

SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT- APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE.

Report of the Director of Development and Regeneration

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the approval of the application by Sunderland Association Football Club for a Special Safety Certificate for 3 concerts taking place at the Sunderland Stadium of Light on the 5th, 6th and 10th June 2009.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A current General Safety Certificate is held by Sunderland Association Football Club for the Sunderland Stadium of Light. The activities covered by the Certificate are limited by Appendix 2 to Association Football matches including the live transmission of matches taking place at other grounds and any pre, half time or post match activity which is approved in advance by the Council.

2.2 The Certificate holder has applied for a Special Safety Certificate to cover concerts by Take That on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June and Oasis on Wednesday 10th June 2009.

2.3 The differing profile of Take That and Oasis, differing requirements and stage layouts is reflected in the differing maximum spectator capacities.

2.4 It is intended that the Special Safety Certificate will append the current General Safety Certificate and impose additional conditions upon the applicant in respect of safety matters not covered by the existing Certificate. The Special Safety Certificate will only have effect on the 3 dates mentioned.

2.5 A special event safety advisory group with a core membership of representatives of the City Council, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, North East Ambulance Service and St John Ambulance Association supported by representatives of the promoter and the football club has been formed with the strategic aim of achieving the reasonable safety of spectators attending the events.

2.6 Due to the nature of the events some of the detailed event planning matters are still to be finalised with areas such as the construction of temporary structures for staging, sound and lighting to be fully evaluated and inspected when delivered to and erected on site. This is not unusual for this type of event and the multi agency safety advisory group will continue to meet and inspect to ensure that conditions attached to the Certificate are fully complied with.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Committee is recommended:

- i) To approve the grant of a Special Safety Certificate for the concerts at the Sunderland Stadium of Light to serve as an addendum to the existing General Safety Certificate. The maximum spectator capacities to be set at 51528 in respect of Take That on the 5th and 6th June and 52933 for Oasis on 10th June 2009.

- (ii) To make the grant subject to full compliance with the conditions contained with General and Special Safety Certificates, the conclusion of the multi agency safety planning process and satisfactory construction and completion of all temporary structures.