government attending as observers. The group is chaired by Authority member Tom Halpin QPM.

Details of the remit of the Oversight group are set out below.

Purpose and Terms of Reference of the SPA COP26 Oversight Group

Purpose:

The SPA Group is to provide enhanced oversight and scrutiny of three key areas of public interest in relation to Policing:

- The delivery of an effective security and policing operation by Police Scotland for this UN event hosted by the UK Government is achieved with full cost recovery for additional policing elements, and that any longer-term impacts on resources or outcomes for the SPA and Police Scotland are mitigated;
- The health, safety and wellbeing of all officers and staff across the Policing and Forensic Services directly or indirectly affected by the policing of COP26 are fully considered in planning and deployment arrangements for both the event and the ongoing policing of Scotland, and;
- How any changes in the priorities of Police Scotland in delivering continuing local and specialist services to communities across Scotland are considered, tested and balanced alongside the delivery of a secure and successful global event of this nature.

Through its scrutiny across these three strands the Oversight Group will seek to ensure:

- That the views and sensitivities of relevant key interest groups and stakeholders have contributed to and informed the Group's oversight work;

- That there is a focus on building, and mitigating any risk to, the reputation of policing in Scotland and its accountability within both a national and international perspective;
- That any lessons learned in planning, delivery and oversight are captured and embedded in organisational learning going forward and contribute to a positive legacy for policing in Scotland.

It will be a short to medium term forum until the conclusion of the conference. Meetings will be held at least once a month. Summary reports from meetings will be given by the Group's Chair to each subsequent scheduled meeting of the Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.