

To: CORPORATE SERVICES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE	Subject: SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS - CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS - EXCELSIOR STADIUM, AIRDRIE	
From: HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES		
Date: 04 July 2014	Ref: LD/MR	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council has previously adopted practices in relation to its responsibilities for the certification of "Designated 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 a series of inspections at Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie, and met with representatives from the Stadium Management to discuss a number of issues relating to the General Safety Certificate for the ground.

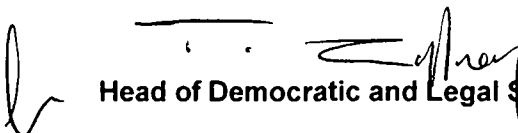
2. Current Position

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:-

- 2.1. The submission of an Annual Structural Inspection Report;
- 2.2. The submission of an Annual Risk Assessment (Crush Barriers and Handrails);
- 2.3. The submission of Annual Periodic Inspection and Test Certificates (Electrical);
- 2.4. With regard to the structural integrity of the Stadium, a list of matters has been identified which requires comment either individually, or, as part of the annual certification arrangements, details of which are set out in the Appendix to this report;
- 2.5. Fire doors to be inspected and any missing/damaged intumescent strips/smoke seals to be replaced, and
- 2.6. Door No. 31 is sticking in the open position.

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 Excelsior Stadium and consider the renewal of the General Safety Certificate accordingly.



Head of Democratic and Legal Services

North Lanarkshire Council Safety at Sports Grounds

Annual Inspection Report 2014

Corporate Services, Design Service
Addendum for Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie

Annual Inspection 17th March 2014

Sheet No. 1 - List of Structural Observations

Annual Inspection:

Management should arrange a detailed annual inspection of all structures, components and installations and provide appropriate certification in support of the same in accordance with clause 5.13 of the current Guide.

The Annual Inspection should be carried out by an appropriately skilled and experienced Chartered Engineer and it should clearly state which part(s) of the stadium are fit for purpose and which part(s) of the stadium are not fit for purpose.

Structural Appraisal:

Management should arrange a structural appraisal of all existing structures and provide appropriate certification in support of the same in accordance with clause 5.14 of the current Guide.

The appraisal methods described by the Institution of Structural Engineers in the publication *Appraisal of Existing Structures* are recommended. The appraisal should be carried out by a competent Chartered Engineer who has the appropriate skills and experience.

The requirement for a Structural Appraisal was introduced in the 2008 (5th Edition) of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. The Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) advises that an interval between appraisals of 6-10 years is likely to be appropriate for most large structures at sports grounds. **If the Chartered Engineer considers that a Structural Appraisal is not appropriate at this time the reason(s) why should be clearly stated.**

Barriers and Risk Assessment:

Management should arrange a Barriers Risk Assessment and provide appropriate certification in support of the same in accordance with clause 11.18 of the current Guide.

The Risk Assessment (which in practice, will be carried out in a similar fashion to an Annual Inspection) should be conducted and recorded by a Chartered Engineer, Architect or Surveyor who has the appropriate skill and experience.

Boundary Wall – North West Corner:

The wall shows a significant diagonal crack but it does not appear to be at risk of imminent collapse. The crack may have been caused by a combination of factors including, (i) a lack of movement joints, (ii) its foundations being at different levels or on different materials and (iii) some lateral earth pressure loads from retained ground.

Section 7(iv) of the Ramsay & Chalmers Structural Report (dated 22.7.13) suggests removing the failed mortar and resealing with a flexible mastic. The 2014 Structural Report may wish to comment on this matter and the stadium operator may wish to confirm if/when remedial work will be carried out.