

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee
Date: 21st September 2016
Report for: Information
Report of: The Deputy Chief Executive

Report Title

Sale Rugby Football Club – Application for a General Safety Certificate

Summary

The Sale Sharks professional rugby team relocated to another ground at the end of the 2003/4 season, since that time the General Safety Certificate has not been renewed due to the reduction in spectator attendance and the nature of the activities held at the Heywood Road ground.
Sale Rugby Football Club now host semi-professional Rugby League matches so there is a requirement to renew and update their General Safety Certificate and Safety Procedural Manual, in order for the public to attend the ground.

Recommendation

That the Report is noted

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Tony Bibi – Team Leader (Environmental Control & Sports Ground Safety)
Regulatory Services
Extension: 3840.

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 THE RENEWAL OF GENERAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE

SALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The use of the Club's Heywood Road ground for spectator attendance significantly reduced following the relocation of the Sale Sharks first team in 2004 to another stadium. The safety management operations at the club since that time, have provided ad-hoc stewarding depending upon the risk rating of the fixture with general reliance being mainly placed upon volunteers, to provide the match day support. Attendances at the ground have in recent years been in the low hundreds such that there have been minimal safety risks to spectators who attend matches.

1.2 The Club holds a General Safety Certificate dating back to 2003 / 4 with a maximum spectator capacity of 5,678. The Certificate is required since the ground contains two Regulated Stands each with a capacity in excess of 500 as defined in the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987. The current General Safety Certificate and the Safety Procedure Manual are considered to be outdated and in need of updating to meet the current requirements of the Club.

2. APPLICATION DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS

2.1 The Club have made contractual arrangements to host matches played by Swinton Lions who play Rugby League in the Kingstone Press Championship, as well as the Rugby League Challenge Cup.

2.2 This arrangement is planned for over a number of years whilst a new ground in Swinton is being developed and will potentially increase the attendances and crowd profile of matches at Heywood Road, compared to those games involving Sale Rugby Football Club.

2.3. The application proposes a maximum spectator capacity of 3,387 which is a reduced capacity compared to that of the former capacity of 5,678, as contained in the 2003/4 General Safety Certificate.

2.3 A revised Safety Procedure Manual has been produced by the Club and has been reviewed by the Council and forwarded to the G.M. Police and G.M. Fire and Rescue for their comments.

2.4 Additionally, the Council requires a Match Day Operations Manual to be produced for the Swinton Lions and Rugby League matches to support the Club's Safety Procedures Manual.

2.5 An Annual Safety Report will be required to be submitted by the Club from 2016/17 onwards, as part of the annual review and renewal of the General Safety Certificate.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The renewal of the General Safety Certificate subject to the above requirements being met is noted.