

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 Annual Match Visit of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee.

Summary

Report describing the annual match visit to Manchester United Football Club on Saturday 1st April 2017 at the match against West Bromwich Albion.

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

ANNUAL MATCH VISIT MANCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Each football season the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee is invited to carry out a match visit to Manchester United Football Club (MUFC). This season's visit took place on Saturday 1st April 2017 at the Premier League fixture, Manchester United versus West Bromwich Albion.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. Councillor Nathan Evans, Chairman of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee and Councillor Mark Cawdrey, attended with Council Officers Helen Jones, Nigel Smith, and Tony Bibi. The Group were greeted on arrival by Gary Hebblewhite Head of Group Property Services, and Guy Smith Director of Venue Operations.
- 2.2. The programme for the visit commenced with a visit to the bowl of the stadium where the party were advised about the planned works in the close season to increase the provision of disability and carer seating. Gary Hebblewhite explained that wheel chair provisions would increase from 120 to 277 by the installation of state of the art reversible platforms supported by new widened entrances, accessible toilets and kiosks. The issue concerning the displacement of 2600 season ticket holders was explained and discussed as regards the planned phased relocation of those affected fans, in order to find time to find alternative seating.
- 2.3. The party then attended the match day stewards briefing for the steward supervisors which was presented by Phil Rainford (Head of Stadium Safety and Security) and his deputy Jon Hornby. The match was designated as a category 'A' risk rating with 1900 away fans due to attend, it was emphasised that the key theme would be to address persistent standing, disruptive behaviour in the family stand and smoking activities in an identified section of the ground. The usual match day controls were in place and awareness was further raised as regards alcohol sales, suspect packages, safety procedures for pyrotechnic devices etc. with the emphasis of the need to be vigilant at all times.
- 2.4. The Group then proceeded to the Stadium Control Room where they observed how match day safety operations are controlled by each of the relevant responsible agencies. CCTV and real time data information on spectator entry to the stadium were highlighted as effective safety controls.

- 2.5. The visiting party then walked through the ground floor concourses and observed the deployment of the stewards throughout these areas including the use of 2 explosive detection dogs outside the turnstiles to assist in the prevention and detection of smoke grenades
- 2.6. The visiting party were then welcomed by the Club to refreshments and to watch the game which ended in a 0 – 0 draw. There was no match day safety incidents noted of any concern with away fans being generally compliant with a high proportion remaining seated during the match.

3. RECOMMENDATION.

- 3.1. That the report be noted.

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