

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sports Grounds Sub Committee
Date: 23rd January 2019
Report for: Information
Report of: Corporate Director, Place

Report Title

Report on the Safety Advisory Group Meeting for Manchester United Football Club 2nd November 2018.

Summary

Report summarising the discussions and outcomes of Safety Advisory group Meeting.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Tony Bibi (Team Leader) Regulatory Services
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Background Papers: None

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS ADVISORY GROUP

Report on the Safety at Sports Grounds Advisory Group Meeting for Manchester United Football Club Friday 2nd November 2018

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Safety Advisory Group Meetings (SAGs) are held several times a year. The purpose of the group is to advise the local authority and/or the event organiser, in respect of event management to ensure and promote high standards of safety management at sports grounds. This is done using a consistent and co-ordinated multi agency approach where the group are able to advise the local authority in respect of relevant legislation and guidance; as well as the review of implications of match day incidents and the assessment of arrangements to minimise disruption to the local community. The group also receives reports and debriefs relevant to visits and or safety inspections, and advises the local authority in relation to the issue of safety certification.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Police Counter Terrorism Advisor, North West Ambulance Service, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Planning Trafford Council, AMEY, Trafford Council Legal and Democratic Services, Trafford Council Safety at Sports Grounds, Trafford Council Environmental Health, Manchester United Football Club, Lancashire County Cricket Club and the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA).
- 2.2. The meeting was chaired by the Head of Regulatory Services who explained to the SAG that changes had been made to the frequency of SAG meetings in accordance with SGSA recommendations, with meetings for both Manchester United F.C. and Lancashire County Cricket Club being planned to be held at bespoke separate SAG meetings in order to enable more discussion around issues specific to each venue. Changes had also been made to some standing agenda items, with the intention to improve the effectiveness of the group and promote more discussion around the topics to be considered. These changes were seen as a positive change by the members of the group.
- 2.3. A Counter Terrorism (CT) update was given by GMP Counter Terrorism Security Advisor who provided a general overview of the current threat level, and gave general guidance on how a multi-agency approach to CT was beneficial. Manchester United Football Club also advised the group on their progress on this issue.
- 2.4. The Manchester United Head of Security & Stadium Safety Officer briefed the group on the Annual Safety Report for Manchester United Football Club for the

2017-2018 Season.

- 2.5 It was noted that Trafford Council had issued 3 Special Safety Certificates in 2018 for two outdoor concert events held at Manchester United's stadium and one at Lancashire County Cricket Ground.
- 2.6 Special Safety Certificates were issued to Manchester United following two multi-agency meetings (15th March and 16th May 2018) and a table top security exercise (31st May 2018) in respect of the following concerts:
 - Rolling Stones on 5th June 2018 with a restricted capacity of 46,794
 - Billy Joel on 16th June 2018 with a restricted capacity of 51,291.
- 2.7 A Special Safety Certificate was issued to Lancashire County Cricket Club following three multi-agency meetings (17th April, 26th June and 31st July 2018) in respect of the following concert:
 - Liam Gallagher on 18th August 2018 with a restricted capacity of 55,000.
- 2.8 All the events were different in their audience profiles presenting varied safety and security challenges that required detailed evaluation by means of the multi-agency teams, prior to the issue of the said Certificates. The issue of the Certificates is for noting by the Sub-Committee.
- 2.9 A safety and security update/review /challenges of recent and future fixtures for the 2018-19 Season was given by Manchester United. This review reported on the issues which the club had been experiencing with the Greater Manchester road network. They also reported on new measures which were being trialled for Champions League matches to prevent crowd disorder and to enhance the protection of the fans in the accessibility seating areas. The feedback from these measures had been positive and they hoped to use them again for future matches. They also reported on the challenges faced by hosting the Rugby League Grand Final with both sets of supporters not being familiar with the match day stadium. Further meetings were on going with Manchester, Salford and Trafford Councils and GMP in order to minimise disruption to the local community as a result of an expected march of European Away fans from Manchester City Centre to Old Trafford, for the Young Boys Champions League fixture at the end of November.
- 2.10 Greater Manchester Police gave an update/review in relation to their role and any current issues in respect of sports grounds safety at Manchester United.
- 2.11 Trafford Council gave a local authority update and explained to the group that, following on from the 2017 SGSA formal consultation review of the definition of 'safety' under the provisions of the Sports Grounds Safety Act, 1975, local authorities now need to consider safety in its widest context, to ensure the reasonable safety of all people and not just spectators as defined in the 1975 Act.
- 2.12 The new SGSA guidance required all clubs, regulators and those responsible for sports grounds safety in the review of safety certificates, to verify that there had been an effective oversight of the separate issues of Counter Terrorism, Crowd Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour.

- 2.13 An internal review of Trafford's safety at sports grounds operational role provided an opportunity to look at the existing staffing resource and resilience which resulted in the creation of a new post in regulatory services to assist the Officer responsible for sports ground safety. The local authority explained to the group that the increase in manpower would assist in increasing the carrying out of the number of monitoring visits of sports grounds, including those on match days, to ensure compliance with relevant guidance.
- 2.14 The Council's regulatory role provides a requirement to carry out compliance monitoring; it was confirmed that an evaluation of the physical condition of the stadium (known as P factor) and an assessment of the safety management controls employed by the club (known as S factor) by means of an audit / assessment had been carried out as part of the annual certification review.
- 2.15 The new General Safety Certificate included an additional condition requiring the production of a written CT plan and it was confirmed to be in place such that it was recommended to the SAG that the safety certificate be renewed. It was agreed that the General Safety Certificate is re-issued subject to the conditions set out in the draft certificate and subject to the approval of Corporate Director, Place. It was also agreed that this be passed to the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee for noting.
- 2.16 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service gave an update, to say that work was on going to refresh response plans.
- 2.17 North West Ambulance Service gave a review/update and it was noted that medical provision at the club currently exceeds requirements. A major incident exercise was also planned for January 2019.
- 2.18 The Safety at Sports Ground Authority gave an update/ review in respect of sports grounds safety.
- 2.19 The Local authority asked for feedback from the group in relation to the new format of the meeting. The overall feedback concluded that the new format facilitated important discussion.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the report be noted.