

Report

Report to:	Finance and Corporate Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 September 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Safety at Sports Grounds – Re-issue of General Safety Certificate for New Douglas Park
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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 37(c) because of the timescales involved, to re-issue the reviewed General Safety Certificate for the North and West Stands, Hamilton Academical Football Club, New Douglas Park, Cadzow Avenue, 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 37(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 the North and West Stands, Hamilton Academical Football Club, New Douglas Park, Cadzow Avenue, 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”. New Douglas Park had previously been identified as a sports ground with regulated stands.

3.2. The revised format of the General Safety Certificates for the North and West Stands at New Douglas Park was approved by this Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2013. A single Certificate, in the same format, covering both Stands was approved by this Committee at its meeting held on 10 November 2021. The Certificate requires to be reviewed and re-issued annually.

4. Re-issue of the General Safety Certificate

4.1. At the annual safety inspection which took place on 16 June 2022, the North and West Stands at New Douglas Park were found to be well maintained and the Council’s Planning and Economic Development Service was satisfied as to the condition of the primary structural elements of both the North and West Stands.

4.2. All of the relevant inspection certificates and test records were available for inspection with the exception of the certificate for the water storage system which had since been provided by stadium management.

- 4.3. The engineer's structural inspection report had not identified any apparent structural defects. A number of observations had been made on minor defects and the Stadium Manager had made a commitment to action the items within 6 weeks of the date of the inspection.
- 4.4. A small number of additional actions and housekeeping issues had been identified during the inspection which were to be completed as soon as practicable, or within specified timescales, as agreed with the Stadium Manager.
- 4.5. Stadium management have since provided updates indicating that the defects identified in the engineer's structural inspection report have been addressed and the other actions identified during the inspection have been completed.
- 4.6. Stadium management and the South Lanarkshire Sports Grounds Safety Advisory Group had reviewed the General Safety Certificate and the safety management arrangements at New Douglas Park and the following changes had been made to the Certificate:-
 - ◆ name of the sports ground has reverted to New Douglas Park (previously Foys Stadium)
 - ◆ Certificate now refers to all persons/people as opposed to spectators
 - ◆ details of 2 additional and suitably qualified Deputy Safety Officers have been included
 - ◆ the capacities detailed at appendix 2 now include spectators and others present (players/officials/staff/contractors/other essential personnel)
- 4.7. Clyde Football Club will play their home games at New Douglas Park during the 2022/2023 season and the Operations Manual, included as an appendix to the General Safety Certificate, has been amended by stadium management to reflect this.
- 4.8. The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, approved the reviewed General Safety Certificate for the North and West Stands at New Douglas Park to allow it to be re-issued prior to the start of the 2022/2023 football season which commenced on 30 July 2022.

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 Certificates on stadium 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.

8.2. In addition to this, annual inspections and annual event inspections will be carried out at New Douglas Park which include checks of safety procedures, physical inspections of the Stands and checks of inspection and test certificates of various installations and equipment.

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 has taken place with stadium management at New Douglas 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)

17 August 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs

Previous References

- ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources Committee – 10 November 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ General Safety Certificate for Regulated Stands – North and West Stands, New Douglas Park, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton

Contact for Further Information

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

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