

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	23 June 2022
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	COP26 Finance Update
Presented By	James Gray, Chief Financial Officer
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to update members on the policing cost associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) that was held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The UK Government hosted the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow in November 2021
- 1.2 The event required a policing operation of unprecedented scale and scope which requires funding from HM Government incremental to the SPA's 'business as usual' budget of ~£1.2bn annually.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The estimated cost of policing was developed in line with a set of finance business principles shared with key stakeholders in January 2020. The initial cost estimate was based on the operational planning assumptions available at that time, however, the cost was regularly reforecast as the operational assumptions continued to be refined.
- 2.2 Overall, £66.8m was approved by the COP26 Unit's Spend Approval Board (SAB) to fund Police Scotland directly incurred expenditure. The SAB also noted the final cost estimates for the mutual aid support from other UK police forces (£55m) and associated accommodation costs (£37m), both of which were funded directly by HM Government.
- 2.3 The final cost estimate and actual outturn is summarised below:

Type of spend:	COP26 Spend Approval	Total Programme Spend	Var.	Var.
	£m	£m	£m	%
Police Scotland	66.8	60.1	6.7	10%
Mutual Aid	54.7	48.2	6.5	12%
Accommodation	37.1	37.1	-	-
Total marginal cost	158.6	145.4	13.2	8%

2.4 Police Scotland spend profiled by year:

Type of spend:	COP26 Spend Approval £m	Programme Spend £m	Var. £m	Var. %
2019/20	0.4	0.4	0.0	0%
2020/21	3.8	3.8	0.0	0%
2021/22	62.4	55.7	6.7	11%
2022/23	0.2	0.2 (est)	0.0	0%
	66.8	60.1	6.7	10%

2.5 The key variances are:

- Police Scotland costs - £6.7m less than the approved funding *mainly due to a reduction in hotel catering and overnight allowances.*
- Mutual aid costs - £6.5m below the final cost estimate *mainly due to receiving only 91% of the total mutual aid requirement.*

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The financial implications are detailed within the body of the report. The incremental cost to the Authority of policing COP26 has been recovered from HM Government in line with the agreed principle of “no financial gain or detriment” to the Authority as a result of policing the event.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The total COP26 cost reflects the mobilisation of circa 14,000 dedicated resource across Police Scotland and via mutual aid, and includes the cost of backfill/additionality for business critical posts.

4.2 The opportunity costs associated with Police Scotland deployments do not form part of the marginal cost of policing and therefore cost recovery will not be sought from UK Government.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All costs have been recovered in line with the formal signed Memorandum of Understanding exists between the Cabinet Office and Scottish Government.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All reputational risks have been mitigated through effective financial management practices which resulted in no financial gain or detriment to the Authority as a result of policing the event.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct social implications associated with this paper.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1 There is no direct community impact associated with this paper.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct equalities implications associated with this report.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct environmental implications associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to discuss the contents of this paper.