

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	20 May 2020
Location	Video-conference
Title of Paper	26th Conference of the Parties (COP26)
Presented By	DCC Will Kerr, Local Policing
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Scottish Police Authority with a situational update in respect 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) which was due to take place at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow in November 2020. Given the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the conference has been postponed to 2021 with a new date to be decided in the coming weeks.
- 1.2 The rearranged conference will take place at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow. It is expected that 30,000 accredited people will attend COP26 activity within the Blue Zone (this figure includes country delegations, 'observers' or NGO/IGOs, media and UN staff. It does NOT include HMG staff, volunteers or event staff). Based on the COP21 model, the maximum number of accredited delegates likely to attend on any one day is expected to be 14,000 people. Trends from previous events suggest that attendance peaks during the High-Level Segment and will be minimal on the middle Sunday. As yet, it is unknown how many people will be drawn to Glasgow and the wider region to participate in COP-related activities.
- 1.3 United Nations has 193 member states, and all heads of states will be invited. At this stage it is not known how many will attend, however it is expected that the number will be high.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 Due to the worldwide COVID 19 pandemic, a decision to postpone COP26 was announced on 1 April 2020. It is anticipated that a new date for COP26 will not be announced until June 2020, though it has been confirmed that the host city will remain Glasgow with the SEC as the venue.
- 2.2 Police Scotland continue to work with partner agencies to develop and review the planning assumptions to inform the preparation and delivery of the policing operation. These take into account the use of the SEC as the main conference site however, also recognise that a number of other venues will be utilised for conference related meetings and events.
- 2.3 Following announcement of the postponement, HMG asked all key stakeholders to conduct an assessment based on 'ability to host' the conference at different times throughout 2021.

Police Scotland undertook an impact assessment highlighting the opportunities and threats of postponement over three possible timelines, namely a conference held in Spring, Summer or Winter 2021.

- 2.4 Police Scotland identified only one period of time when hosting the conference would provide a significant challenge, that being the time period of the European Football Championships (late June/early July) for which Glasgow and London are two venues, hosting a combined 11 matches.
- 2.5 During the postponement and until such times as a new date is decided, a review of planning identified a number of work-streams which could be paused or continued at slower pace pending confirmation of the new date. There are however, key work-streams which must continue to progress regardless of any delay to the conference. As such, Police Scotland have maintained a reduced-size planning team and management structure to ensure that crucial preparations and engagement continues with an increased planning team re-commencing at an appropriate time.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 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. Work is ongoing to revise initial costings based on the postponement.
- 3.2 The economic impact of the COVID 19 pandemic is presently unknown as is any potential effect it may have on COP26. Delivery of the policing plan for COP26 is reliant on a wide variety of external factors and inter-dependencies amidst a changing landscape. Areas of concern focus on supply chain, business viability and resource availability, all of which will influence the overall cost to host the event.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Police Scotland have maintained a reduced-size Core Planning Team to ensure that key work-streams continue to progress. These officers are supporting functional areas across the Service and engaging with colleagues and multi-agency partners from across the UK.

- 4.2 The requirement for 24/7 conventional and specialist police resources to be deployed to locations across Scotland in support of the event, alongside a requirement to maintain business as usual policing, necessitated a number of measures to maximise the availability of officers in Scotland, which will need to be re-evaluated when a new date is identified.
- 4.3 The 2021 calendar of events already includes Scottish Parliament Elections, UK hosting a meeting of the G7, the re-scheduled European Football Championships, the Tokyo Olympics as well as Election campaigns in a number of high profile COP26 member states. In particular, if moved to Summer 2021, the event would coincide with a number of other scheduled / re-scheduled events across the UK which will impact on resource availability in what is already a period of increased demand.
- 4.4 Engagement continues with National Police Operations and Coordination Centre (NPOCC) to support the mutual aid deployment from Home Office police forces across the UK to safely deliver the policing operation.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any legal implications identified throughout the planning process will be escalated to Police Scotland Legal Services who are fully supporting the Core Planning Team.
- 5.2 Once a new date is determined, the Procurement Department will oversee arrangements for the securing of accommodation, staging posts and transport to support the policing operation whilst ensuring compliance with procurement legislation. The outcome of the COVID 19 pandemic in terms of its residual effect on suppliers of goods and services will need to be reviewed, assessed and planned for.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any significant disruption to the running of the conference which inhibits delegate or Head of State attendance within the site will impact on the reputation of Police Scotland.
- 6.2 Any reputational implications identified throughout the planning process will be managed in line with existing practices. A Corporate Communications Strategy has been developed. A National Community Impact Assessment is being developed by Police Scotland Safer Communities Department who will also support Local

Divisions with the development of Local Community Impact Assessments.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A National Community Impact Assessment is being developed to assess the impact of Operation Urram and to develop appropriate interventions to minimise the impact on communities. This will take into account the impact that the COVID 19 pandemic has and any resultant change in public mood and attitude towards the staging of the conference and any resultant restrictions which are placed on affected communities.
- 7.2 The policing style and tone of this event will be planned and delivered in a manner that maintains the positive relationship between Police Scotland and the communities it serves.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 While the main COP26 conference venue is in Glasgow, the impact of the event will be felt across Scotland e.g. potential travel disruption and protest activity. The Police Scotland Gold Strategy and planning process take cognisance of the wider community impact and detailed multi-agency plans will be developed, and tested, to manage these as effectively as possible.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Safer Communities Department continue to support Functional Area Leads with the creation of Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments relative to their area of business and with the development of mitigation measures.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This event will have environmental implications. This has been reflected in the Police Scotland Gold Strategy which includes a commitment to:
"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".
There will be ongoing review to ensure compliance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.