

OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION NOTIFICATION

This form is used to give notice of decision(s) taken by officers under delegated authority. This form should be completed as soon as reasonably practicable after an officer has made a decision.

Subject:	Granting of Safety Certificate to Gillingham Football Club
Decision:	To issue Gillingham Football Club with a revised Safety Certificate under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. The new style Certificate places greater responsibility on the Club to manage spectator safety in accordance with their own Operations Manual. The revised Safety Certificate either meets, or exceeds, the requirements specified in the previous certificate issued by Medway Council.
Type of Decision:	<p>Council function <input data-bbox="1214 824 1313 898" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>a) Decision Delegated by Committee</p> <p>Name of Committee.....</p> <p>Meeting Date.....</p> <p>b) Decision taken under Employee Delegation Scheme <input data-bbox="1198 1077 1313 1151" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>Constitutional Reference: Para 1.2 of Part 4 (Employee Delegation Scheme) of Chapter 3 (Responsibility for Functions)</p> <p>Cabinet decision (delegated by Cabinet) <input data-bbox="1214 1375 1313 1449" type="checkbox"/></p>
Reasons for Decision	Local authorities are required to certificate certain football grounds under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. The "Safety Certificate" specifies certain requirements that must be met before spectators can be admitted to the ground. Failure to comply with the requirements of a safety certificate is an offence.

	<p>The Council had issued the previous safety certificate in 2006, in a format that was widely used at the time. However, over the last few years, the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) has encouraged local authorities to adopt a new style of certificate that is less prescriptive and puts greater responsibility for spectator safety on to the certificate holder themselves. Instead of detailing requirements in the certificate itself, the new style refers to a Clubs own safety documents, i.e. Operations Manual.</p> <p>The Council had to be satisfied that the Club's Operations Manual was fit for purpose and would achieve the same (if not greater) level of spectator safety.</p> <p>With the agreement of Gillingham Football Club, and the Safety Advisory Group, the Council decided to issue a new Safety Certificate in the new format.</p>
<p>Date of Decision:</p>	<p>8th January 2015</p>
<p>Details of any other options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>a) The Council could have continued with the current Safety Certificate in the "old" format, as there was no legal requirement to adopt the "new" style.</p> <p>The SGSA have been encouraging local authorities to adopt the new style of safety certificate over the last few years. This would give increased "ownership" of safety to Gillingham Football Club and would directly link the Safety Certificate to their Operations Manual.</p> <p>b) The Council could have refused to issue the revised Safety Certificate if it felt that the Club's Operations Manual would not ensure an adequate level of spectator safety. Indeed, it could not have (legally) issued a safety certificate if the required standards were not met.</p> <p>The Safety Advisory Group with other partner agencies</p>

	(including Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and South East Coast Ambulance Service) all parties agreed that the new certificate and Operations Manual would ensure an adequate level of spectator safety.
Director:	Mr. Robin Cooper
Lead Officer:	Mr. David Brown, Food and Safety Team Leader
Conflicts of Interest:	None

Background papers: None