

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 17 JANUARY 2013

AMENDMENT TO SAFETY CERTIFICATE FOR LINKS PARK, MONTROSE

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This Report deals with an amendment to the Safety Certificates in relation to Links Park, Montrose which increases the maximum capacity of supporters in the Ground.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to homologate the action of the Head of Law and Administration, taken in consultation with the Convener of the Committee, to issue an amended Safety Certificate for Links Park, Montrose, to reflect the increased capacity figures.

2. LINKS PARK, MONTROSE

Section 26 of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 requires that a General Safety Certificate be issued where there is a covered stand (i.e. with seated or standing accommodation) which can accommodate at least 500 spectators, referred to as "regulated stands" in sports grounds which are **not** designated under the 1975 Act. There are three non-designated sports grounds in Angus of which Links Park, Montrose is one. A General Safety Certificate was issued in respect of the regulated stand at that ground, again following approval by this Committee on 16 August 2012.

Since that Safety Certificate was issued permanent crush barriers have been installed in certain sections of the terracing which has resulted in an increase in the capacity of the ground.

Accordingly, under Section 4 of the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 an amended Safety Certificate was issued to the club to reflect the changes in the new capacity in respect of the south stand and west covered standing enclosure at Links Park (the only sections of the ground along with the stand which is affected by the Safety Certificate under the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sports Act 1987). This was done to ensure that all the up to date paperwork was in place before the visit of Rangers FC on 15 December 2012.

Members should note that the maximum number of spectators for the south stand is now 1,324 (previously 1,334) and for the west covered stand 1,582 (previously 857).

3. AMENDED SAFETY CERTIFICATE

Due to all the works and necessary inspections only being concluded on 30th November 2012 it was not possible to report this to Committee for formal approval before the league match took place. Section 4 (2) of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 allows the local authority in cases where it appears appropriate for them to do so to amend a Safety Certificate either on the application of the holder or without such an application. The Head of Law and Administration in these circumstances was of the view that it was appropriate to issue an amended Certificate with the revised capacity.

As the delegated authority for issuing amended Safety Certificates does not rest with the Head of Law and Administration and given the timescales involved, on this occasion the Head of Law and Administration consulted with the Convener of the Committee who agreed that an amended Safety Certificate should be issued to the club on the basis that a Report would be submitted to the next available meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee for homologation of the decision.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this Report.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Head of Planning and Transport, Head of Roads and Tayside Police have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

COLIN McMAHON
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers: Report No 469/12.

L&A DMA