

Report to: Executive Cabinet Member for
Environment, Regulatory Services and
Skills

Date: 25th March 2013

Report of: Director of Development &
Regeneration

Report No: ECME/65/13

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Report Title: **Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975 – Policy Documents**

- 1. Policy for the Issue and Review of General Safety Certificate**
- 2. Monitoring and Inspection Policy**
- 3. Enforcement Policy – Safety at Sports Grounds**

**Confidential /
Non Confidential:**

(**Non-Confidential**) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

To seek approval for the Policy Documents

1. Policy for the Issue and Review of General Safety Certificate
2. Monitoring and Inspection Policy
3. Enforcement Policy – Safety at Sports Grounds

under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975.

Recommendations: The Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills is recommended to approve these documents

Decision:

**Background
Doc(s):**

1. Policy for the Issue and Review of General Safety Certificate
2. Monitoring and Inspection Policy
3. Enforcement Policy – Safety at Sports Grounds

(for use on Exec Rep)

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

To ensure there is transparency and due process it is essential that the local authority documents policies and procedures to deliver the safety at sports ground function.

A documented policy on how the local authority intends to carry out its functions in an equitable, practical and consistent manner also helps to promote a good working relationship with those it regulates. A local authority's commitment to these aims and an explanation of how it intends to achieve them in respect of its safety at sports ground role should be clearly set out in written policies.

The production of these policies demonstrates that the management has devoted thought and effort to the safety of sports ground role. Putting the policy in writing helps focus the mind and shows whether it has been fully thought out in practical terms.

These policies set out what the club can expect from the service. They commit the local authority to good practices and procedures and they supplement the Council's Policy Document on Managing Safety at Designated Sports Grounds that was Approved by Executive Cabinet Member on the 5th November 2012.

Background Information:

The Council, as the Regulatory Authority under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975, is responsible for ensuring the appropriate certification of designated sports grounds in Bolton and for the enforcement of the requirements of the Act.

The Council's responsibilities under the safety legislation are discharged through the Safety of Sports Ground Advisory Group on behalf of the Chief Executive, and overseen by the designated Executive Member.

The statutory duties and powers imposed by the 1975 Act have been delegated to the Building Control Development Manager who, in accordance with SGSA guidance, will act as the Lead Officer/ Chair of the Safety Advisory Group.

Building Control, on behalf of the Council, are responsible for enforcing the recommendations contained in the "Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds" published by the DCMS and often known as the Green Guide. The Guide lays down detailed advice related to such matters as adequate structure, provisions of gangways, fire escapes, crash barrier design and engineering services.

The Director of the Chief Executives Department or his/her appointed officer is to sign the safety certificate on behalf of the Council.

Operational performance of the Council is monitored by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority and a review of the effectiveness of the function carried out in October 2012 indicated that the council are performing above-average.

The one area which was identified for improvement was the production of a formal Policy Document for Managing Safety at Designated Sports Grounds and supplementary Policy documents and procedural guides for the issue and review of general safety certificates, monitoring and inspection policy and enforcement policy.

The Council's Policy Document on Managing Safety at Designated Sports Grounds was Approved by Executive Cabinet Member on the 5th November 2012.

The other draft Policy Documents at Appendix 1, are accordingly presented for comment and approval.

Recommendations

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and skills is recommended to approve these documents.