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| Agenda item | 7.1 |
| Report no | HLC/052/20 |

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 1 December 2020

Report title: Application for the grant of a private hire car driver's licence – Hristo Georgiev (Ward 17 – Culloden and Ardersier)

Report by: The Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to an application for the grant of a private hire car 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 Council's 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 private hire car (PHC). A licence for the same is issued by the Highland Council and is valid for the whole Council area.

4. Application

4.1 Mr Hristo Georgiev applied for the grant of a PHC driver's licence on 10 January 2020.

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

4.3 There were 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 January 2021. 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 Georgiev for a period of 1 year. The application is before this Committee as this is the last meeting before the determination date expires.

5. Right to Work Check

5.1 Mr Georgiev has not yet undergone the required right to work check

5.2 Licensing staff have tried to contact the Mr Georgiev by phone and email but he has not responded to date.

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.

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

6.2 Separately, section 13(3A) of the Act, inserted by the Immigration Act 2016, prohibits licensing authorities from granting a taxi or private hire car driver's licence to any person unless first satisfied that the person is not disqualified from working in the UK by reason of his or her immigration status.

6.3 A copy of this report has been sent to Mr Georgiev who has been invited to attend the meeting 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. Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

Date: 10 November 2020

Author: Michael Elsey

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982