

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE</b>	19 January 2021
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 as amended – General Safety Certificate Pittodrie Certificate
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/21/012
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Fraser Bell
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Arlene Dunbar
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	4

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Licensing Committee agree to the adoption of the General Safety Certificate issued to Aberdeen Football Club Plc annexed as Appendix 1 to this report and as set out in paragraph below.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 approve the General Safety Certificate Version 2.0 as amended December 2020;
- 2.2 instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to issue the amended certificate to Aberdeen Football Club Plc; and
- 2.3 delegate authority to the Chief Officer - Governance to approve any variation to or deletion of Appendix 6 in respect of COVID 19 measures and to issue an amended certificate, as necessary.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In terms of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended) any sports stadium which has accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators shall require a Safety Certificate.
- 3.2 The Act defines a sports ground as: 'A place where sports or other competitive activities take place in the open air, and where accommodation has been provided for spectators, consisting of artificial structures or of natural structures artificially modified for the purpose.'

The only sports ground which currently meets the relevant statutory requirements in Aberdeen City is Pittodrie Stadium.

- 3.3 A safety certificate sets the permitted capacity for a sports ground together with the detailed terms and conditions with which the ground management must comply in order to operate the sports ground at its permitted capacity.
- 3.4 The [Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds \(Green Guide\)](#) provides detailed guidance on calculating how many spectators can be safely accommodated within the viewing accommodation of a sports ground. The Guide also provides advice on measures to improve safety at sports grounds. An updated version (version 6) of the Green Guide was recently published.
- 3.5 The following amendments have been made to the certificate:
  - a) References to the Green Guide have been updated to reflect the provision contained in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition;
  - b) Addition of Appendix 6 to take account of physical distancing as required during COVID 19 and
  - c) General formatting changes
- 3.6 Due to the technical nature of the work involved an advisory group made up of officers and partner organisations meets regularly to deal with relevant matters and in particular to review the terms and conditions of the Safety Certificate. The Sports Ground Advisory Group have no objections to the proposed amendments and recommend that the draft Certificate be approved.
- 3.7 Due to the current uncertainty and every changing requirements of the COVID 19 pandemic, it is recommended that the Committee delegate to the Chief Officer, Governance the authority to issue an amended certificate where there is a variation to or deletion of appendix 6.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 If the Safety Certificate is not approved by the Committee Aberdeen Football Club would be unable to carry out their specified activities including association football, Rugby Union and other sporting event(s) attended by more than 500 spectators.
- 5.2 If there was a decision to refuse to amend the certificate, the certificate holder can appeal this decision to the Secretary of State. Given that in this event the club would be unable to admit spectators to the stadium, it is likely such an appeal would be made.

## 6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compliance	Non compliance by Aberdeen City Council with the Safe of Sports Ground Act 1975	L	Ensuring that the Certificate is up to date and monitored on a regular basis.
Operational	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reputational	The Safety Certificate is likely to be of interest to the public, football fans and the press and failure to renew it may cause reputational damage to the authority	L	Ensuring that the Certificate is up to date, issued and monitored on a regular basis.
Environment / Climate	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 7. OUTCOMES

7.1 The proposals in this report have not impact on the Council's Delivery Plan.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	not required

## 9. APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1 – Safety Certificate Version 2.0

## 10. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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