

## **Gambling, Licensing & Regulatory Committee**

11 July 2016

Report from the Assistant Director – Housing and Community Safety

### **Safety at Sports Advisory Group – Policies & Procedures and Terms of Reference**

#### **Summary**

1. This report seeks members' approval for the Policies and Procedures, and Terms of Reference for the Safety at Sports Advisory Group.

#### **Recommendations**

2. The Committee is asked to:
  - Approve option 1 approve the Policies and Procedures, and Terms of Reference.

**Reason:** To assist the council in its statutory duty under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended) and Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987.

#### **Background**

3. Safety at sports legislation was introduced, and has been amended, following major disasters such as:
  - Ibrox Stadium (Glasgow) 1971 – 66 Rangers fans were killed and over 200 injured in a crush during the last minutes of the match.
  - Valley Parade (Bradford) 1985 – 56 fans were killed and over 265 injured when a blaze engulfed the main stand.
  - Hillsborough Stadium (Sheffield) 1989 – 96 Liverpool fans killed and over 750 injured in a crush at the start of the match. This is the worst disasters in British sporting history.
4. In final Report of the inquiry into the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster, Lord Justice Taylor, recommended that each local authority set up

an advisory group, more generally known as Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

5. The purpose of the SAG is to assist the local authority in exercising its statutory functions under the:
  - Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975
  - Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987
  - Safety of Sports Grounds Regulations 1987
6. To achieve this the SAG will consist of appropriate members of its own staff, and representatives of the police, fire, ambulance and building authorities.
7. This function sits with City of York Council as it is a unitary authority. The council formed its SAG in 1996, as this is a regulatory function the council has delegated its powers under the above legislation to the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods. Building Control and Licensing officers take the lead roles on the SAG.
8. The role of the SAG is to issue and review safety certificates for designated sports grounds and regulated stands.
9. There is no statutory requirement for local authorities to set policies and procedures, and terms of reference for their SAG. It is however a best practice recommendation from the Sports Grounds Safety Authority, who audit local authorities in relation to how they exercise their statutory functions. The proposed Policies and Procedures can be found at Annex 1 and Terms of Reference at Annex 2.

## **Consultation**

10. A consultation on the Policies and Procedures and Terms of Reference took place between the 5<sup>th</sup> May to the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the following organisations were consulted:
  - North Yorkshire Police
  - North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
  - Yorkshire Ambulance Service
  - Sports Grounds Safety Authority
  - Highways Authority
  - Safety Certificate Holders
  - Executive Member Culture, Leisure and Tourism
  - Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods
  - Director of Public Health

- Community Stadium Project Team
- Other relevant council officers

11. No responses were received to the consultation. Prior to going out for formal consultation these documents were discussed with representatives of the SAG for their comment/input, therefore it is not surprising that no responses were received.

## **Options**

12. Option 1 – Approve the Policies and Procedures, and Terms of Reference.
13. Option 2 – Approve the Policies and Procedures, and Terms of Reference with alternative wording agreed by members.
14. Option 3 - Take no further action.

## **Analysis**

15. A sports ground is defined as a place where sports or other competitive activities take place in the open air, where accommodation has been provided for spectators, consisting of artificial structures or natural structures artificially modified for the purpose.
16. Under the provisions of section 1 of the 1975 Act the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport may designate as requiring a safety certificate any sports ground that has accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators, or 5,000 in the case of Premier League and Football League grounds in England and Wales. These sports grounds are referred to as designated grounds.
17. A regulated stand is defined as any covered stand at a sports ground with accommodation for 500 or more spectators, whether seated or standing.
18. The council currently issues safety certificates to:
- York Racecourse (Horse Racing) – regulated stands
  - Bootham Crescent, York City Football Club (Association Football and Rugby League – designated sports ground
19. The SAG meets at least three times a year. Additional meetings are held as and when required.

## Council Plan

20. The provision of well regulated sports grounds supports the council plan of a prosperous city for all, where local businesses can thrive.

## Implications

21. The implications arising from this report are:

- **Financial:** There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.
- **Human Resources:** There are no Human Resources implications associated with this report.
- **Equalities:** There are no equalities implications associated with this report.
- **Legal:** There is no statutory requirement to adopt policies and procedures and terms of reference, it is best practice to do so, as recommended by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority.
- **Crime and Disorder:** There are no prevention of crime and disorder implications associated with this report.
- **Information Technology (IT):** There are no IT implications associated with this report.
- **Other:** There are no other implications associated with this report.

## Risk Management

22. There are no known risks associated with this report.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Assistant Director (Housing and  
Community Safety)

Report  
Approved



Date 1 July 2017

**Specialist Officer Implications:**

Glen McCusker

Deputy Head of Legal Services

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**Wards Affected:**

All

**Background Papers:**

Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975

Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987

Safety of Sports Grounds Regulations 1987

**Annexes**

**Annex 1** – Policies and Procedures

**Annex 2** – Terms of Reference