

Agenda item	8.1
Report no	HLC/043/22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 6 September 2022

Report title: Application for the renewal of a taxi operator's licence – Norman Reid (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 renewal of a taxi operator'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 operation of a taxi. A licence for the same is issued by the Highland Council and is valid for the whole Council area.

4. Application

4.1 Norman Reid applied for the renewal of his taxi operator's licence on 10 September 2021.

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 twelve months (due to temporary amendments to the legislation during the coronavirus period) from receipt of the application to determine the same, therefore this application must be determined by 9 September 2022. 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 Mr Reid for a period of 1 year. The application is before this Committee as this is the last meeting before the determination date expires.

5. Vehicle Inspection & Documents

5.1 It is understood that Mr Reid has not operated his taxi since withdrawing his taxi driver's licence renewal application in April 2022 due to him not meeting the required medical standard.

5.2 The renewal application for his taxi operator's licence cannot be fully determined as the vehicle requires to undergo a Council taxi inspection and a copy of an up to date insurance certificate is also required.

5.3 Licensing staff have attempted to make contact with Mr Reid by phone and email, however, no response has been received to date.

6. Determining issues

6.1 Paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 1 of the Act 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 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. He has also been advised of the procedure which will be followed at the meeting.

7. Policies

7.1 The following policies are relevant to this case:

Standard taxi operator'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: 17 August 2022

Author: Michael Elsey

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982