

Agenda item	7.1
Report no	HLC/014/22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 22 February 2022

Report title: Application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence – Roger Ewen (Ward 12 – Aird and Loch Ness)

Report by: The Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to an application for the grant of a taxi 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 hearing 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 taxi. A licence for the same is issued by the Highland Council and is valid for the whole Council area.

4. Application

- 4.1 Roger Ewen applied for the grant of a taxi driver's licence on 25 March 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 24 March 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 Ewen for a period of 1 year. The application is before this Committee as this is the last meeting before the determination date expires.

5. Previous taxi driver's licence

- 5.1 Mr Ewen previously held a taxi driver's licence which expired on 26 July 2020 and was not renewed at that time.

6. Taxi Driver's Medical

- 6.1 As Mr Ewen is over 65 years of age, in terms of the Council's policy in relation to taxi drivers he requires to attend, and pass, a medical examination to the DVLA Group 2 (PSV) standard.
- 6.2 Mr Ewen attended a medical at Alert Health Ltd., who undertake medicals on behalf of the Council, on 15 July 2021. Following the medical Alert Health Ltd. advised that Mr Ewen that he required to provide further information to them before a decision could be made in relation to his fitness.
- 6.3 It is understood that Mr Ewen contacted his GP to request the information required however, to date, this has not been provided and the medical has not yet been able to be completed.

7. Immigration Act - Right to work check

- 7.1 Mr Ewen has still to undergo a right to work check.

8. Determining issues

- 8.1 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.

8.2

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

8.3

A copy of this report has been sent to Mr Ewen 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.

9. Policies

9.1 The following policies are relevant to this case:

Standard taxi driver's licence conditions. A copy of these can be 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.

10. Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

Date: 31 January 2022

Author: Michael Elsey

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982