

Agenda item	7.4
Report no	HLC/046/19

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 6 August 2019

Report title: Application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence – Faith Macintyre (Ward 19 – Inverness South)

Report by: The Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

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

This item is subject to a formal hearing procedure

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to determine the application in accordance with the hearings procedure.

3. Background

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

4. Application

4.1 Ms Faith Macintyre applied for the grant of a taxi driver's licence on 21 December 2018.

4.2 The application was circulated to both Police Scotland and the Council's Trading Standards Service.

4.3 There have been no objections received in relation to the application.

4.4 In terms of the abovementioned Act the Licensing Authority have nine months from receipt of the application to determine the same, therefore this application must be determined by 20 September 2019. Failure to determine the application by this time would result in the application being subject of a 'deemed grant' which means that a licence would require to be issued to Ms Macintyre for a period of 1 year. The application is before this Committee as this is the last meeting before the determination date expires.

5. Taxi Driver's Knowledge Test

5.1 Ms Macintyre has sat the knowledge test once, scoring 72% in the Highland wide section (pass mark is 75%) and 80% in the local section (pass mark is 85%). She has not yet made an appointment to re-sit the test.

5.2 The Council's policy in respect of a taxi driver's knowledge test states that an applicant is permitted a maximum of three attempts.

6. Determining issues

6.1 Paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 states that a licensing authority may refuse an application to grant or renew a licence where:

(a) the applicant or anyone else detailed on the application is not a fit and proper person;

(b) the activity would be carried out by a person other than the applicant who, if he had made the application himself, would have been refused;

(c) where the licence applied for relates to an activity consisting of or including the use of premises or a vehicle or vessel, those premises are not or, as the case may be, that vehicle or vessel is not suitable or convenient for the conduct of the activity having regard to

(i) the location, character or condition of premises or the character or condition of the vehicle or vessel,

(ii) the nature and extent of the proposed activity,

(iii) the kind of persons likely to be in the premises, vehicle or vessel,

- (iv) the possibility of undue public nuisance, or
- (v) public order or public safety; or

(d) there is other good reason for refusing the application.

6.2 If required the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services will offer particular advice on the criteria relating to this particular application.

6.3 In addition, section 13(5) of the Act provides that a licensing authority may require an applicant for a taxi driver's licence to take a test of his knowledge of the area to which the licence is to relate, of the layout of roads in that area and such other matters relating to the operation of a taxi as the authority consider desirable, and the authority may refuse to grant a licence to a person who does not satisfy them that they have adequate knowledge of any of these matters.

6.4 A copy of this report has been sent to the applicant who has been invited to attend and will be provided with an opportunity to be heard by the Committee. She has also been advised of the procedure which will be followed at the meeting.

7. Policies

7.1 The following policy is relevant to this case:

Standard taxi driver's licence conditions. A copy of these can accessed at https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/738739/taxi_and_private_hire/category/501/taxi_and_private_hire, or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

8. Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

Date: 16 July 2019

Author: Michael Elsey

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982