

REGULATORY PANEL (SITE VISIT).

Minutes of meeting to undertake a site visit on 26 November 2025
leaving County Buildings at 9.45 a.m.

Present: Councillors Alan Lamont (Chair), Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick and George Weir.

Apologies: Councillors Wullie Hogg, Craig Mackay and Duncan Townson.

Attending: L. McChristie, Co-ordinator (Licensing); H. Talbot, Co-ordinator, Building Standards; S. McInnes, Principal Engineer (Building Standards);, and J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Site Visits

The Co-ordinator (Building Standards) advised Panel Members that the Regulatory Panel agreed the Safety Certificates for Ayr Racecourse and Somerset Park annually; and that the following two site visits had been arranged to allow Members to view both grounds for a better understanding when considering the approval of the Safety Certificates.

3. Site Visit to Ayr Racecourse.

Reference was made to the Minutes of 29 May 2025 (Page 2) when it had been decided to carry out a site visit of Ayr Racecourse and Ross Donald, Operations Manager welcomed the Panel to the Racecourse and showed them round the various areas of the Racecourse.

The Co-ordinator (Building Standards) advised that there were Safety Certificates in place for the two Regulated Stands, the Princess Royal Stand and the Eglinton Stand; and that various multi-agency meetings took place prior to each large race meeting.

The Operations Manager outlined his responsibilities and advised of the different types of ticket available; the various areas within the Racecourse and the amenities within each area; and the buses provided for large race meetings to assist with traffic management.

Questions were raised by Panel Members in relation to applications for liquor licences; attendance numbers at race meetings; the establishment of the Safety Advisory Group; entrances and exits; engagement with Police Scotland; crowd control; animal welfare; and medical assistance, if required; and these were responded to by the Operations Manager, the Co-ordinator (Building Standards) and the Principal Engineer (Building Standards).

Following questions regarding the consumption of alcohol, the Licensing Co-ordinator advised that the Licensing Standards Officer visited the Racecourse regularly, had an excellent working relationship with the staff and that she had no concerns regarding the management of these premises. The Operations Manager further advised that the Racecourse had a duty of care to patrons and that the purchase of alcohol was monitored and refused if it was felt that a patron had consumed enough.

The Panel then thanked the Operations Manager for the tour of Ayr Racecourse.

3. Site Visit to Somerset Park, Ayr.

Reference was made to the Minutes of 29 May 2025 (Page 2) when it had been decided to carry out a site visit of Somerset Park, Ayr and the Panel undertook an accompanied site visit of these grounds.

Roy Provan, Safety and Stadium Manager welcomed the Panel to the ground and showed them the various parts of the stadium, including the terracing, Board Room, North Stand and Director's Box; advised of the various works that were being undertaken and the investment that had been made in Somerset Park; and outlined the process for fans exiting the stadium on larger match days.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to whether there were various Certificates required for the different areas of the Ground; the capacity of the Ground; the entrances and exits; and ongoing upgrading works; and these were responded to by the Safety and Stadium Manager, the Co-ordinator (Building Standards) and the Principal Engineer (Building Standards).

The Panel noted that there were proposals for the installation of new additional turnstiles at the away end (Railway End) as part of the future developments at the ground.

The Panel thanked the Safety and Stadium Manager for the tour of the ground and welcomed the recent works carried out.

The meeting ended at 12 noon