

OFFICIAL

**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**

Agenda Item 12

Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date	26 May 2021
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	26th Conference of the Parties (COP26)
Presented By	Will Kerr, DCC Local Policing
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide Board members with an update on policing planning for COP26.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In November 2021, the UK Government will host the United Nations 26th Conference of the Parties, otherwise known as COP26, at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow. World leaders, climate experts, business leaders and citizens will come together to discuss and agree actions on how to tackle climate change on a global scale.
- 1.2 The significance and scale of this event should not be underestimated. The Conference will be held over two weeks (from 1 - 12 November 2021), although the build will start in early October.
- 1.3 COP26 will be the biggest and most complex event ever staged in Scotland. This will necessitate the largest mass mobilisation of police officers that has taken place in the UK in many years.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 At the end of April 2021, the recently appointed UK Government private security firm met with Police Scotland representatives where a programme of presentations and discussions took place, incorporating Counter Terrorist Security Co-ordination, Search, and Logistics. This will assist in refining police deployment locations around the Island Site.
- 2.2 The UK Government COP26 Unit have recently reorganised their governance structures, with Police Scotland still maintaining an appropriate level of representation.
- 2.3 Since the last Board, Police Scotland have been represented at the Scottish Government Scottish Affairs Committee in relation to COP26. At UK level, Police Scotland, attended a 2 day COP26 Security Workshop as well as a Strategic Engagement meeting with COP26 Unit CEO, the COP26 Unit Security and Readiness Steering Group, COP26 Unit Delivery Board, COP26 Policing Security and Assurance Group and the recently formed COP26 Local Consultative Committee.
- 2.4 The latest Scottish Government easing of lockdown restrictions that came into effect on the 17 May 2021, to move most areas in Scotland to level 2, is expected to assist positively with the planning team, particularly in relation to procurement and Logistics.

OFFICIAL

- 2.5 Project Servator, is a policing tactic that aims to disrupt a range of criminal activity, including terrorism, while providing a reassuring presence for the public. The approach relies on unpredictable and highly visible police deployments, whilst at the same time, building a network of vigilance made up of business and community partners and the general public and was originally used by the City of London Police in 2014. The communications and marketing campaign promoting Project Servator for COP26 continues to progress and is due to launch at the beginning of October 2021.
- 2.6 In order to draft a suitable Health and Safety Risk Assessment tailored to each Staging Post, a number of site visits will be conducted over the coming weeks by Logistics, Health and Safety, ICT and the Wellbeing functional leads.
- 2.7 The Metropolitan Police Service Assurance Review has now been completed and recommendations have been considered and are being progressed where appropriate.
- 2.8 The interviews of key Policing personnel for the HMICS Assurance review have now been completed with HMICS planning to produce their initial report in May 2021.

3. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Feedback received from Arup (the project management team who have been drafted in by the UK Government as environmental consultants for COP26) regarding the Operation Urram Environmental Strategy and Action Plan is currently being considered prior to a final version being presented to the Gold Commander for approval.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Police Scotland maintain the position that there should be additional cost recovery for the policing of the event to ensure there is no detriment to the Scottish policing budget as a direct or indirect result of the conference and that the impact on day to day policing is minimised as far as possible.
- 4.2 Police Scotland continues to work closely with the UK Government COP26 Unit to confirm funding requirements for policing the conference.

OFFICIAL

- 4.3 The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is presently unknown as is any potential effect it may have on COP26. The outcome of the COP Unit COVID Stocktake workshops held in March is awaited.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Following a number of discussions and legal review, a final version of the Operation Urram Workforce Agreement for the Federated ranks has been agreed for consideration of sign off by the chief Constable. The development of similar such agreements for the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents (ASPS) and staff associations are ongoing.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Written confirmation from Scottish Government regarding their position on underwriting the costs of any 'post event' litigation resulting from the policing operation is still awaited. This matter remains on the Corporate Management Board risk register pending such confirmation.

7. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As with all major events, there are reputational implications should there be a perception that the delivery of a safe and secure event from a policing perspective has not been fully achieved. Such implications are routinely considered and reviewed through existing governance structures.

8. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no social implications that have been identified within this paper, however, there will be social implications associated with this event. Police Scotland continue to liaise with key strategic partners to minimise such implications.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 A National Operation Urram Community Impact Assessment (CIA) has been created and is subject to regular review. This assessment will become more detailed as the date of the conference

OFFICIAL

approaches. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments (EqHRIA) are key elements of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and indeed all tactical plans are subject to this process.

- 9.2 Due to the size and scale of the event, COP26 will impact communities across Scotland. Every opportunity will be taken to minimise this impact throughout the planning and delivery of this event.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy has been published and takes consideration of all diversity and inclusion matters in the planning and delivery of the police operation.

11. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Feedback received from Arup regarding the Operation Urram Environmental Strategy and Action Plan is currently being considered prior to a final version being presented to the Gold Commander for approval.

12. POLITICAL IMPACT

- 12.1 COP26 will be subject to worldwide media coverage with a significant number of world leaders expected to attend. The political impact is assessed on an ongoing basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.