

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee

Date: 7th March 2018

Report for: Information

Report of: The Chief Executive

Report Title

The Courteeners Concert held at the Lancashire County Cricket Ground on Saturday 27th May 2017

Summary

Application for a Special Safety Certificate to hold an open air concert at the Lancashire County Cricket Ground

Recommendation

That the Report be Noted

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Tony Bibi Team Leader (Environmental Control & Sports Ground Safety) Regulatory Services.

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Background Papers

Financial Implications:	N/A
Legal Implications:	N/A
Human Resources Implications:	N/A
Asset Management Implications:	N/A
E-Government Implications:	N/A
Risk Management Implications:	N/A

APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE

LANCASHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

COURTEENERS CONCERT

27th May 2017

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, as amended, an application for a Special Safety Certificate was received from Lancashire County Cricket Club Plc (The Club). The application was made for a proposed open air concert to be held on Saturday 27th May 2017 at Lancashire County Cricket Ground.
- 1.2 The Club currently holds a Premises Licence issued by the Council under the Licensing Act 2003. The Premises Licence authorises all the Regulated Entertainment, including music and singing, which will be taking place during the concert.

2. CONCERT DETAILS

- 2.1 The main act was the Courteeners supported by three acts, 'The Charlatans', 'Blossoms' and 'Cabbage'. The ground capacity was set at 55,000 with a 60/40 male / female split.
- 2.2 In addition to two Multi-Agency Meetings held on the 14th March and the 16th May specialist ad-hoc sub-group meetings were held up to and including show day between the relevant partner agencies to discuss the required resource staffing levels and potential security risks and safety issues.
- 2.3 The event was identified as of a higher risk compared to previous concerts held in recent years at the ground, intelligence suggesting that an element of rival 'football risk fans' would be attending the venue with the potential to cause serious disorder. In addition, it was reported that fans of the main act had been known to engage in the use of smoke bombs and flares at concerts, such that preventative and mitigation measures were included in the tactical planning to minimise any pyrotechnic impact.
- 2.4 Under the terms of the Special Safety Certificate, a Special Safety Procedures Manual was produced by the Club and submitted to the Council.
- 2.5 Following the terrorist bomb attack at the MEN Arena on the 22nd May 2017 and the raising by the government the next day of the national security threat level to Critical, significant enhanced security measures were confirmed to be introduced. The measures included the deployment of armed officers and Taser trained officers patrolling the event with approximately 200 additional police officers; as well as a major increase in the number of event security staff and stewards to support the planned searches and perimeter patrols for all stages of the event, in order to increase safety and security and provide public reassurance.

2.6 The event was considered to be successfully managed with positive feedback from all involved. Indeed, albeit 3 flares and 12 smoke bombs were discharged it was considered these incidents were effectively managed with no serious safety issues or harm evidenced. Certainly the post report of the multi-agency team was that the substantial additional manpower provided by GMP and other agencies gave security assurances to the public that resulted in fans being compliant in assisting all staff to carry out their duties effectively. In this regard, there were no adverse reports of any consequence that you would not reasonably expect at a full capacity concert event.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Report to be noted and that the Special Safety Certificate was issued on the day.