

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 4 August 2020

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| Agenda Item | 8.10 |
| Report No | HLB/054/20 |

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

Co-op, Meadow Lane, Thurso

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 in respect of Co-op, Meadow Lane, Thurso.

1.0 Description of premises

1.1 These supermarket premises are situated in Thurso town centre retailing food, non-food items and other household goods and providing ancillary consumer services. The premises was granted a premises licence, on transition, on 1 September 2009.

2.0 Current operating hours

2.1 The premises currently has the following operating hours:

Off sales:

Monday to Sunday: 1000 hrs to 2200 hrs

3.0 Summary of variation application

3.1 Variation sought

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

- 1) Add recorded music for activities provided during and outwith core hours
- 2) Vary other services provided to include home delivery service

4.0 Background

4.1 On 25 March 2020 the Licensing Board received an application for a major variation of a premises licence from Co-operative Group Food Limited.

4.2 The application was publicised during the period 22 June to 13 July 2020 and confirmation that the site notice was displayed is awaited.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Notification of the application was also sent to NHS Highland and the local Community Council.
- 4.5 Further to this publication and consultation process, no timeous objections or representations have been received.
- 4.6 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, the applicant has been invited to submit a written representation to state their case.

5.0 Legislation

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 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.

6.0 Licensing Standards Officer

6.1 The LSO has provided the following comments:-

- a) The Co-op, Thurso is a stand-alone convenience store selling fresh and frozen food with off sales facility.
- b) The application is to allow home deliveries of alcohol from the store whilst complying with the relevant provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. Also to include the addition of playing of recorded background music within and outwith licensed hours.
- c) The activities sought would appear to be reasonable and appropriate for the proposed operation of the premises.
- d) There would not appear to be any matter contained within the application that is inconsistent with the licensing objectives.
- e) During the period of consultation, no timeous objections have been received.
- f) I have no objections to this application.

7.0 HLB local policies

7.1 The following policies are relevant to the application:-

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

8.0 Conditions

8.1 Mandatory conditions

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

8.2 Local conditions

None to apply.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to determine the above application and if minded to grant the 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/CSR/1040

Date: 21 July 2020

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