

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sports Sub-Committee.
Date: 5th October 2017
Report for: Information
Report of: The Chief Executive

Report Title

Report regarding the proposal by Manchester United Football Club to carry out structural changes at Old Trafford in line with the Accessible Stadia Guide.

Summary

A report on the Stadium Accessibility Plans to provide additional seating and provision for disabled supporters at Old Trafford for the commencement of the 2017-18 season

Recommendation

The report is for noting.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Tony Bibi – Team Leader (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

Background

- Following a Premier League shareholders' meeting in September 2015, the Premier League announced a 'pledge' for all clubs to comply with the *Accessible Stadia* guide by August 2017
- The *Accessible Stadia* guide is wide-ranging, but the largest implication for Manchester United is to undertake significant construction work at Old Trafford to increase the number of wheelchair positions in the stadium from 120 to 277, and the number of amenity seats from 126 to 277
- Towards the end of 2015, the club commissioned architects to do an in-depth study into options to expand the capacity for disabled supporters at Old Trafford
- The club also consulted with the Equality & Human Rights Commission on this topic from 2015 right through to 24th January 2017 when the changes were announced to the public
- Over the past two seasons, Manchester United has also made a number of improvements to Old Trafford to benefit disabled supporters, including the introduction of 'friends and family' seating areas for disabled supporters, and the installation of a Changing Places accessible toilet facility

Overview of Changes

- More than 300 new positions for disabled supporters will be created at Old Trafford
- The current East Stand wheelchair platform will be extended across and into the Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Charlton Stands, and new amenity seating will also be added in these areas
- When complete, the total number of wheelchair user positions at Old Trafford will increase from 120 to 277, and the number of amenity seats will increase from 126 to 278.
- All structural work will be complete ahead of the 2017/18 season, allowing all the new accessible facilities to be used immediately for friendlies and some cup games not included in the automatic cup scheme
- However, owing to the fact that the changes will displace a total of 2,600 Season Ticket holders, and given that very few seats become available each summer, the club has agreed a three year phased programme of relocating affected fans in order to allow time to find suitable alternative seats
- To enable this phased & flexible approach, the design will incorporate state-of-the-art reversible platforms
- Changes will also include new entrances, accessible toilets and kiosks for disabled supporters