

**The Highland Licensing Board**

**Meeting – 30 November 2021**

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| Agenda Item | <b>10.8</b>       |
| Report No   | <b>HLB/107/21</b> |

**Application for a major variation of premises licence under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005**

**Co-operative Group Limited, Kilmallie Road, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7EN**

**Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board**

**Summary**

This report relates to an application for a major variation of premises licence by Co-operative Group Food Limited, 1 Angel Square, Manchester, M60 0AG.

**1.0 Description of premises**

1.1 The premises are a self-contained convenience store located within a housing estate on the outskirts of Fort William in the village of Caol with adjacent car parking.

**2.0 Summary of variation application**

**1.1 Variation sought**

The applicant seeks to vary the premises licence as follows:-

- (1) On the Operating Plan, Q5 – Activities – amend to include music activity – recorded background music may be played within and outwith core hours.
- (2) On the Operating Plan, amend the box at Q5(f) to read: The sale of food, non-food items and other household goods, and the provision of ancillary consumer services within and outwith licensed hours. Home deliveries may be provided to customers. Alcohol will only be delivered in terms of and in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

**3.0 Background**

3.1 On 17 September 2021 the Licensing Board received an application for a major variation of a premises licence from Co-operative Group Food Limited.

3.2 The application was publicised during the period 26 October 2021 until 16 November 2021 and confirmation that the site notice was displayed has been received.

- 3.3 In accordance with standard procedure, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and the Council's Community Services (Environmental Health) and Planning and Building Standards were consulted on the application.
- 3.4 Notification of the application was also sent to NHS Highland and the local Community Council.
- 3.5 Further to this publication and consultation process, no timeous objections or representations have been received.
- 3.6 As a hearing cannot be held in person due to coronavirus, the Licensing Board, before reaching a decision, must give any person who would have been given the opportunity to be heard at the hearing the opportunity to be heard instead by alternative methods. Consequently, both the applicant and the objector have been invited to submit a written representation to state their case.

#### **4.0 Legislation**

- 4.1 The Licensing Board must in considering and determining the application, consider whether any grounds of refusal apply and if none of them applies, the Board must grant the application.

Relevant grounds of refusal may be: -

1. the grant of the application will be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives;
  2. having regard to (i) the nature of the activities carried on or proposed to be carried on in the subject premises, (ii) the location, character and condition of the premises, and (iii) the persons likely to frequent the premises, the Board considers the premises are unsuitable for use for the sale of alcohol in accordance with the proposed variation;
  3. that the Board considers that, if the application were to be granted, there would, as a result, be overprovision of licensed premises, or licensed premises of the same or similar description as the subject premises, in the locality.
- 4.2 For the purposes of the Act, the licensing objectives are-
    - (a) preventing crime and disorder,
    - (b) securing public safety,
    - (c) preventing public nuisance,
    - (d) protecting and improving public health, and
    - (e) protecting children and young persons from harm.
  - 4.3 The Board only has power either to grant the application and make a variation of the conditions to which the licence is subject or to refuse the application.

4.4 If the Board refuses the application, the Board must specify the ground for refusal and if the ground for refusal relates to a licensing objective, the Board must specify the objective in question.

## **5.0 Licensing Standards Officer**

5.1 The LSO has provided the following comments:-

- (i) The premises are a medium sized supermarket, which in licensing terms has a satisfactory history of operation.
- (ii) Application has been made to include the facility of music provision to customers on the Operating Plan at Section 5. In addition, the ability to include alcohol in the scope of “home deliveries” is requested within amended text at Section 5(f) of the Operating Plan. The Co-op have robust protocols for age verification included within their staff training.
- (iii) The Licensing Standards Officer is of the opinion that the application meets the standards of the 5 Licensing Objectives.

## **6.0 HLB local policies**

6.1 The following policies are relevant to the application:-

- (1) Highland Licensing Board Policy Statement 2018-23
- (2) Highland Licensing Board Equality Strategy

## **7.0 Conditions**

### **7.1 Mandatory conditions**

If the application is approved the mandatory conditions set out in Schedule 3 of the Act will apply.

### **7.2 Local conditions**

There are no existing local conditions and it is not considered necessary to attach any.

### **7.3 Special conditions**

No special conditions are considered necessary.

**Recommendation**

The Board is invited to determine the above application.

If the Board is minded to refuse the application, the Board must specify the ground for refusal and if the ground for refusal is in relation to a licensing objective, the Board must specify the objective in question.

Reference: HC/RSL/1105  
Date: 17 November 2021  
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