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| Agenda Item | <b>9.2</b>        |
| Report No   | <b>HLC/077/14</b> |

**Application for the Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence – Sonya M Sinclair**

**Report by the Legal Manager**

**Summary**

This Report relates to an application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence.

This item is subject to a formal hearing procedure.

**1.0 Background**

**1.1** The Highland Council has resolved that in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 a licence will be required for the driving of a licensed taxi. A licence for the same is issued by the Highland Council and is valid for the whole Council Area.

**2.0 Application**

**2.1** On 10 June 2014 an application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence was received from Ms Sonya M Sinclair, 85 Seaforth Avenue, Wick (previously of Katkins, 5 East Banks, Wick).

**3.0 Process**

**3.1** Following receipt of the application a copy of the same was circulated to the following Agencies/Services for consultation:

- Police Scotland
- Highland Council Trading Standards Service

**3.2** No representations were received in respect of the application.

**4.0 Taxi Driver's Knowledge Test**

**4.1** As part of the application process all applicants for taxi driver's licences must pass a knowledge test. The knowledge test consists of two sections and the applicant must pass both sections. The first section is a multiple choice paper on general knowledge in relation to highway code, landmarks etc in Highland and shortest routes between 2 locations in Highland. The second section consists of a written test in relation to the local Caithness area and includes questions on shortest routes between 2 locations within that area and the locations of local landmarks etc. Applicants are permitted to sit three attempts at the knowledge test.

**4.2** Ms Sinclair has passed the local section of the local test, but has not passed the general knowledge section, having undertaken two attempts. She received 49% and 71% on the two papers that she has sat. The pass mark is 85%. She has been offered to sit the permitted further attempt prior to the Committee meeting.

## **5.0 Determination of Application**

**5.1** Under Section 3(1) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 the application requires to be determined within six months, ie 22 November 2014.

## **6.0 Policies**

**6.1** The following policies are relevant to this case:

Standard Taxi Driver's Licence conditions. A copy of these can accessed at [www.highland.gov.uk/businessinformation/licensing/civicgovernmentlicensing](http://www.highland.gov.uk/businessinformation/licensing/civicgovernmentlicensing) or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

## **7.0 Recommendation**

**7.1** The Committee is invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

Designation: Legal Manager  
Officer Reference: G Sutherland  
Date: 14 October 2014

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Appendix: None