

Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date	17 January 2020
Location	John McIntyre Centre, Edinburgh
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 briefing paper is to provide the Scottish Police Authority with a situational overview of COP26.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The UK Government will host the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) from Monday 9 November to Friday 20 November 2020, at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow.

COP26 will attract around 40,000 attendees, peaking at 15,000 on the busiest day. It is anticipated that some 3,000 media, observer states and personal staff will see this overall figure rise to 90,000 attendees over the period.

In addition to the main conference at the SEC, it is likely that Heads of State, and attendees will attend other meetings and social functions out with the main venue.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The United Nations consists of 193 member states and 2 countries which have observer status. Invitations to attend the conference will be given to each Head of State and it is expected that a significantly high number will attend.

The Chief Constable has appointed ACC Bernard Higgins as the Police Gold Commander for COP26. ACC Higgins is responsible for the planning and operational delivery of the event.

In terms of internal governance, ACC Higgins reports directly to a Strategic Oversight Board chaired by the Chief Constable. External governance arrangements are emerging through UK Government structures. On 9 January 2019, the Chief Constable and ACC Higgins attended the first COP26 Operational Board chaired by Mr Peter Hill, CEO COP26. Other attendees included representatives from Scottish Government, Scotland Office, FCO, Home Office and the Treasury. This board will continue to meet on a monthly basis.

- 2.2 The Police Gold Strategy has been developed and has the overall strategic aim of "To work with partners to deliver a safe and secure COP26, both at the island site and other COP related sites and venues, whilst minimising the impact on the wider community".

The Strategic Intentions of the Gold Strategy are:

OFFICIAL

1. Maximise the safety of conference delegates, Heads of State and their entourage during their visit to Scotland, in support of the relevant security services and security providers.
2. Continually develop intelligence to support event planning and delivery.
3. Maximise the safety of all attendees to the conference and those who are associated with the conference.
4. Maximise the safety of the wider public and maintain public order and minimise associated criminality throughout the period of the conference, including the lead up to and post conference.
5. To provide a lawful and proportionate policing response to any protest balancing the needs and rights of attendees / protestors with those impacted by the conferences.
6. Minimise the impact of the policing operation on those elements of the community that may be affected by the movements of the Heads of State and their entourage throughout Scotland.
7. Minimise the risk to other security providers, other emergency services, Police Officers and staff.
8. Working with partners to facilitate a return to normality as soon as reasonably practical post-event.
9. Ensure an integrated Police Scotland approach enabling the challenges of the Conference and business as usual demands are met.
10. Ensure Police Scotland embraces a sustainable approach to the planning and delivery of the event and is able to demonstrate best value in terms of financial management.
11. Ensure the welfare of all police personnel is a key consideration in the planning and delivery of the event, taking cognisance of the unique operational demands of COP26.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Taking into consideration the planning assumptions, and based on previous major summits / conferences (e.g. NATO Summit Wales 2014), the initial costings demonstrate that the event will cost potentially several hundred million pounds.

Detailed financial planning is being developed and dialogue remains ongoing with the Cabinet Office relative to the cost recovery model that will be utilised.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 On 28 November 2019, ACC Bernard Higgins met with National Police Operations and Coordination Centre (NPOCC) to discuss mutual aid provision. He highlighted that the policing of COP26 would impact across the UK through significant mutual aid requirements from Home Office police forces to safely deliver the policing operation. While there exists well established frameworks for the provision of mutual aid, extensive logistical challenges will arise from what will undoubtedly be the largest mass mobilisation of police officers in the UK.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Conference centre is handed over to the United Nations (UN) on Friday 06 November until the end of the Conference. During that time, the UN retain control of the site (known as the Blue zone) which will become International Territory and fall under International Law. Discussions are ongoing with senior law officers and the UN to determine how Police Scotland will record and investigate any crimes which occur within the Blue Zone.

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 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.