

## Item 3

27th May 2021



Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and  
Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities

Contact: Shaw Anderson, Partnership & Development  
Manager, 0141 287 3802

### COP26 PLANS, READINESS, AND LEGACY

#### Purpose of Report:

To provide members of the Committee with an update on plans, readiness, and legacy for the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP26.

#### Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

Ward No(s): All

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No ✓

consulted: Yes  No ✓

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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## **1 Background**

- 1.1 In November 2021, participants from nations and territories around the world will arrive in Glasgow for the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP26.
- 1.2 Following postponement of the conference in 2020 due to COVID-19, COP26 is now due to run from 1–12 November 2021 at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). The intent remains to hold the summit in person, whilst putting the health and wellbeing of local communities and delegations at the centre of decisions about how the event will take shape.
- 1.3 Glasgow's focus for COP26 is on supporting and delivering a safe and successful conference by keeping the city moving, supporting the appropriate public health measures and delivering a legacy for the city.
- 1.4 The COP26 Team sits within Chief Executive's Department and is responsible for delivering the operations required to support the UK Government's safe and successful delivery of the conference. The Team is also responsible for the communication with, and engagement of, the city's businesses and communities through the Get Ready Glasgow channel, and for supporting the council's delivery of legacy from the conference.
- 1.5 Council governance is provided by the COP26 Programme Board, chaired by the Chief Executive. The COP26 Team reports into the governance structure headed up by the Cabinet Office who are the event organiser. The council workstreams include City Services, Traffic & Transport, Resilience and Communications & Engagement. The Chief Executive is a member of the COP26 Delivery Board, chaired by the Cabinet Office's CEO for COP26 delivery.
- 1.6 Elements of the planning and delivery of COP26 will be of interest to this Committee. This report provides an update on elements which are within the remit of the Wellbeing Empowerment Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.

## **2 Programme Status**

- 2.1 The COP26 Team's programme is currently running at a stable amber, with areas of work being progressed during the ongoing review of the delivery model by all partners due to Covid-19. Areas of significant progress include the delivery of the Volunteer Programme recruitment campaign, the progression of integrated city and transport planning with key partners and the launch of marketing initiatives to support the council's wider priorities around sustainability.

## **3 Engagement**

- 3.1 The Council's COP26 Engagement Team will work with businesses, residents and community groups to inform them of COP26 plans. They, with partners, will be looking to link with a number of different groups, who want to know more about COP26 and whose business operations and/or daily lives may be

impacted by the event. There may also be emerging opportunities in which businesses/organisations can look forward to COP26 and become involved.

#### **4 Engagement with Community Councils**

- 4.1 A collaborative aimed at enabling all active Community Councils within specific Council Wards to come together and work collaboratively to inform, support, and assess the impact of COP26 has been established.
- 4.2 Ward 10 (Anderston/City/Yorkhill) and Ward 5 (Govan) have been identified as the wards most likely to be directly impacted by COP26, and therefore the Community Councils in these wards have integrated into two collaborations, one for each Ward, with a specific remit related to COP26.
- 4.3 The COP26 Engagement Team have met with the Community Councils collaborative to discuss how citizens can become more involved in the event, and how the wider communities could develop and incorporate community-proposed ideas.
- 4.4 The two collaboratives will be key to the success of local initiatives which will launch in the lead up to COP26. These initiatives include projecting a climate change clock on the Tollbooth Steeple in Glasgow's Merchant City and launching 100 days to go in mid-July.
- 4.5 There are two pipelines for local community events which may be explored by the collaboratives; UK Government supported events and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (an organisation that heads up civil society groups) supported events.
- 4.6 The collaboratives can also act as a conduit for information flow to communities, both for UK Government campaigns, and the Get Ready Glasgow campaign.
- 4.7 Further engagement between the two collaboratives and the COP26 Team is planned to maintain momentum in the above areas, with direct communication channels available between Community Councils and the COP26 Team. In addition, there is active consideration on how best to incorporate Community Councils from around the whole of Glasgow who want to get involved in some way in relation to climate change and COP26.

#### **5 Legacy**

- 5.1 Legacy is being delivered across the council family, with a particular emphasis on ensuring a just transition, and to encourage the behaviour change needed to reach the city's ambitious net zero target. COP26 is adding momentum to the council's current ambitions. Areas of work, some of which are highlighted below, include:
  - Adding momentum to current ambitions, in particular through the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership
  - working to forge international partnerships to ensure that Glasgow's exposure on the world stage can drive further global connections, in particular to other cities in relation to sustainability issues

