

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Licensing & Appeals Committee – 21 July 2014
Subject: Annual report from the Chair of the Safety Advisory Group
Report of: Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing

Summary

The report provides an overview of the key issues considered by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) in respect of football matches held at the Etihad Stadium during the 2013/2014 football season.

Recommendations

That the Committee note the report

Wards Affected:

Community Strategy Spine	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
Performance of the economy of the region and sub region	
Reaching full potential in education and employment	
Individual and collective self esteem – mutual respect	
Neighbourhoods of Choice	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
 - Risk Management
 - Legal Considerations
-

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None – no fees or charges are payable in respect of the role of the Safety Advisory Group

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

Contact Officers:

Name: Jenette Hicks
Position: Licensing Manager
Telephone: 0161 234 4962
E-mail: j.hicks1@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Minutes of Safety Advisory group 2013/14

1990 Report of Lord Justice Taylor – Hillsborough Stadium Disaster Inquiry Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the activities of the SAG in relation to football matches held at the Etihad Stadium.
- 1.2 Other SAG meetings not included within the scope of this report are:
- SAGs for events not connected with the Etihad Stadium
 - SAG for events connected with the Etihad Stadium but which are subject to special safety certificates, e.g. concerts.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The legal framework for Safety Advisory Group was established in the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975.
- 2.2 This framework was strengthened following the input of Lord Justice Taylor in his report, which recommended amendment to the 1975 act to make it a mandatory requirement for Terms and Conditions to be specified in a Sports Clubs Safety Certificate.(The Safety Certificate is issued by the Local Authority)
- 2.3 In his written report, Lord Justice Taylor recommended the following (recommendation 31): "To assist the local authority in exercising its functions it should set up an Advisory Group consisting of appropriate members of both its own staff, representatives of the police, fire and ambulance services, and the building authority. The advisory group should consult representatives of the club and recognised supporters' organisations on a regular basis"
- 2.4 Lord Taylor also advised The Advisory Groups terms of reference should encompass all matters concerned with crowd safety and should require regular visits to the ground and attendance at matches. The Advisory Group should have a Chair from the local authority and an effective procedure. Its resolutions should be recorded and it should be required to produce regular written reports for consideration by the local authority.
- 2.5 The SAG does not have any power to make decisions on behalf of the City Council, who have delegated such powers to the Licensing and Appeals Committee and the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing
- 2.6 The Safety Certificate for Manchester City Football Club is issued by the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing. It is reviewed on a regular basis as and when required.

3.0 Report of SAG 2013/2014 football season

- 3.1 The continued success of MCFC during recent seasons has given rise to an increase in spectator supporters, and the continuation of European Club football matches held at the Etihad Stadium. Plans for expansion of the

stadium have recently been approved by the City Councils in its capacity as Local Planning Authority

3.2 In 2013/2014 the Etihad Stadium SAG has a core membership as follows:

- Licensing Manager – Manchester City Council (chair)
- Building Control officers – Manchester City Council
- Etihad Campus Estate Manager – Manchester City Council
- Specialist Police/ Football liaison – Greater Manchester Police
- Head of Safety and Security – Manchester City Football Club
- Safety Officer – Manchester City Football Club
- Medical provision – North West Ambulance Service,
- Manchester City Football Club – Supporters' Club
- Sports Grounds Safety Inspector – Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA)
- Fire Officer - Greater Manchester County Fire & Rescue Service

Invited attendees at specific meetings:

- Manchester City Football Club Facilities Management and Infrastructure Development Team
- Command and Control Leader – Greater Manchester Police
- Design & Build Team - Laing O Rourke and their Architects, Populous

Meeting Schedule

3.3 During the 2013/14 football season the following SAG meetings took place

- 24 July 2013
- 9 and 26 September 2013
- 15 October 2013
- 5 and 19 December 2013
- 14 and 30 January 2014
- 6 March 2014
- 1 May 2014

3.4 In addition to the above meetings a small sub group of SAG members also undertook visits to the stadia of Newcastle and Arsenal football clubs. The purpose of these visits being to review arrangements in place for away and home supporters, in preparation for the expansion of the Etihad stadium

Key Issues Considered by the SAG

3.5 The 2013/14 season has presented major challenges brought about by structural work ongoing in the immediate vicinity of the stadium including preparatory work for the stadium expansion project and the new central training facility and City Football Academy projects. The frequency of SAG meetings and sub group meetings has increased as a result of the safety management issues associated with the onsite works. The use of hoardings around building compounds and preparatory work associated with the

expansion plans has created 3 main issues in terms of the safety of football supporters

- Safe management of football supporters movements prior to games
- The impact on the turnstile usage in terms of reasonable ingress times.
- The need to ensure adequate measures are in place to ensure safe ingress and egress from the stadium including emergency evacuation if required.

