

OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION NOTIFICATION

Subject:	<i>Granting of Safety Certificate to Gillingham Football Club</i>
Decision:	To issue Gillingham Football Club with a revised Safety Certificate under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. The Certificate places greater responsibility on the Club to manage the safety of all persons within the ground, in accordance with their own Operations Manual. The revised Safety Certificate either meets, or exceeds, the requirements specified in the previous safety certificate issued by Medway Council.
Type of Decision:	Decision taken under Employee Delegation Scheme Paragraph 1.2 of Part 4 of the Constitution (Employee Delegation Scheme).
Name and title of decision taker:	Mr Richard Hicks Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive
Reasons for Decision	<p>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 and other visitors can be admitted to the ground. Failure to comply with the requirements of a safety certificate is an offence.</p> <p>The Council issued the previous safety certificate in 2015. Since then, the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) issued local authorities with new guidance, encouraging them to re-issue general safety certificates after clubs comply. The general safety certificate puts greater responsibility for safety on to the certificate holder themselves (rather than on the local authority). Instead of detailing specific safety requirements in the certificate itself, the new style refers to a Clubs own safety documents, i.e. its Operations Manual.</p> <p>Before issuing a safety certificate, 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 (and other visitors) safety than that</p>

	<p>achieved by the previous safety certificate.</p> <p>With the agreement of Gillingham Football Club, and the Safety Advisory Group, the Council decided to re-issue a revised Safety Certificate in the new format, following changes to the club's procedures and inclusion of a new counter-terrorism policy.</p>
Date of Decision:	5 th July 2018
Details of any other options considered and rejected:	<p>a) The Council needed to review the safety certificate due to significant changes to the club's Operations Manual.</p> <p>Re-issuing the safety certificate gives increased "ownership" of safety to Gillingham Football Club and directly links 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 safety. Indeed, it could not have (legally) issued a safety certificate if the required standards were not met.</p> <p>The Safety Advisory Group encompasses other partner agencies (including Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and South East Coast Ambulance Service), and all parties agreed that the new certificate and Operations Manual would ensure an adequate level of safety.</p>
Director:	Richard Hicks
Lead Officer:	Alison Trainor, Commercial Services Manager
Conflicts of Interest:	None

Background Papers

- Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (published)
- Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide)
- Sports Grounds and Stadia Guide No. 4 – Safety Management (published)
- Medway Council Policy for Safety at Sports Grounds