

Highland Licensing Committee

Meeting - 14 June 2016

Agenda Item	8.1
Report No	HLC/054/16

Application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence – David Benson

Report by the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services

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 2 February 2016 an application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence was received from David Benson, 18 Towerhill Road, Thurso.

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 area (in this case, Caithness), 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 Mr Benson has yet to pass the knowledge test. On his first attempt on 27 May he received 76% on the general knowledge section and 74% on the local test. The pass mark is 85%. He has been invited to sit his next attempt but has yet to arrange a booking.

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 by 1 August 2016.

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 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.

Officer Reference: G Sutherland

Date: 30 May 2016

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Appendix: None