- using Glasgow's role as host city to support its promotion as a green and welcoming city and bring further events and green tourism to the city
- working closely with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the city's businesses can grasp the opportunities offered by global connections
- hosting a Glasgow Citizens' Assembly in advance of COP26 to shape legacy and advise on behaviour change
- working with schools to engage and empower children and young people through existing programmes and those being developed due to COP26 being in Glasgow
- using the delivery of the COP26 Volunteering Programme to deliver KPIs around skills and employability and to engage people in volunteering for the first time
- using the People Make Glasgow brand to promote the city as an attractive destination across the globe to the international COP26 audience
- using the People Make Glasgow Greener brand to engage citizens on climate issues and encourage behaviour change
- supporting and enabling cultural organisations to activate in response to, and during COP26

## **6 Volunteer Programme**

- 6.1 The COP26 Team is delivering the COP26 Volunteering Programme on behalf of the United Nations and UK Government, using the council family's expertise in delivering large scale programmes for major events.
- 6.2 The marketing campaign to recruit 1000 volunteers has been an outstanding success with around 10,000 people applying. This process will now select and enlist the help of friendly, outgoing and enthusiastic volunteers to contribute to the delegate experience, and ultimately to the success of the conference.
- 6.3 In line with the city's strategic objectives as host of COP26, the volunteers will represent the city, Scotland and the UK to delegates from around the world, providing key information on the conference and conference venues, how to move around the city and promoting the best of what Glasgow has to offer.
- 6.4 Learning from the legacy of previous large-scale volunteering programmes (Commonwealth Games 2014 / European Championships 2018), partners in the city will utilise the Volunteer Programme of COP26 as a showcase to ensure that people are encouraged to volunteer and that there are more volunteering opportunities that provide a quality experience for the volunteer.
- 6.5 Committee members noted on 4 March 2021 that a City Volunteer Review took place over the last quarter of 2020, and the key aim of this review was to inform any adjustments required to Glasgow's Volunteering Strategy and action plan 2019-24. Implementing the recommendations of this review, will help achieve the vision outlined that Glasgow becomes a place "where everyone can volunteer, more often, and throughout their lives."

## **7 Glasgow Citizens' Assembly**

- 7.1 The Council will undertake public engagement on climate change ahead of COP26 to understand what actions citizens are prepared to take towards the

net zero emissions target and how the council can support these actions. It will host a Citizens' Assembly over August 2021.

- 7.2 The Citizens' Assembly will be organised and hosted independently by Ipsos MORI. They have hosted citizens' assemblies on the climate emergency for other UK councils and are involved in climate emergency engagement and consultation internationally. Ipsos MORI will recruit a representative sample of Glaswegians to the Citizens' Assembly. The assembly will meet over several sessions to learn about the challenge of the climate emergency; deliberate and discuss it; decide on priorities and make recommendations. It will also consider how to keep citizens informed and involved in legacy after COP26.
- 7.3 The Council has also asked questions about legacy in the spring 2021 Household Survey due to report in August. Separate arrangements are in place through Education Services to engage with young people to develop and inform legacy. The learning from the Citizens' Assembly will help the Council develop and shape how we involve citizens more generally in local decision making. A full report on the Citizens' Assembly priorities and recommendations will be made available to Council before COP26.

## **8 Area Partnerships**

- 8.1 COP26 will be used as a platform to talk about the role of Glasgow in tackling climate change, our race to zero, action on climate emergency implementation plan and the importance of a just transition and legacy.
- 8.2 Funding is available to local communities who identify potential improvements to local parks and open spaces in this financial year. The Council has recently established a Local Parks and Open Space Improvement Fund which will be administered through Glasgow Community Planning Partnership's Area Partnerships. Final details on the launch of this Fund is in progress.
- 8.3 Area Partnership Grants continue to be available for local communities for a range of local priorities, which include environmental and sustainability improvements. A targeted social media campaign will promote the Area Partnership Grants using COP26 as a catalyst for identifying potential projects.
- 8.4 A review to develop a new structure and refresh operational arrangements for Glasgow Community Planning Partnership's (GCPP) Area Partnerships has been completed and a report will be submitted to the GCPP Strategic Partnership seeking endorsement in due course.
- 8.5 The Review of the Sector and Area Partnerships is based on extensive consultation with members of the Partnerships and highlights their desire for greater engagement with local communities and a more informal approach to working.
- 8.6 The new structure proposed consists of a formal component to agree and deliver a local plan for the area and consider area budgets, as well as a more open Citizen's Panel to agree local priorities and review progress.

8.7 This model is similar to that currently operated by Durham County Council and its Area Action Partnerships. The role of the Area Action Partnerships is to:

- Give local people and organisations a say on how services are provided
- Work with communities and organisations to meet the needs of the community by identifying local priorities and the actions needed to tackle them
- Allocate local funding to organisations and support their development
- Monitor the difference that the funding and support is making to communities
- Ensure that people can get involved with consultation activities and are aware of what's going on in their community

8.8 Local people who live, work, study or volunteer in and area are invited to join their Area Action Partnership through an online recruitment drive. By joining, they are able to have a say in the issues that affect their area. A diary of meetings, along with agendas, minutes and papers is publicly available.

