



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

COP26 – Edinburgh Programme

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 COP26 is the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The COP itself is a two-week conference of formal negotiations, plus multiple side-events typically attracting up to 50,000 people with representatives from around 150 countries, including Heads of State, Senior Ministers, businesses, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and media.
- 1.2 This is the first time the UK will host the conference, which was originally scheduled for November 2020 but postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 Delegates from across the world are expected to attend formal events in the 'blue zone' where climate experts, campaigners, policy makers and world leaders debate how to make global progress on climate change.
- 1.4 The conference also incorporates side events in the 'green zone', a citizen meeting space where NGOs, organisations and national representatives engage with each other and the general public on aspects of environmental awareness, social equality and reflections on proceedings at the COP.
- 1.5 It is currently anticipated that around 20% of delegates will choose to stay in Edinburgh for the duration of the Conference, with many visiting Consulates based in the Capital. This means that the city must prepare to formally support COP26 delivering a successful event in Scotland. In addition, as the capital city of Scotland and the seat of the Scottish Parliament, the city is also preparing for an influx of visitors and delegates participating in COP and potentially some degree of protest and disruption.
- 1.6 Alongside supporting and managing the formal aspects of COP 26, the global climate event represents an important opportunity for Edinburgh to demonstrate the steps we are taking to tackle climate change, and to secure a strong COP legacy for the city.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
 - i. Note the co-ordinated support by city partners to ensure the COP26 programme promotes Edinburgh's NetZero ambitions to a wide audience

- ii. Note the progress in co-ordinating the city's safety, transport and resilience planning through a partnership approach.

3. Main Report

City support for the COP26 event

- 3.1 The CEO of City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) formally delegated co-ordinating authority for Edinburgh COP26 planning to CEO TfE on 3 February 2020. TfE is tasked with leading on the coordination of Edinburgh delivery and contract management to support the relevant workstreams.
- 3.2 As part of the coordination of Edinburgh activity for COP26, TfE established an Edinburgh Working Group (EWG) and appointed a Project Manager. The purpose of the COP26 EWG is to provide a forum for the co-ordination of planning, preparations and arrangements for COP26 across Edinburgh. The EWG meets monthly, has met 16 times and is well attended by CEC functional Teams, Strategic City Partners, Emergency Services and a range of other Stakeholders. Membership of the EWG has evolved and grown over the past year, current membership is outlined in Annex A.
- 3.3 The EWG has direct liaison with The Cabinet Office (COP 26 Delivery Group), FCDO and Transport Scotland and Scottish Government. Representatives from the EWG take part in a number of functional working groups and feed into the wider strategic planning of COP26.
- 3.4 Issues being considered and addressed by the working group include:
 - i. City resilience and resilience of city services
 - ii. City safety and security
 - iii. City transport
 - iv. City dressage

Volunteering Campaign Support

- 3.5 Volunteer Edinburgh are fully engaged with EWG COP26 planning. The formal call for COP26 volunteers was launched on 20 January 2021. A good level of interest from both media and applicants was received. Around 4500 applications were submitted within the first week.
- 3.6 Glasgow City Council are working with Volunteer Edinburgh to promote Edinburgh based roles, to be filled by Edinburgh Volunteers. Around 600 applications were received for the 100 roles available within Edinburgh. The Glasgow team are responsible for selecting, onboarding, training and administering Volunteers for Edinburgh sites. These sites are expected to be Edinburgh Airport and Waverley with a City Centre roving Team visiting delegate hotels.



Concurrent Events

- 3.7 It is assumed that a wider events calendar will be in operation for the duration of COP26, which will impact on the transport network. Within Edinburgh, events such as the Autumn Tests at Murrayfield, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Events, Remembrance Sunday, football matches, an Independence March and a Charity Run at Holyrood Park, are currently planned to take place during COP26.
- 3.8 The EWG are collaborating to compile a calendar of concurrent events to give a wider understanding on the potential impact and the possibility to deconflict events. This event plan will include any major processions or protests planned during COP26.

Edinburgh's Events Plan for participating in COP26

- 3.9 The City of Edinburgh Council is collaborating with, and has provided core funding to, the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce to:
- i. Provide a coordination role for the city events during COP. These are separate to the support for the formal COP26 programme plan. To take this activity forward the Chamber has convened a group of city partners already active in planning COP26 related events and engagement (including City of Edinburgh Council, University of Edinburgh, Festivals Edinburgh, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and others).
 - ii. Alongside this partner programme, deliver a specific, focused series of events and debates on key areas for Edinburgh's net zero journey, for example;
 - i. Green Tourism
 - ii. Green Finance
 - iii. Built Environment, and
 - iv. Food & Drink
 - v. 2 day COP26 summit with keynote speakers
 - iii. Establish a programme to showcase Edinburgh businesses leading on sustainable and green economy actions and
 - iv. Support community groups to host events to showcase and promote public engagement in COP26 discussions. A specific community working group is being led by EVOC to ensure the visibility of community activism and participation in COP26.
 - v. Produce and manage a clear communications and activity plan to promote all Edinburgh events with COP26 branding. This includes the establishment of an Edinburgh during COP26 micro site to host event information, innovative climate action case studies, support for business, information for residents and promotion of the Edinburgh Climate Compact.



- vi. The information around business and community support alongside the events are promoted here: <https://netzeroedinburgh.org/>

Marketing and Communications

- 3.10 A Marketing and Communications working group has been established to connect the communications activity associated with the formal COP26 events being coordinated by the city working group and the Edinburgh's own plans to participate in COP26.
- 3.11 This group is collaborating to provide clear and timely information:
 - I. To the people of Edinburgh how COP26 will impact them, including public transport, road closures, diversion and protest marches
 - II. To the delegates about how to get to and from COP26
 - III. What Edinburgh is doing to support COP26, including links to the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce showcasing events and micro site
 - IV. What Edinburgh's Sustainability and Net Zero ambitions are
 - V. The opportunity Edinburgh presents as a green investment option
 - VI. What the legacy will be for the City

4. Contact

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Annex A – Edinburgh Working Group Members

- a. City of Edinburgh Council:
 - Communications Services.
 - Customer Hub.
 - Facilities Management.
 - Health and Social Care.
 - The Lord Provost’s Office.
 - Parking.
 - Public Safety.
 - Resilience.
 - Transport Roads Network Team.
 - Edinburgh Roads Services.
- b. Transport for Edinburgh
- c. Edinburgh Airport.
- d. Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce.
- e. Edinburgh Hotels Association.
- f. University of Edinburgh.
- g. Lothian Buses.
- h. Edinburgh Trams.
- i. ScotRail.
- j. Network Rail.
- k. NHS Lothian.
- l. Police Scotland.
- m. British Transport Police.
- n. Volunteer Edinburgh.
- o. Scottish Ambulance Service.
- p. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- q. Scottish Business Resilience Centre
- r. Transport Scotland.
- s. Scottish Government.
- t. The Cabinet Office.
- u. Edinburgh Science Festival.
- v. Traffic Scotland.

w. BEAR Scotland.