

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

**REPORT OF:** Peter Udall, Strategic Director Economy, Innovation and Growth

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### **Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval on the to update and amend the General Safety Certificate (No. 25c) for the Gateshead International Stadium.

### **Background**

2. Gateshead International Stadium is a Designated Stadium under the terms of the Sports Ground Act 1975 (the Act).
3. The existing General Safety Certificate for Gateshead International Stadium (the Stadium) allows the use of the stadium for spectator events as set out in the Safety Certificate.
4. Regulator Committee approved amendments to the Gateshead International Stadium General Safety Certificate on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 (Minute number RC180) and as a result certificate number 25c was issued.
5. Since then an annual inspection is carried out by local authority personnel and a Gateshead International Stadium Safety Advisory Group is in place to support advise on the safe use of the facility and implementation of the General Safety Certificate (GSC).

### **Gateshead International Stadium Management Changes**

6. In November 2019, as part of a wider corporate reorganisation, the responsibility for the management of the Gateshead International Stadium moved to the new Public Health and Wellbeing directorate.
7. The Service Director, Public Health and Wellbeing (Leisure) is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Gateshead International Stadium, however Lindsay Murray, Service Director, Commercialisation and Improvement has retained the role of General Safety Certificate Holder.
8. The Service Director, Public Health and Wellbeing (Leisure) will ensure that all planned maintenance and relevant inspections are undertaken to ensure compliance with relevant health and safety legislation.
9. In order to ensure compliance with the GSC, overall and final responsibility for safety within Gateshead International Stadium lies with Lindsay Murray, Service Director, Commercialisation and Improvement.

10. The Service Director, Public Health and Wellbeing (Leisure), with support of the Service Manager – Events, will ensure that, in consultation with the Safety Officer and in parallel with the ground safety certificate requirements, an annual review or earlier if circumstances dictate, will be undertaken in respect of safety policies, inspections, changing work environment risks or performance evaluations

### **Annual Inspection Report**

11. Employees from the Council's Building Control team carried out its annual safety inspection at the Stadium in July 2022.
12. The inspections focused on both the structure and the physical condition of the stadium as well as the safety aspects of the management of the stadium and can be found in Appendix 1.
13. The capacity of the stadium has been calculated by parameters set within national safety guidance - the Green Guide 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Appendix 1 sets out the safe capacity assessment and confirms that the new safe capacity is 8156 (Maximum possible seating capacity is 11939).

### **East Terrace Canopy**

14. During the winter storms of 2019 the terrace canopy was damaged and as a result was removed entirely. The future of the canopy is still under review, however until then the stand will be classified as an 'uncovered' stand and following the annual inspection the safe capacity has been assessed and reduced from 4044 to 2426.
15. Regulatory Committee will receive a further update on the future of the East Terrace Canopy once a longer-term solution has been assessed and agreed by the Council.

### **General Updates**

#### **Floodlight improvement**

16. On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Cabinet agreed (minute no. C133) to the Council's Capital Programme allocations from 2019/20 to 2023/24 (£1.21m), which included investment into the refurbishment of the floodlighting.
17. The scheme aimed to improve the current infrastructure to provide new energy efficient LED bulbs and provide lighting levels adequate for the existing use of athletics and football.
18. The project, however, was significantly delayed due to Covid, however works started onsite in November 2022, and the scheme is nearing completion with the floodlights now operational with some minor works outstanding. The project is on course for full completion by the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

#### **Gateshead International Stadium Options Appraisal**

19. On the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Cabinet (minute number C60), approved the consideration of the future operating model for the Gateshead International

Stadium being undertaken separately to that for the wider leisure service and that the future of the Stadium will be the subject of a distinct review and future report to Cabinet.

20. On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Cabinet approved (minute number C97) that an options appraisal to begin. This process will consider the future operating model for the Gateshead International Stadium.
21. As part of the options appraisal, the management and maintenance of the Gateshead International Stadium General Safety Certificate and any future implication will be considered and reported at a later date.

### **Recommendation**

22. Regulatory Committee is asked to note the updates provided within the report and approve the amendments to Gateshead International Stadium General Safety certificate to reflect the revised safe capacity assessment as set out in paragraphs 6-10 of this report.

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**CONTACT: Anneliese Hutchinson/Chris Strong**

ext: 3881/2708

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## Appendix 1

Assessor	Job Title	Qualification
Angus Pinder	Principal Building Surveyor	Chartered Building Surveyor
Date of Assessment	22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	
Date of Next Assessment	June 2023	

The assessment of how many spectators can be safely accommodated is in accordance with the recommendations of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (the Guide).

### s2.3 Factors to be considered

- a. The entry capacity
- b. The holding capacity
- c. The exit capacity
- d. The emergency exit capacity
- e. The final capacity

The capacities for factors a, c and d have been calculated previously and no circumstances have arisen to recalculate these capacities. The calculated entry, exit and emergency exit capacities are greater than the actual number of seats, therefore, the final capacity is determined from the holding capacity.

### s2.4 The (P) and (S) factors

The (P) factor is an assessment of each section of the ground's physical condition.

The (S) factor is an assessment of each section of the ground's quality of safety management.

### S2.11 Calculating the final capacity

Section	Actual number of seats	Less inadequate seats	P Factor	S Factor	Holding capacity
Tyne & Wear Stand	3227	34	0.9	0.9	2873
Press Box	43	0	1.0	1.0	43
North Terrace West	574	11	0.6	0.9	337
North Terrace East	792	18	0.6	0.9	464
East Terrace Stand	4044	0	0.6	0.9	2426
South Terrace	3115	0	0.6	0.9	1869
Accessible viewing platform	24 <sup>1</sup>	0	1.0	1.0	24
Hospitality suite	120 <sup>2</sup>	0	1.0	1.0	120

#### Notes

1. 12 wheelchair users and 12 helpers.
2. 120 maximum occupancy of the hospitality suite when a sporting event is taking place.

**s12.24 Assessment of (P) factors for seated areas** – Assessment is held on file for review upon request and agreed with stadium management team.


### S12.25 Assessment of (S) factors for seated areas

Ticketing

Good

Seat and row identification	Good
Good housekeeping	Good
Stewarding	Good
Standing in seated areas	minor issues with football fans
Keeping gangways clear	No issue

The safe capacity assessment above is submitted on behalf of the ground management

Signed 

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Name Angus Pinder

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Qualifications Chartered Building Surveyor

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Gateshead Council

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Date 26/07/2022

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The safe capacity assessment is ratified on behalf of the local authority

Signed 

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Name Nigel Burn

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Qualifications CEng, MIStructE

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Local Authority Gateshead Council

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Date 27/07/2022

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