- 3.6 The above three factors have been regularly reviewed as a result of constant changes to hoarding positions and also as a result of the differing away fan allocation associated with FA Cup and Premier League matches. MCFC have appointed a specialist in crowd science to advise MCFC regarding spectator movement and the minimum ingress, egress and emergency evacuation widths required for the various site configurations associated with the building programme. All calculations have been subject to verification from the City Councils Building Control Officers.
- 3.7 In addition the SAG has been asked to consider the options for the accommodation of away fans following any expansion of the stadium. It is important that the segregation of fans can be satisfactorily maintained, regardless of the size of the away fan ticket allocation. A number of different options were considered and site visits undertaken to both Newcastle and Arsenal stadiums. Although no final decision has yet been made, the SAG have provided advice to MCFC and the design team on the safe accommodation of away fans.
- 3.8 The SAG has received regular updates regarding revised operations put in place to tackle smoking within the stadium (a small number of key locations were identified). MCFC has worked with City Wide Environmental Health and all parties are pleased that there has been a significant reduction in problems associated with smoking
- 3.9 The Metrolink tram system has been operational throughout the 2013/14 season, including the introduction of the extension to Ashton under Lyne introduced late 2013. The SAG was advised of 2 incidents of a passenger lift malfunction at the Etihad Metrolink Station, it was thought that the malfunctions may have been caused by over crowding Additional stewarding has been put in place and no further instances have occurred. The Metrolink system is well used on match days and continues to transport approx 4000 people to and from the stadium on a match days
- 3.10 There has been recognition from all members of the SAG regarding the increased use of flares nationally within sports stadia. MCFC staff have attended specialist training on this issue and additional measures have been put in place by the club to deal with this emerging issue. There has been recent media coverage regarding flares and the club continue to work closely with GMP to identify any persons using such devices within the stadia. Systems are also in place to minimise opportunities to bring such devices into the stadium

- 3.11 Operational feedback is provided at each SAG meeting regarding home matches since the previous meeting, as above the majority of issues highlighted this year have been concerned with temporary structure/ hoardings around the perimeter of the stadium. There was a complaint received early in the season from a member of the public regarding pedestrian safety associated with egress at gate 1, however changes to the traffic management plan resolved this issue.
- 3.12 Injury statistics are provided and reviewed for each match. MCFC identified a number of scalding injuries amongst catering staff, measures were taken to address this and the number of injuries has reduced

4.0 Revised General Safety Certificate

- 4.1 The Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) has statutory role of monitoring how local authorities discharge their safety certification functions at designated sports grounds
- 4.2 As part of that role they recently completed a review of 30 old style prescriptive safety certificates from around the country. MCFC and the Etihad Stadium have one of those certificates and this was reviewed.
- 4.3 The review identified a number of common issues in the safety certificates as well as those specific to each club.
- 4.4 Building Control has been through the generic recommendations and the recommendations specific to the Etihad certificate with the local SGSA representative. As such all of the recommendation could be incorporated into a revised certificate.
- 4.5 Local authorities are expected to undertake an annual review of safety certificates they issue so the issue of a revised certificate forms part of the ongoing process in any case.
- 4.6 Work done in the most recent version of the certificate has not been lost as this was carried out mainly to the ground capacity section.
- 4.7 In summary the conditions to needed to be added or modified were as follows:
- 1) Replace the prescriptive condition in respect of fire safety with a more general condition emphasising the clubs responsibility under the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.
 - 2) Add condition relating to the minimum safety officers qualifications.
 - 3) Add a condition requiring that the safety officer has a detailed job description.
 - 4) Specify that the safety officer should be present at every specified

activity.

- 5) Add that safety certificates should be reviewed annually.
- 6) Modify the condition in respect of minimum qualifications for stewards
- 7) Add a condition requiring loud hailers to be available In the event of a failure of the public address system.
- 8) Add a condition require the certificate holder to specifically notify the local authority of events designed to attract large numbers of children.
- 9) Modify the condition relating to normal and escape lighting.
- 10) Add a condition relating firework displays and pop concerts.
- 11) Modify the requirement for owners of stadia to arrange a detailed structural inspection and appraisal of the structures periodically

Other general matters to be included/modified were as follows:

- The clubs Medical Plan should be appended to the certificate.
- All referencing such as “to the satisfaction of the local authority, chief of police” and Green Guide clauses should be replaced with specific requirements.

5.0 During Performance Inspections – 2013/2014

5.1 Building Control Officers carried out 6 during performance inspections during the 2013/14 season, specific issues identified from the visits were raised with club representatives and discussed at SAG accordingly. A new during inspection report was introduced

5.2 The Chair of the SAG carried out during performance visits to the stadium during two FA Cup matches The 25 January match against Watford was the first match to be subject to hoardings around ingress and egress points. Special crowd management measures were in place and worked effectively. On the 9 March 2014 the club played the FA cup ¼ final against Wigan FC again special measures were in place and appeared to work well.

5.3 The Sports Ground Safety Authority also undertook inspections at the stadium on 5 October 2013 and 16 April 2014

6.0 Minutes of SAG meetings

6.1 Minutes are taken for each SAG meeting.

7.0 Future Policy Issues

- 7.1 It is expected that the SAG meetings of the 2014/2015 will continue to focus on issues that arise from the general operation as a football ground and additionally the effect the continued building work will have on the venue throughout the season.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 The report provides the background framework in relation to the role of the SAG in respect of a football stadia. The report provides details of issues monitored via the SAG and circumstances where specific advice has been given to MCFC. The Committee are asked to note the report