8.9 Assuming sign-off of the recommendations of the Review of the Sector and Area Partnerships by the Strategic Partnership, the GCPP Governance Framework would be amended to reflect the move to the new arrangements and a detailed Operational Plan with timescales produced thereafter. The learning from the Citywide Citizens Assembly will inform the development and operation of the new local Citizens Panels.

## **9 Get Ready Glasgow**

9.1 Get Ready Glasgow, the name of the public information and business engagement campaign used successfully during the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Glasgow 2018 European Championships, is the way in which the council and partners communicate key information about the COP26 conference and its impacts.

9.2 Bringing together partners including the council, Police Scotland, the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Transport Scotland, the campaign is recognised as a trusted and respected source of support and information on forthcoming events and major developments in the city.

9.3 One of the most important elements of the campaign will be the website, [getreadyglasgow.com](http://getreadyglasgow.com), which will act as a single source of truth and one-stop-shop for information on the impacts of the event with the aim of keeping the city moving and helping businesses and residents to go about their daily lives. Community and bespoke meetings will also be held to keep residents and businesses informed in the most affected areas. The aim of the campaign is to change behaviour where necessary to assist with the impacts of transport plans and security arrangements and ensure vital council services continue to be delivered.

9.4 The campaign will also send out consistent, accurate and coordinated information at timely intervals to elected members, residents and businesses

about the arrangements being put in place to deliver appropriate Covid-19 safety measures.

## **10 Campaigns and behaviour change**

- 10.1 The People Make Glasgow Greener (PMGG) campaign launched in March. The campaign aims to encourage everyone in Glasgow to take personal responsibility to contribute to a more sustainable and attractive city by connecting with the sense of pride people have in their city.
- 10.2 The launch and first phase of the campaign is focusing on an anti-litter message, and will align with the national campaign now running by Keep Scotland Beautiful. The launch of the new PMGG website has also provided a platform to showcase the range of sustainable projects being delivered by the council and signpost people to what they can do to contribute.
- 10.3 Three creative campaigns have been produced focusing on the city centre, neighbourhoods and parks. Radio, bus and social media adverts have been produced and also digital and web assets were created and posters delivered to all secondary schools. PMGG is also part of this year's Streets Ahead campaign with the Glasgow Times. The awards in June will include a new PMGG category to recognise an individual who helps make Glasgow a greener place for everyone.

## **11 Activism and Protest**

- 11.1 There is a recognition by the COP26 Team that activism and protests are likely to prevalent before, during, and after the event. Glasgow has robust processes in place to facilitate activism and protests which this Committee has considered over a number of reports including a Policy and Code of Conduct on Public Processions, Public Petitions Policy and Participation Request process.
- 11.2 Partners involved in the planning and delivery of COP26 have committed to working with communities and organisations with regard to activism or protest.
- 11.3 Individuals and groups and will be encouraged to make use of the correct channels for this to ensure public safety, constructive dialogue, and positive progress.

## **12**

### **Resource Implications:**

#### *Financial:*

Services delivered on behalf of the UK Government are funded by the Cabinet Office. Additional council activity is funded from within existing resources.

#### *Legal:*

Venue Use Agreements are being progressed with the relevant delivery partners for the use of council-owned facilities.

#### *Personnel:*

The COP26 Team sits in Chief Executive's Department.

*Procurement:*

The Corporate Procurement Unit is assisting the COP26 Team to procure commodities including the Volunteer Management System and volunteer uniforms, within the agreed delivery budgets.

**Council Strategic Plan:**

The hosting of COP26 will further progress the themes of Sustainable and Low Carbon City, Thriving Economy and Vibrant City by accelerating the work of the Sustainable Glasgow partnership, benefiting the event industry, encouraging further conference and event business and promoting Glasgow as a global destination.

Strategic Plan Priority 92.  
A Well Governed City that Listens and Responds.

**Equality Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22* n/a

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?* n/a

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.* n/a

**Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:* The COP26 Team is aligned with the UK Government and United Nations COP26 Sustainability Strategy and the hosting of COP26 is contributing to Sustainable Glasgow objectives.

*Social, including Article 19 opportunities:* The principle of Just Transition is at the heart of the city's local and global conversations in relation to COP26. The council's existing

community empowerment agenda will be further enhanced by a focus on carbon and climate with local residents.

*Economic:*

The hosting of COP26 will help promote event, conference, tourism and inward investment economic priorities.

**Privacy and Data  
Protection impacts:**

No data protection impacts noted

### **13 Recommendations:**

Members are asked to note the content of this report.