



Northumberland County Council

Licensing & Regulatory Committee

Wednesday 12 February 2025

Regulation of Events

Report of Councillor Councillor Gordon Stewart, Cabinet Member for Looking After our Communities

Responsible Officer Graeme Binning, Chief Fire Officer and Director of Public Protection

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

The regulation of events cuts across all of the priorities included in the Council's Corporate Plan.

- It supports **Achieving Value for Money** by ensuring that we provide a scheme that works efficiently and delivers the best customer experience.
- It supports **Tackling Inequalities** by ensuring that we provide the scheme is delivered taking into account the needs of our communities.
- It supports **Driving Economic Growth** by ensuring that we provide a scheme meets the needs to support the county to prosper.

2. Purpose of report

Northumberland County Council ('the Authority') has a statutory responsibility to regulate sports grounds. Committee has specific responsibility for certificating those sports grounds that fall within the scope of a regulatory framework.

At its last meeting Committee considered a report which included information about the Authority's wider approach to the regulation of events. This report seeks to provide additional information.

3. Recommendations

Committee is recommended to receive a presentation from the Authority's Strategic Community Safety and Partnerships Manager.

4. Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable

Not applicable.

5. Background

5.1 Introduction

Northumberland County Council ('the Authority') is responsible for regulating sports grounds. Licensing and Regulatory Committee ('the Committee') has specific responsibility for certificating those sports grounds that fall within the scope of a regulatory framework.

5.2 Context

At its last meeting Committee considered a report which included information about the Authority's wider approach to the regulation of events. Officers advised that the Authority's work on regulating sports grounds was in the process of being aligned to strengthening work the Authority was undertaking in relation to the regulation of events more widely.

The item prompted specific interest and scrutiny from members. Overall, Committee was keen to learn more about how this work was progressing.

The development and introduction of the new approach to regulating events is being led by the Stronger Communities service which sits within Public Health directorate with oversight from Cabinet.

The Strategic Community Safety and Partnerships Manager will be in attendance at Committee to deliver a short presentation aimed at updating members.

5.3 Next steps

At its last meeting Committee resolved to oversee the development of a policy for the certification of sports grounds.

The information presented will help shape members' thinking and inform the Committee on how that policy is designed.

6. Options open to Committee and reasons for the recommendations

6.1 The recommendations at section 3 of this report invite Committee to receive the presentation.

6.2 Section 5.3 highlights the reasons Committee has been invited to do so.

7. Implications

Policy	There are no policy implications arising directly from this report. Committee will be consulted on future policy development and invited to make recommendations.
Finance and value for money	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The costs of undertaking the regulatory activity and associated matters are met from existing revenue budgets.
Legal	There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
Procurement	There are no procurement implications arising directly from this report.
Human resources	There are no human resources implications arising directly from this report.
Property	There are no property implications arising directly from this report.
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	Not required. Assessing compliance with the public sector equality duty are considered specifically in relation to the administration and enforcement of the licensing activity.
Risk assessment	Risks associated with administering and enforcing the licensing activity are managed and monitored through the corporately adopted risk management framework and within the Public Protection Service.
Crime and disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report. A key objective of the licensing activity is to promote good practices with respect to management of sports grounds.
Customer considerations	There are no customer consideration implications arising directly from this report.
Carbon reduction	There are no carbon reduction implications arising directly from this report.
Health and wellbeing	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report. The licensing activity promotes good practice in public safety.
Wards	All Wards

8. **Background papers**

[Sports grounds certification, report to Licensing & Regulation Committee, 18 December 2024](#)

[Proposal for a New Approach to the Delivery, Regulation and Strategic Support of Events within Northumberland, report to Cabinet 17 September 2024](#)

[The UK Good Practice Guide to Working in Safety Advisory Groups, Revision 2019, Emergency Planning College](#)

[Guide to safety at sports grounds \('the Green Guide'\), Sixth edition 2018, Sports Grounds Safety Authority](#)

9. **Links to other key reports already published**

Not applicable

10. **Author and Contact Details**

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