

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND REGULATION COMMITTEE
Meeting date: 29 September 2022
From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This annual report is intended to update the Committee on the current situation at the seven Sports Grounds which require Certification, either wholly under the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 (as amended), or in part under the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 (as amended).
- 1.2 This report informs the Committee of the work of the Safety of Sports Grounds Team carried out during 2022. It explains the County Council's statutory obligations under the relevant legislation and outlines the activities carried out to ensure that these duties have been met.

2.0 POLICY POSITION, BUDGETARY AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS, AND LINKS TO COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 The County Council's policy is for annual review of the General Safety Certificates following receipt of satisfactory reports from the Safety Advisory Group. Recommendations contained in this report adhere to the County Council's policies regarding spectator safety at sports grounds.
- 2.2 There is no resource or value for money implications.
- 2.3 There are no equality implications arising from this report. Safe access and movement within venues, particularly in the event of an emergency for all users is considered as part of the safety team's inspections. The Safety of Spectator inspections take into consideration the safety of all spectators, particularly those with disabilities, the elderly, families and children.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the annual report be received and noted by Members.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Cumbria County Council is responsible for administering the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended), and the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 (as amended), in respect of sports grounds in Cumbria.

4.2 The Local Authority is responsible for issuing safety certificates for designated grounds which are sports grounds with a capacity of over 10,000 (5,000 for football). The county has two such designated grounds, Carlisle United Football Club (capacity 17,300 maximum) and Barrow AFC (capacity 5,465 maximum).

4.3 Sports stadia which are not designated but contain covered stands with a capacity of 500 or more standing or seated spectators require a safety certificate under the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 (as amended), granted by the local authority. Cumbria County Council has responsibility for the following five regulated stands:

- Carlisle Racecourse – horse racing
- Workington Town RLFC - rugby
- Workington AFC – football
- Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club – rugby
- Barrow Rugby League Football Club - rugby

4.4 The primary purpose of the safety certificate is to set a limit on the safe capacity of a designated ground or regulated stand. The capacity of a sports ground or stadium is calculated on the physical condition of the stadium (the P factor) and the level of safety management (the S factor)

4.5 The safety certificate will also detail conditions in respect to safety matters with which the certificate holder must comply if that capacity is to be maintained.

4.6 During the year all the premises listed above received an audit, a during performance safety of sports grounds inspection and a members' inspection.

5.0 GROUNDS

5.1 **Carlisle United** - Brunton Park, Warwick Road, Carlisle.

Brunton Park is one of only two designated stadia in Cumbria. Its maximum capacity is 17,300. It has a P factor of between 9.5 and 1.0, and an S factor of 1.0. Carlisle United play in Sky Bet League Two and due to FIFA World Cup in Qatar the current league season commenced earlier than normal at the end of July 2022 and runs until May 2023.

Carlisle United's annual audit was carried out on Tuesday 31 May 2022, with representatives of the Safety Advisory Group in attendance. All the club's records, policies and safety certificates were found to be in good order with only a few minor matters to address. The ground managements knowledge

of the Green Guide was found to be excellent and the structural engineers report was satisfactory.

Carlisle United's during performance inspection (DPI) was carried out on Saturday 27 November 2021 and it was found that the stewards were very good in their knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The date of this year's DPI is still to be confirmed.

The councillors' visit to Carlisle United took place on 8 April 2022

5.2 **Barrow AFC** - Dunes Hotel Stadium, Wilkie Road, Barrow-In-Furness.

The Dunes Hotel Stadium is one of two designated stadia in Cumbria. The ground has a maximum capacity of 5,465. It has a P factor of 1.0 and an S factor of between 0.7 and 1.0. Barrow AFC play in the Sky Bet League Two and its season runs from July 2022 until May 2023.

Barrow AFC's annual audit took place on Tuesday 15 May 2022. During the audit there were issues with policies, operations manual and certificates but as with other clubs, these matters are ongoing. Records were satisfactory. The club's knowledge and understanding of the Green Guides' chapter 5 (Management – structures and components) was found to be satisfactory. A ground inspection was carried out and no issues were found.

Barrow AFC's DPI took place on Saturday 5 March 2022 and the stewards' knowledge and understanding was found to be satisfactory.

The councillors' visit to Barrow AFC took place on 7 April 2022.

5.3 **Workington Town** - Derwent Park, Workington.

Derwent Park has two regulated stands. The Popular Stand with a capacity of 2640 and a P factor of 1.0 and S factor of 1.0. The Grandstand has a capacity of 978 (seated) and 594 (standing) and a P factor of between 0.9 and 1.0 and S factor of 1.0. It is recommended that the total number of spectators attending the ground does not exceed 6852. Workington Town play in Betfred Championship and its season runs from January 2022 until September 2022.

Workington Town's audit took place on Thursday 19 May 2022. There were some issues but overall, the policies, operations manual, certificates and records were satisfactory. The club's knowledge and understanding of the Green Guides' chapter 5 (Management – structures and components) was satisfactory. A ground inspection was carried out and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Workington Town's DPI took place on Sunday 3 April 2022. It was found that the stewards had satisfactory knowledge of their roles and responsibilities.

The councillors' visit took place on 6 April 2022.

5.4 **Barrow Raiders** - Craven Park, Duke Street, Barrow-In-Furness.

