

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Gateshead International Stadium Safety certificate**

**REPORT OF:**               **Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment**

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## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of the report is to provide committee with an update of progress at Gateshead International Stadium since the previous safety certificate was amended at Regulatory Committee on 21 June 2016 (minute number RC71 refers).

The report also seeks approval to update and amend the safety certificate as set out in paragraphs 5 – 10 of the report.

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## **Background**

1. Gateshead International Stadium is a Designated Stadium under the terms of the Sports Ground Act 1975 (the Act).
2. The existing General Safety Certificate for Gateshead International Stadium (the Stadium) allows the use of the stadium for spectator events, restricted to those specified activities listed in Appendix 3 of the General Safety Certificate.
3. Certificate 25 was update and replaced by certificate 25A on 21 June 2016. Committee agreed that Mrs Lindsay Murray, Service Director, Culture, Communities, Leisure and Volunteering is a qualified person for the purposes of the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975 and approved the transfer of the General Safety Certificate to Mrs Murray.

## **Summary of Progress**

4. Since June 2016, a number of improvements have been initiated to ensure that the requirements of the safety certificate are embedded into all elements of the day to day operation of the facility. These improvements include the following:
  - A full annual inspection and testing regime has been implemented.
  - A stadium specific Safety Advisory Group (SAG) will meet at least twice per year, with additional meetings as required to consider larger scale events, activities or football fixtures.
  - The terms of reference for the SAG have been reviewed.

- Staff have been briefed on the all elements and key requirements of the safety certificate.
- Copies of the full safety certificate and subsequent appendices are available to the public within the stadium.
- Members of the GO Gateshead Sport and Leisure stadium management team have received accredited safety at sports ground training.
- Following the implementation of the GO Gateshead Sport and Leisure service review and appointment to management roles within the structure, the Business Manager and Operations Manager for the stadium will train to NVQ level 4 in Managing Spectator Safety.

## **Proposed Updates and Amendments**

5. To ensure that Gateshead International Stadium can continue to operate effectively, safely and secure a wide range of events, committee is requested to consider the following amendments to the current safety certificate (version 25 A).
6. A requirement to review and broaden the list of specified activities contained in appendix 3 of the general safety certificate. To include:
  - i. Open air performances such as Enchanted Parks (Saltwell Park)
  - ii. Open air music festivals
  - iii. Trade shows
  - iv. Sporting events such as the Great North Run, Blaydon Race, etc
  - v. Historic re-enactments
  - vi. Horse / dog / pet / agricultural shows
  - vii. Car / caravan shows
  - viii. Firework displays
  - ix. Street parties
  - x. Processions
  - xi. Marches
  - xii. Community carnivals / events
  - xiii. Fairs / fetes
  - xiv. Large scale religious events

7. Clause 5 of the safety certificate states:

*The Holder shall inform the Council of the name of the person at senior level in the organisation who is responsible for safety policy and its implementation, together with those of the Safety Officer and Deputy Safety Officer who shall be of sufficient competence, status and authority to take responsibility for spectator safety and be able to authorise and supervise safety measures.*

8. As recommended by the Strategic Director of Legal and corporate Services, it is proposed that Sport and Leisure management use the risk assessment process to quantify on an individual event basis whether a Deputy Safety Officer is required. The safety certificate will be amended to include this process.
9. Clause 6 of the safety certificate states:

*Unless a nominated Safety Officer or Deputy Safety Officer, whose appointment has been notified to the Council, is present, the capacity of the Sports Ground will be zero for the specified activities, except for the following: -*

*(a) that when the public is admitted to the Sports Ground for the sale of tickets only, or for school events, the Holder shall ensure the attendance of sufficient safety stewards to secure the orderly behaviour of the public.*

*(b) that when the public is admitted to the Sports Ground for a specified activity where the Holder estimates less than 500 spectators will be admitted, the Holder shall ensure the attendance of a minimum of two safety stewards.*

10. In respect of paragraph 9 (a) regarding the need for a Safety officer for school events, it is proposed that as each school athletic event is different, the following will be considered:

- the profile of the school
- the event,
- the school will provide safeguarding measures

The school will provide an individual risk assessment which fits the profile of their pupils and the event which they are intending to hold. This will include a stewarding plan and include any support required from GO Gateshead Staff.

### **Recommendation**

11. Regulatory Committee is asked to approve the amendments to Gateshead International Stadium General Safety certificate as set out in paragraphs 6, 8 and 10 of this report.

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**CONTACT:** Brian Hewitson, Business Manager, GO Gateshead Sport and Leisure x5703

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### **Policy Context**

1. The proposal supports the vision for Gateshead as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular supporting the building of cohesive and diverse communities.

### **Background**

2. Gateshead International Stadium is a Designated Stadium under the terms of the Sports Ground Act 1975 (the Act). The existing General Safety Certificate for Gateshead International Stadium (the Stadium) allows the use of the stadium for spectator events, restricted to those specified activities listed in Appendix 3 of the General Safety Certificate.

### **Consultation**

3. Following consultation with the officers in the Development, Public Protection and Human Resources and Litigation, Transport, Police, Fire and Ambulance Authorities, the changes and amendments to the safety certificate have been identified.

### **Alternative Options**

4. There is no alternative to considering the proposed amendments, to do nothing could leave the Council liable if the safety certificate was to become out of date.

### **Implications of Recommended Option**

5. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.
6. **Risk Management Implications** – The Service Director of Development, Transport and Public Protection has consulted with Tyne and Wear Fire Service, Northumbria Police and on building control for purposes of health and safety and public order. There are no objections to the application.
7. **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications arising from the proposal.
8. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – There are no equality and diversity Implications arising from the proposal.
9. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The Service Director of Development, Transport and Public Protection has consulted with Northumbria Police on matters relating to public order. There are no objections to the application.
10. **Health Implications** – There are direct health implications arising from the proposal. The amendments to the safety certificate will ensure the Council continues to provide a safe environment for customers of the stadium to visit and enjoy events and activities.
11. **Sustainability Implications** – There are no sustainability implications arising directly from the proposal. Ensuring the certificate is up to date will help the stadium provide a safe environment for events which will help increase income.

12. **Human Rights Implications** – By ensuring a valid Safety Certificate, the Council is positively promoting the safety of spectators at special events.
13. **Area and Ward Implications** – Gateshead International Stadium is located in Felling Ward. The ward members have been consulted on the application. There are no objections.
14. **Background Information**  
None