

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

REPORT OF: **Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Resources & Digital**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Members of the Regulatory Committee with an update on safety measures at Gateshead International Stadium.

Background

2. Under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975, sports grounds such as Gateshead International Stadium require a Safety Certificate which sets out the terms that must be complied with in order to operate the sports ground at its permitted capacity.
3. The Safety Certificate for Gateshead International Stadium is held by Lindsay Murray, Service Director for Trading & Commercialisation; and was most recently approved by the Regulatory Committee on 22 May 2018, and it has operated under those terms since that date with the annual compliance checks and maintenance programmes undertaken accordingly. This report is part of the Safety Certificate Holder's regular updates to the Committee.
4. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic a number of Health Protection Regulations have been introduced which have significantly impacted on the use of the stadium and meant that for the majority of the last year it was not possible to hold spectator events.
5. On 17 May 2021, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps and Other Provisions) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into effect and lifted some of the restrictions on use of such venues for spectator events, as long as they are conducted in accordance with prescribed safety measures. This includes the use of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority's guidance : SG02 Planning for Social Distancing at Sports Grounds.
6. The Stadium management team have worked closely with colleagues from the Public Health, Covid Business Compliance and Legal teams to ensure that appropriate measures are in place for social distancing and covid-security.
7. This work has culminated in the Stadium hosting the Wanda Diamond League athletics meeting on 23 May 2021 in front of approximately 2,500 spectators. The event was originally scheduled to take place in Morocco but was unable to proceed due to ongoing covid restrictions. The Safety Advisory Group provided valuable input to ensure the safe and smooth running of the event.

8. The fact that Gateshead was chosen to host this prestigious event in the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympics is testament to the collective efforts to suppress the virus in the Borough and to the Council's reputation for delivering highly organised and safe events at the Stadium.
9. Further events being planned to take place at the Stadium in the coming months, which will continue to adopt social distancing and covid-security measures for the safety of spectators, participants and staff.
10. In due course, the learning from these events will inform a review of the Safety Certificate which will be brought back before the Regulatory Committee for approval.
11. Ms Murray and Mr Strong will provide Members with a full update at the Committee meeting.

Recommendations

11. The Committee are requested to note the content of this report.

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