

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

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

Report Title

The Annual Match Visit of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee to Manchester United Football Club.

Summary

Report describing the annual match visit to Manchester United Football Club on Monday 15th January 2018 at the match against Stoke City.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Tony Bibi (Team Leader) Regulatory Services
Extension: 3840

Background Papers: None

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

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 Monday 15th January 2018 at the Premier League fixture, Manchester United versus Stoke City.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. Councillor Mark Cawdrey, Chairman of the Safety at Sports Grounds Sub-Committee and Councillor Brian Rigby, attended with Council Officers Sarah Pearson, Iain Veitch, and Tony Bibi. The Group were greeted on arrival by Gary Hebblewhite Head of Group Property Services, and Jim Liggett Head of Security.
- 2.2. The visit commenced with a visit to the bowl of the stadium where the party viewed the disability platform arrangements installed in the lower tier East Stand for this fixture. A demonstration of the wheelchair lift operation that enables disabled supporters to access different levels of the lower tier, including the food kiosks in the main concourse were shown. Gary Hebblewhite explained how the installation of the state of the art reversible platforms supported by new dedicated widened entrances, accessible toilets and lowered kiosk counters enabled the Club to safely increase the disabled seating provision. In particular, the modifications enabled the 'safe mixing' of disabled and able bodied supporters whereas previously disabled supporters could only use their own separate facilities in the Ability Suite. In addition, 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 1300 away fans due to attend, it was emphasised that the key theme would be to address persistent standing, the risk of the activation of pyrotechnics and to provide excellent customer service.
- 2.4. The Group then proceeded to the Stadium Control Room where Phil Rainford explained the '4 Stand Principle' and the match day stewarding / security operations including the responsibilities of the essential personnel who are required to be in attendance within the Control Room. An explanation of the different operational roles of the key personnel was provided covering the use

of the Ski Data system to monitor real time spectator entry, CCTV coverage, monitoring of social media, incident logging, GMP and NWS operations and Fire Safety alarm system checks etc.

- 2.5. The party then observed the deployment of the stewards within the concourses including the use of explosive detection dogs outside the turnstiles to assist in the prevention and detection of smoke grenades. The enhanced security search procedures and protocols together with the new restricted bag policy were also undertaken and noted by the group.
- 2.6. The visiting party were then welcomed by the Club to refreshments and to watch the game which ended in a 3 – 0 win for the home team. There were no match day safety incidents noted of any concern with away fans being generally compliant.

3. RECOMMENDATION.

- 3.1. That the report be noted.