

Meeting	SPA Resources Committee
Date	23 April 2020
Location	Tele-conference
Title of Paper	COP 26 Resource Implications
Presented By	James Gray, Chief Financial Officer
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update members on the resource and financial implications of the policing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), in light of the recent decision to defer the event to 2021.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The UK Government will host the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow. The conference was scheduled to take place between Monday 9 November and Friday 20 November 2020.
- 1.2 On 1 April 2020 it was confirmed that, in light of the ongoing worldwide effects of COVID-19, the COP Bureau of the UNFCCC, along with UK and Italian governments, had taken the decision to postpone COP26 into 2021.
- 1.3 No date for the rescheduled COP26 has yet been set, but planning for the event continues to assume there will be no change in venue or location.
- 1.4 Prior to the announcement of the postponement, a detailed bottom-up budget was prepared that has been shared with the SPA and the UK Cabinet Office's COP26 Unit.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The draft budget for the cost of policing COP26 was prepared on a detailed bottom-up basis and has been the subject of extensive dialogue between Police Scotland, the SPA, Scottish Government and UK Government.
- 2.2 There now exists a framework for the recovery of incremental costs by Police Scotland/the SPA from the UK Government, subject to review and approval of costs before they are incurred, although thus far no material financial commitments have been made by Police Scotland.
- 2.3 Expenditure incurred to date is hence minimal. Costs of £0.3m incurred in the 2019/20 financial year relate to (i) an increased intake of new police recruits in March, (ii) purchase of public order uniforms, and (iii) incidental expenses such as travel and subsistence.
- 2.4 Although this expenditure is essentially absorbed within the 'business as usual' budget for 2019/20, in line with the agreed principle of no financial gain or detriment to Police Scotland, compensating funding will be sought from HM Government once

more material financial commitments are undertaken in due course and agreed with the Cabinet Office's COP26 Unit.

- 2.5 The rescheduling of the event should not in itself result in a material change to the budget, although the overall cost of policing continues to be entirely driven by the agreed operational planning assumptions and the resulting deployment model used. There are a number of external factors that dictate the risk appetite and threat level that will inform the resources ultimately required.
- 2.6 As a result of the postponement, the Police Scotland COP26 core planning team size is now the subject of ongoing review and will be amended to reflect the current demands on the team and on the Force from COVID-19. Accordingly, a number of individuals will be re-deployed during this period. Recognising the fluidity of the current situation, these reviews will continue throughout the planning process. The planning team will be scaled back up at an appropriate point once a revised date for the event is known.
- 2.7 Prior to confirmation of a revised date for COP26, and whilst planning activity is temporarily scaled back, no significant expenditure will be incurred. All costs will continue to be captured and monitored by Finance.
- 2.8 Further to (2.2) above, as part of the planning for a November event Police Scotland drew up plans to accelerate its recruitment of new officers. The first phase of these plans has been implemented, with 350 new starts joining the Scottish Police College on 23 March. Under normal circumstances, a typical intake would be circa 200.
- 2.9 As a result of the postponement and COVID-19 social distancing measures, police officer recruitment plans for the next 12 months are currently under review.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Financial implications are set out in this paper.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As set out in the paper, the resources required for COP26 planning are under constant review and will be amended as required once new dates are confirmed. COVID-19 has necessitated some re-deployment out of the COP26 planning team at this point.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct reputational implications associated with this report.

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 invited to discuss the content of this report.