

# Report

Report to:	<b>Finance and Corporate Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>2 June 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Safety at Sports Grounds – Re-issue of General Safety Certificate – Hamilton Park</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise of the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c) because of the timescales involved, to re-issue the reviewed General Safety Certificate for Hamilton Park, Bothwell Road, Hamilton

## 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) by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to re-issue the General Safety Certificate for Hamilton Park, Bothwell Road, Hamilton, 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”. Hamilton Park Racecourse had previously been identified as a sports ground with a regulated stand.

3.2. The revised format of the General Safety Certificate for Hamilton Park Racecourse was approved by the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2016 and the Certificate is required to be reviewed and re-issued annually.

## 4. COVID-19 Pandemic

4.1. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, the start of last year’s racing season was delayed until 24 June 2020, following which, all racing had been conducted behind closed doors.

4.2. The General Safety Certificate was not re-issued, however, ground management and the safety team produced an Operation Plan for Racing Behind Closed Doors, a stewarding plan and risk assessments which were distributed to representatives of the South Lanarkshire Sports Grounds Safety Advisory Group.

- 4.3. On the basis of the feedback received from the Safety Advisory Group representatives and the outcome of a site visit conducted by a representative of Fleet and Environmental Services, the Council's lead Service in terms of COVID-19 compliance, the Council had confirmed that it was satisfied that appropriate measures, in terms of COVID-19 compliance, had been put in place to ensure the reasonable safety of persons attending Hamilton Park for the purposes of racing behind closed doors.

## **5. Re-issue of the General Safety Certificate**

- 5.1. At the annual inspection which took place on 7 April 2021, the Grandstand was found to be well maintained and in a good state of repair and the engineer's annual structural inspection report concluded that the Grandstand was in a satisfactory structural condition. The report included some remedial recommendations and ground management had since advised that all the recommendations had been completed, with the exception of 1 recommendation, that would be addressed in a future maintenance schedule.
- 5.2. Ground management had provided copies of the appropriate annual inspection and test certificates. The race day records for last season were not inspected during the inspection as all racing last season had been held behind closed doors and race day logs had been copied to the Council.
- 5.3. A small number of housekeeping issues had been identified and ground management had addressed these issues, with the exception of 1 item, and had made a commitment to address the final issue prior to the return of spectators to the racecourse. Confirmation has since been provided by ground management that the outstanding issue has been addressed.
- 5.4. No race day inspection was carried out last season due to all races being held behind closed doors.
- 5.5. Ground management and the South Lanarkshire Sports Grounds Safety Advisory Group have reviewed the General Safety Certificate and the safety management arrangements at the racecourse and the following changes have been made to the Certificate:-
- ◆ name of the racecourse updated to Hamilton Park
  - ◆ the geographical extent of the terms and conditions of the Certificate were now included
  - ◆ the Certificate now specified a period of 5 hours immediately prior to the commencement of the specified activity and 1 hour immediately following completion of the specified activity when the Holder was required to comply with the terms and conditions of the Certificate
  - ◆ reference was made to the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020
  - ◆ inclusion of the requirement for the Holder to produce detailed reduced capacity calculations in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds Supplementary Guidance 02: Planning for social distancing at sports grounds, to be added to the General Safety Certificate, as an amendment, when the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 permitted the return of spectators to the racecourse
  - ◆ the operational plan had been updated for the 2021 racing season and now included Zone Ex arrangements
  - ◆ inclusion of an operations plan for racing behind closed doors

- ◆ inclusion of the requirement to produce an operations plan for racing with reduced capacities, to be included as an amendment to the Certificate, when the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 and Scottish Government guidance permitted the return of spectators
- ◆ the named Deputy Safety Officer had been updated

5.6. The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, approved the reviewed General Safety Certificate for Hamilton Park to allow it to be re-issued prior to the start of the new racing season which commenced on Sunday 2 May 2021.

## **6. Employee Implications**

6.1. None.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1. 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.

## **8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

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

## **9. Other Implications**

9.1. 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 spectators.

9.2. In addition to this, an annual inspection and annual race day inspection will be carried out at Hamilton Park which include checks of safety procedures, physical inspection of the Grandstand and checks of inspection and test certificates of various installations and equipment.

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

10.1. 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.

10.2. Consultation has taken place with sports ground management at Hamilton Park and 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

**Paul Manning**  
**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

11 May 2021

**Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable

**Previous References**

- ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources Committee – 7 August 2019

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ General Safety Certificate for a Regulated Stand – Hamilton Park, Bothwell Road, Hamilton

**Contact for Further Information**

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

Stuart McLeod, Administration Officer

Ext: 4815 (Tel: 01698 454815)

E-mail: [stuart.mcleod@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.mcleod@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)