

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Corporate Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>7 May 2008</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Safety at Sports Grounds - Amendment to General Safety Certificates - North and West Stands, New Douglas Park, Hamilton</b>
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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 36(c) because of the timescales involved, to amend the General Safety Certificates for the North and West Stands, Hamilton Academical Football Club, New Douglas Park, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton
- ◆ advise of the erection of a temporary East Stand to allow New Douglas Park to comply with the Scottish Premier League's membership criteria for season 2008/2009

## 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 36(c) because of the timescales involved, by the Executive Director (Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Depute Chair and an ex officio member, to amend the General Safety Certificates for the North and West Stands, Hamilton Academical Football Club, New Douglas Park to reflect the new maximum attendance limits of 2,259 and 3,274 respectively, be noted; and
- (2) that the erection of the temporary East Stand, with a maximum attendance limit of 498, 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. General Safety Certificates were issued in respect of the North and West Stands, Hamilton Academical Football Club, New Douglas Park, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton on 27 July 2001 indicating maximum attendance limits of 2,100 and 3,260 respectively.

#### **4. Amendments to General Safety Certificates**

- 4.1. Notification was received from Hamilton Academical Football Club of alterations to both the North and West Stands which had resulted in a change to the number of seats as follows:-

	Current	Revised
North Stand	2,100	2,259
West Stand	3,260	3,274

- 4.2. Necessary checks were undertaken to ensure that the stands complied with the appropriate legislation and the maximum attendance limits specified in the General Safety Certificates for the North and West Stands were amended to reflect the revised seating.
- 4.3. Notification was also received of the construction of a temporary East Stand which contains 498 seats. This stand does not require a safety certificate in terms of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 as it accommodates less than 500 spectators.
- 4.4. In order for New Douglas Park to comply with the Scottish Premier League's membership criteria for season 2008/2009, the ground must provide individually numbered seats in areas under cover of a roof for not less than 6,000 spectators. This membership criteria had to be met by 31 March 2008 and the Scottish Premier League Limited required written confirmation and relevant safety certificates from the local authority.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. None.

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. None.

#### **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. Consultation has taken place with representatives of Planning and Building Standards Services (Enterprise Resources), Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

**Robert McIlwain**  
**Executive Director (Corporate Resources)**

14 April 2008

**Link(s) to Council Objectives**

Improve community safety

**Previous References**

Corporate Resources Committee – 22 August 2001

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ General Safety Certificates, dated 31 March 2008, issued in respect of the North and West Stands at New Douglas Park
- ◆ Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (4<sup>th</sup> Edition: 1997)

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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