

Agenda item	6.1
Report no	HLC/003/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 12 January 2021

Report title: Application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence – North Coast Leisure Centre, Munro Place, Bettyhill (Ward 1 – North, West and Central Sutherland)

Report by: The Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to an application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence.

2. Recommendation

2.2 Members are asked to determine the application in accordance with the Council's hearing procedure.

3. Background

3.1 On 4 February 2020 an application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence was received from Highlife Highland in respect of North Coast Leisure Centre, Munro Place, Bettyhill, KW14 7SS.

3.2 In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the 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 3 February 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 for a period of 1 year. The application is before this Committee as this is the last meeting before the determination date expires.

4. Process

4.1 Following receipt of the application a copy was circulated to the following Agencies/Services for consultation:

- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Highland Council Environmental Health Service
- Highland Council Building Standards Service
- Highland Council Planning Service
- Highland Council Roads Service

4.2 No objections have been received from these Agencies/Services. However, Environmental Health confirmed on 7 September 2020 that they would have no objections once a satisfactory electrical certificate is submitted.

4.3 As part of the application process the applicants were asked to submit a current electrical certificate in respect of the premises. An electrical inspection was carried out on 16 September 2020, which was unsatisfactory. The electrician is currently waiting for materials to complete the works as several circuits require new protective equipment and will have it installed as a matter of priority. Once the necessary works have been carried out, a remedial report will be issued.

4.4 Until the satisfactory electrical certificate is submitted, the Principal Solicitor (Regulatory Services) is not currently in a position to issue the licence under delegated powers. As detailed in paragraph 3.2, the application requires to be determined by 3 February 2021.

5. Determining issues

5.1 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.

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

5.3 A copy of this report has been sent to High Life Highland who have been invited to state their case.

6. Options

6.1 If Members are minded they could grant the application with an additional condition attached to the effect that no public entertainment activities should take place until a satisfactory electrical certificate is received.

6.2 Alternatively the Committee could grant delegated powers to the Principal Solicitor to refuse the application if a satisfactory electrical certificate has not been received by 3 February 2021.

7. Policies

7.1 The following policies are relevant to this application:

7.2 Standard public entertainment licence conditions. A copy of these can accessed at http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/738741/public_entertainment/category/498/entertainment_and_public_events

or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

8. Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

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Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982