Craven Park has two regulated stands. The Main Stand with a maximum capacity of 786 and the Clive Street Terrace Stand with a maximum capacity of 496. Its maximum capacity is recommended to be 2861. It has a P and S factor of 0.9. Barrow RLFC play in Betfred Championship and its season runs from January 2022 until September 2022.

Barrow Raiders' audit took place on Friday 13 May 2022. Overall, the policies, operations manual and records were satisfactory. There were two important certificates which were not produced but have since been presented. The club's knowledge and understanding of the Green Guides' chapter 5 (Management – structures and components) was found to be satisfactory. A ground inspection was carried out and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

The club's structural report did highlight a fault with the wall to the rear of the Clive Street stand. A prohibition section 10 notice was served preventing any access to the area by any persons present. Also, the wall on the outside of the ground has had access prevention measures placed in position. Although the work has been completed the notice remains in place until a competent person signs off on the work carried out.

Barrow Raiders' DPI took place on Sunday 15 May 2022. It was found the stewards' knowledge of their role and responsibilities was of a satisfactory standard.

The councillors' visit took place on 7 April 2022.

5.6 **Carlisle Racecourse** - Durdar Road, Carlisle.

Carlisle racecourse has two regulated stands. The Jubilee Stand with a capacity of 882 and a P and S factor of 1.0, and the South Tote Stand with a capacity of 947 and a P factor of 0.8 and an S factor of 1.0.

Carlisle Racecourse's audit took place on Tuesday 31 June 2022 with representatives of the Safety Advisory Group in attendance. All the Racecourse records, policies and safety certificates were generally found to be in good order. A number of certificates were coming up for renewal and the in-house contractor was working through a schedule to complete them; copies were requested. During the review of the Green Guide Knowledge Test, it was felt that the responses given by the course management were disappointing particularly given their experience in running events as part of

The Jockey Club and it was clear that they needed to familiarise themselves with the relevant sections of the Green Guide.

The last Racecourse's DPI was carried out on Monday 8 November 2021 and the stewards' knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities was found to be good. The date of the next DPI is still to be confirmed.

The councillors' visit took place on 8 April 2022

5.7 **Whitehaven RLFC** - Recreation Ground, Coach Road, Whitehaven.

The Recreation Ground has two regulated stands. The Focus Stand which has a capacity of 241 and a P factor of 1.0 and S factor of 0.5, and the Kells End Stand with a capacity of 473 with a P factor of 0.8 and an S factor of 0.5. Whitehaven RLFC play in Betfred Championship and its season runs from January 2022 until September 2022.

Whitehaven's audit took place on Tuesday 24 May 2022. Several policies and records were not available at this time. After a revisit the club's outstanding records and policies were presented with some minor issues still to resolve. The issues with the Kells end of the popular terrace and the town end of the Kells stand, were resolved and the prohibition notice lifted. The club's knowledge and understanding of the Green Guides' chapter 3 (Management – Responsibility and Planning for Safety) was satisfactory. A ground inspection was carried out and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Whitehaven's DPI took place on Sunday 1 May 2022. It was found that the stewards had satisfactory knowledge of their roles and responsibilities.

5.8 **Workington AFC** - Borough Park, Workington.

Borough Park has two regulated stands, Popular Stand and Town End Stand. The Popular Stand has a seated capacity of 409 and a P factor of 0.94, it also has a standing capacity of 320 with a P factor of 0.4. The Town End Stand has a capacity of 1124 with a P factor of 0.4 and all have an S factor of 0.7. Its maximum capacity is recommended to be 2538. Workington AFC play in the Northern Premier League and its season runs from July 2022 to May 2023.

Workington AFC's audit took place on Wednesday Thursday 19 May 2022. Overall, the records were found to be satisfactory. Some elements of the operations manual were found to contain minor deficiencies. One certificate was not seen but has since been produced. The policies and records were satisfactory. The club's knowledge and understanding of the Green Guides' chapter 6 (Management – structures and components) was found to be satisfactory. A ground inspection was carried out and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Workington AFC's DPI took place on Saturday 19 March 2022. It was found that the stewards had satisfactory knowledge of their roles and responsibilities.

The councillors' visit took place on 6 April 2022.

6.0 SPECIAL SAFETY CERTIFICATES

- 6.1 Special Safety Certificate was issued by CCC to Barrow AFC for a music festival held on 21 May 2022.
- 6.2 Special Safety Certificate was issued by CCC to Barrow RLFC for a pop concert held on 18 June 2022.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Safety of Sports Grounds Team fulfil the statutory responsibilities of the County Council under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended), and the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 (as amended), in respect of Sports Grounds in Cumbria. The primary purpose being to enable the issue of a safety certificate containing such terms and conditions as the County Council considers necessary or expedient to secure reasonable safety at the relevant sports ground when it is in use for the specified activity or activities. The terms and conditions may be such as to involve alterations or additions to the sports ground. Section 2 (1) of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended) and Section 27, subsections (1) and (2) of Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 (as amended) so refer.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Cumbria County Council met its statutory obligations in respect of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended), and the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 (as amended) for 2022. It either carried out inspections or will carry out inspections, where required, at all designated grounds and regulated stands, and gave remedial advice where necessary.

Angela Jones
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APPENDICES

No appendices

IMPLICATIONS

Staffing:	None
Financial:	None
Property:	None
Electoral Division(s):	All

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

No previous relevant decisions

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

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