

To: CORPORATE SERVICES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS - FIRPARK STADIUM, MOTHERWELL
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 24 May 2011	Ref: CLM/EH	

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Council has adopted practices in relation to its responsibilities for the certification of "Designed Sports Grounds" in North Lanarkshire and agreed to the establishment of a Safety of Sports Grounds Officer Working Group representing a variety of disciplines which assist the process of certification.
- 1.2. The Council has also agreed that a programme of annual inspections be established and over the past few months, officers of the Working Group have carried out inspections at Firpark Stadium and met with representatives of the stadium management to discuss a number of issues relating to the General Safety Certificate for the ground.

**2. Current Position**

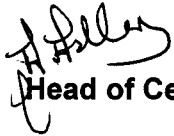
As a result of these inspections, the undernoted matters have been identified as requiring attention, details of which have been passed to the Stadium Manager for attention:-

- 2.1. An Annual Periodic Electrical Inspection Report is to be provided.
- 2.2. The metal platform at the front of the main stand should be cleared of corrosion and repainted to ensure no trip hazard.
- 2.3. The pedestrian barriers within the concourse area of the main stand should be infilled.
- 2.4. The contrasting nosings on all stairs require repainting.
- 2.5. The plywood decking at stairs in the main stand requires to be replaced.
- 2.6. The broken seats in the stand require to be identified and replaced.
- 2.7. The broken fire protection boarding in the gym area requires to be repaired.
- 2.8. The protective padding is required to be replaced on the TV gantry and the main stand as full headroom height is not afforded to the seats below.
- 2.9. Cabling to TV gantry should be regularised.
- 2.10. A survey of all doors and a schedule of improvements to retrofit intumescent strips and smoke seals to fire doors throughout the stadium shall be provided and the risk assessment process should be used to identify the sequence of exit improvements. Fire doors that do not self close fully onto their frames should be adjusted or repaired.

- 2.11. The emergency exit signage throughout the main stand and the Davie Cooper stand is not to the current standard. All fire exit signs in the premises should comply with the Health and Safety Signs and Signal Regulations 1996, including the exit signs indicating the corner fire exits A, B, C and D and any non compliant signs should be replaced and additional signage provided.
- 2.12. An audibility test is to be carried out to confirm the suitability of the fire alarm sounders and additional sounders may be installed if found to be necessary.
- 2.13. Certain fire protection boarding in the south stand is missing from three steel beams and are to be replaced.
- 2.14. The indoor gym hall, south stand, has isolated small areas of fire protection boarding that have been damaged or are missing on steel beams and these should be replaced.
- 2.15. In the south stand, internal store room at the end of the gym hall, isolated areas of fire retardant paint appears to be missing on the steel beam and these should be replaced as necessary.
- 2.16. A full structural appraisal of all existing structures is to be undertaken and certification is to be provided in support of this.

### 3. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee hear verbal updates on any outstanding issues by the appropriate officers and from the stadium management of Motherwell Football Club and consider the renewal of the General Safety Certificate accordingly.



**Head of Central Services**