

Report

Report to:	Finance and Corporate Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 December 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Safety at Sports Grounds – Issue of Special Safety Certificate for Fireworks Event – ZLX Stadium
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise on action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 37(c) because of the timescales involved, by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to issue a Special Safety Certificate for the North and West Stands, HAFC Stadium Limited, ZLX Stadium, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton for the purpose of holding a fireworks event on 5 November 2023

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 37(c) by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to approve the issue of a Special Safety Certificate for the North and West Stands, HAFC Stadium Limited, ZLX Stadium, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton for the purpose of holding a fireworks event on 5 November 2023, subject to the completion of a satisfactory site inspection, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. In terms of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987, a General Safety Certificate is required for a stand at a sports ground which can accommodate at least 500 spectators under cover to view the activities at the ground. A stand which falls within this classification is referred to as a “regulated stand”.
- 3.2. The ZLX Stadium (formerly known as New Douglas Park) had previously been identified as a sports ground with regulated stands and the current General Safety Certificate for the North and West Stands came into force on 4 August 2023. The General Safety Certificate listed primary and ancillary activities to which spectators could be admitted, however, events involving other activities viewed from the Stands required the issue of a Special Safety Certificate.

4. Application for Special Safety Certificate

- 4.1. An application for a Special Safety Certificate had been received from HAFC Stadium Limited to hold a fireworks event on 5 November 2023.

- 4.2. The maximum number of persons to be admitted to the event, as specified in the Special Safety Certificate, was 4,900 (maximum spectators in North Stand is 2,274 / West Stand is 3,308). This reflected the maximum number of spectators which could be admitted to the North and West Stands in accordance with the current General Safety Certificate.
- 4.3. No modifications had been made to the North or West Stands for the purposes of the fireworks event. A number of adaptations, including the set-up of an amusement area, had been detailed in the Special Safety Certificate.
- 4.4. As the Special Safety Certificate was required to be issued prior to the event, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, approved the issue of the Special Safety Certificate for the North and West Stands, HAFC Stadium Limited, ZLX Stadium, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton, for the purpose of holding a fireworks event on 5 November 2023, subject to the completion of a satisfactory site inspection.
- 4.5. A site inspection, attended by representatives of the South Lanarkshire Sports Grounds Safety Advisory Group, had subsequently taken place on 5 November 2023 to ensure that:-
- ◆ the organisers had completed the pre-event and event day checklists
 - ◆ the site had been set up as per the Event Plan
- 4.6. The representatives present at the site inspection had been satisfied with the event arrangements and the Special Safety Certificate had been issued prior to the admission of spectators.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The Council is authorised by regulations to charge fees for work reasonably done as a result of an application for the issue, amendment, replacement, transfer or cancellation of a safety certificate.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications arising from the information presented in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There is a risk to the Council as the body responsible for administering safety certificates for sports grounds that any incident involving public safety where proper guidelines have not been followed could damage the Council's reputation. This risk is mitigated by the requirements and conditions contained within the General Safety Certificate on ground management to implement measures within the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (sixth edition) to ensure the reasonable safety of persons attending the sports ground. The requirements of the General Safety Certificate for the North and West Stands also applied to the fireworks event.
- 8.2. Annual inspections and match day inspections are carried out at the ZLX Stadium which include checks of safety procedures, physical inspections of the Stands and checks of inspection and test certificates of various installations and equipment.

8.3. In addition, relevant risk assessments specific to the fireworks event, including the identification of foreseeable hazards, evaluation of the risks associated with them, and mitigating measures to reduce the risks to an appropriate level, were undertaken and used to help develop the Event Plan, a copy of which had been required to be kept with the Special Safety Certificate.

8.4. As detailed at paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6, a site inspection had also been undertaken prior to the event.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

9.2. Consultation had taken place with:-

- ◆ the South Lanarkshire Sports Grounds Safety Advisory Group which comprises of representatives of the following:-
 - ◆ relevant services within South Lanarkshire Council
 - ◆ NHS Lanarkshire
 - ◆ Police Scotland
 - ◆ Scottish Ambulance Service
 - ◆ Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- ◆ sports ground management/event management/ Safety Officer at Hamilton Academical Football Club
- ◆ a representative of Midnight Storm Fireworks
- ◆ a representative of Security Scotland (stewarding provider)

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

6 November 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs

Previous References

- ◆ 27 September 2023 - Re-issue of General Safety Certificate for the ZLX Stadium

List of Background Papers

- ◆ General Safety Certificate for Regulated Stands – North and West Stands, ZLX Stadium, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton
- ◆ Special Safety Certificate for the purpose of holding a fireworks event at New Douglas Park, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton on 5 November 2023

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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