
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	23 September 2021
Report By:	Interim Service Director, Environment and Economic Recovery	Report No:	IC/12/21/MM
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	01475 714246
Subject:	COP26 Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update members on the arrangements for the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) and how these are likely to affect Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Most of the updates given to officers at the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (WoS RRP) around COP26 up until relatively recently have been very high level and focussed on the arrangements around the Scottish Events Campus (SEC). This report intends to update members on the arrangements at a wider level and in particular as they might affect Inverclyde. As many of the areas covered in the report are subject to ongoing discussion a verbal update will be given to members on any recent developments.
- 2.2 Section 5 of the report reaffirms Inverclyde's commitment to transitioning to "net zero" which will be the subject of a more detailed report to the October Environment & Regeneration Committee.
- 2.3 Section 6 covers some of the exercises currently being held on various areas of civil contingencies in the run up to COP26. Section 7 covers the potential impacts on Covid 19 arising from COP26, Section 8 covers some of the transport impacts, Section 9 covers the impact on policing in Inverclyde and Section 10 covers some of the marketing and promotion of Inverclyde being carried out around COP26.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That members note the contents of this report.

Martin McNab
Interim Head of Public Protection & Covid Recovery

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 COP26 was originally scheduled for autumn 2020 but delayed by the pandemic and is now Scheduled to occur between 31st October and 12 November 2021. The event will be held at the Scottish Events Campus (SEC) in Glasgow part of which will become UN territory for the duration of the conference.
- 4.2 The event will involve delegations, including at key points in the conference Heads of State from up to 120 countries. There will therefore be a huge security and police operation around the event both around the conference venue and around major hotels used by delegations as their bases. While we are not aware of any delegations planning to be based in Inverclyde there will be peripheral activities which will impinge on Inverclyde.
- 4.3 Significant numbers of people are also expected to visit Glasgow to attend demonstrations across the three weeks of the conference and the impact of these numbers together with press and media will be likely to use up all available accommodation in central Scotland and beyond.

5.0 INVERCLYDE COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO NET ZERO

- 5.1 The Council is currently having a Net Zero Strategy prepared by consultants Mabbett Associates. The brief is for a public-facing strategy setting out the Council's commitment to net zero backed with a costed action plan setting out the actions required to achieve this. The strategy will focus on Inverclyde Council/HSCP emissions from buildings, internal waste, street lighting, fleet and business travel and other sources. It will also cover 'softer' measures to reduce and manage emissions such as governance, education and behaviour change. Whilst the focus of the strategy and action plan will be on emission reduction, the 'offset' of emissions that cannot be reduced, for example through tree planting or peatland restoration, will also be covered. The strategy is due to be completed by early October and will be reported in due course to the Council's Environment & Regeneration Committee.

6.0 CONTINGENCY PLANNING & EXERCISING

- 6.1 Although there is no specific threat relating to the event that we are aware of the profile of the event and those attending will put a spotlight firmly on Glasgow and Scotland more widely. As part of preparing for any risks arising from COP26 and ensuring that our organisational response and any multi-agency response required is effective a number of exercises are being held. Thus far an exercise has been held on cybersecurity and an exercise on any potential health response is being hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde at the beginning of October. At the time of writing we are awaiting an exercise to test the Council's wider incident response procedures with multi-agency partners. There will clearly be more focussed exercises on, for example, responses to terrorist threats around the venue itself however the emphasis for surrounding areas is on ensuring that we are confident that our normal incident response procedures are operating satisfactorily.

7.0 COVID 19 ISSUES

- 7.1 Meetings are currently ongoing around making the event safe for those attending from a Covid-19 perspective. Detailed plans exist for the event campus itself both for the delegates and the workforce. Plans are also in place at UK Government level for delegations coming from high risk "red" flag countries. Wider consideration is now being given by local partners to issues of testing and, where necessary, isolation for those visiting Glasgow and Central Scotland either to protest or to be present in the wider area during the conference.
- 7.2 There is clearly potential for an upsurge in numbers of cases of Covid overall owing to the large number of potential visitors to the area. This is potentially coming not too long after the current spike in cases which we are experiencing.

8.0 TRANSPORT

- 8.1 A number of roads in Glasgow City Centre around the SEC will be closed during the conference. These include the Clydeside Expressway and the on and off ramps to it from the Kingston Bridge. There may also be rolling closures around the transit of Heads of State and dignitaries to and from the venue. There are no proposed road closures in Inverclyde and Renfrewshire at this time although road works will be suspended on the A8 between the Bull Ring roundabout and the M8. Regular meetings

are being held between the West of Scotland roads authorities and Transport Scotland in the run up to COP26 to ensure Inverclyde Council is sighted on any issues at an early stage.

8.2 Overall some transport impacts are expected to be felt wider than the City Centre. Use of the M74 rather than the M8 is being encouraged for traffic crossing the city which could lead to more congestion on that route. Those travelling into Glasgow during the conference are being advised to consider the use of public transport. Up to date transport information will be published on the Get Ready Glasgow website (<https://www.getreadyglasgow.com/cop26>).

9.0 POLICING

9.1 The policing operation for COP26 will be one of the largest in the UK's history. Around 10,000 police officers from across Scotland and the UK will be deployed at the conference. As well as providing some of the security around the event and associated venues a major element of the policing operation will be around enabling and policing protests centred on COP26. The large numbers of police officers from the rest of Scotland and the UK requiring accommodation over the period of COP26 will also have a significant impact on availability across the West of Scotland.

9.2 Obviously supporting such a major operation will have impacts on local policing and meetings have been held with the Divisional Commander and his senior team to discuss how business as usual policing will be delivered in Inverclyde during the event. Members will obviously be aware that COP26 spans the period covering bonfire night and assurances have been sought and received from Police Scotland that an adequate level of response is being factored into their planning given the issues seen in Inverclyde last year. Regular meetings will be held with Police Scotland, Renfrewshire Council and the Civil Contingencies Service in the run up to COP26 to ensure that we have confidence both in the business as usual planning and in the level of intelligence received on potential impacts in Inverclyde in the run up to COP26.

10.0 MARKETING INVERCLYDE

10.1 As part of the 'discover Inverclyde' call to action, the council's communications, tourism and health & safety service has partnered with Belville Community Gardens to support a high profile advertising campaign with STV in the run up to COP26. The campaign features pupils from St Ninian's Primary School and a range of community and commercial partners including McLaren packaging, The Beacon Arts Centre and BPI to highlight Inverclyde's support for the climate messages of COP 26. The adverts will be broadcast in September in the run up to COP 26 and across social and digital media using the theme 'We're In. We're Inverclyde' to help market Inverclyde to a wider audience.

11.0 IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Finance

There are no new financial implications arising from this report.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/(savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With effect from	Annual net impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments

N/A					
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Legal

11.2 None

Human Resources

11.3 None

13.4 Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

Repopulation

11.5 There are no impacts on repopulation arising from this report.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

12.1 None

13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 None