

## REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS - PROVISION TO THE GUIDE TO SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS (THE GREEN GUIDE)	
From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES		
Date: 31 July 2007	Ref: TG/RM	

### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to bring to the attention of the Committee notification from the Football Licensing Authority (FLA) of its intention to produce a 5th edition of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (The Green Guide) and to invite comments on the draft.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. Over a number of years sports stadiums have been the scene of serious accidents which have on occasion involved large scale deaths or injuries and the disasters at Burnden Park, Bolton in 1946, Ibrox Park in 1902 and 1971, Valley Parade, Bradford in 1985 and Hillsborough, Sheffield in 1989 are testimony to this.
- 2.2. As a consequence guidelines to improve the safety of spectators at sports grounds have evolved, particularly over the past 30 years, and a number of statutory enactments provide for this, most notably, the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975 and the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987.
- 2.3. Guidelines on measures for improving safety at sports grounds, based on the contents of the aforementioned and other statutory guidance, have formed the basis of the "Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds" (The Green Guide), the fourth edition of which this Council applies to sports grounds in North Lanarkshire.
- 2.4. As an indication of how significant and influential the Green Guide is in relation to the certification of sports stadia, this Council previously agreed that its entire contents be adopted and be incorporated into the terms of the General Safety Certificates which the Authority issues for Designated Grounds in North Lanarkshire, these being:-

Fir Park, Motherwell,  
Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld,  
Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie, and  
Cliftonhill, Coatbridge.

### 3. Proposals

- 3.1. A draft of the new edition of the Guide, the 5th edition, has recently been issued to Local Authorities, amongst others, in a draft form for comment and submissions have been invited by 7th September 2007.

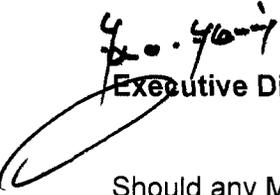
- 3.2. The draft document generally follows the format of earlier editions but does incorporate a number of minor legislative changes, improvements in design and safety management initiatives which have been introduced since the last update of the Guide in 1987. The draft Guide also integrates previous guidance on accommodation for spectators with disabilities into all general subject chapters of the Green Guide, rather than have a dedicated section exclusively for this group of spectators.
- 3.3. Copies of the consultation document have been circulated to those services who undertake the annual inspection process of the four Designated Grounds in North Lanarkshire, being the Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, the St. Andrews Ambulance Association and the Council's own Design and Building Control services and comments have been sought from them on the contents of the draft.

#### **4. Corporate Considerations**

As indicated previously Design Services and the Building Control Service has been consulted on the consultation document, together with a number of the Council's other partners, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association.

#### **5. Recommendations**

As the closing date for responses to the draft 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Green Guide is after the date of this meeting it is proposed that authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Corporate Services, following consultation with the Convener, to submit a response on behalf of the Council.

  
Executive Director of Corporate Services

Should any Member require further information please contact Tom Gaffney at Ext. 2342.