

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**REGULATORY – LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**15th January 2018**

**Report of the Director of Legal Services**

**Regulation of Sports Grounds- Changed definition of safety**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To draw the Committee's attention to the revised definition of crowd safety recently adopted by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) affecting the Chesterfield General Safety Certificate in particular.

**2. Information and Analysis**

Members will recall that the General Safety Certificate in respect of the stadium in accordance with the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 was granted by the Committee in June 2010. The ground is a 'designated ground' within the meaning of this legislation.

The Derbyshire Safety of Sports Grounds Advisory Group (SAG), chaired by the Deputy Director of Legal Services and set up in accordance with the recommendations of Lord Justice Taylor following the Hillsborough Disaster, is responsible for ensuring that the contents of the Certificate are observed by the Club. The terms of reference and policy objectives of the Group were agreed at a previous meeting of this Committee. Match Inspections are carried out based on risk. The focus of the Group's work to date has been crowd safety in accordance with the relevant legislation and with SGSA previous guidance.

In February 2017 the SGSA consulted on a revised and wider definition of safety. In November 2017 the SGSA decided to adopt this revised definition. In essence the SGSA has reconsidered the contents of the legislation and decided that safety in this context is a broader term than previously understood and means that all people present at a sports ground during an event must be protected against dangers of physical harm or injury arising from being present. This includes everyone at a sports ground being protected from the risks from terrorist activity, crowd disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The Council will therefore be obliged to revisit the contents of the current Safety Certificate to ensure an additional three issues are addressed as safety issues. These are counter terrorism, anti-social behaviour and safety of all personnel in

the ground including the Club's employees. The SGSA has indicated that its expectation is that this additional work will be completed by Councils by the summer of 2018.

The SAG meeting in December 2017 considered the revised definition and resolved to form two task and finish working groups.

The first group consisting of Council, Club and Police representatives will consider counter terrorism and anti-social behaviour, the second including the Club and Borough Council as well as County representatives will look at health and safety issues. The intention will be to produce two action plans which the SAG will approve and oversee. Alongside this work any amendments to regulated stand certificates will also be considered.

The revised General Safety Certificate and associated documentation will then be reported to this Committee for approval.

### **3. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; environmental, health, human rights, personnel and property considerations.

### **4. Officer Recommendations**

That the Committee notes

- (i) the revised definition of safety adopted by the SGSA.
- (ii) that a revised General Safety Certificate will be submitted in due course for approval.