

Agenda item	<b>6.2</b>
Report no	<b>HLC/126/24</b>

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Date: 26 November 2024**

**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**

2.1 Members are asked to determine the application in accordance with the Council's hearings Procedure.

### **3. Background**

**3.1** On 12 March 2024 an application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence was received from Highlife Highland in respect of North Coast Leisure Centre, Bettyhill.

**3.2** In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the Act) the Licensing Authority have nine months from receipt of the application to determine the same, therefore this application must be determined by 11 December 2024. 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. Environmental Health confirmed on 14 March 2024 that they would have no objections once satisfactory electrical and gas certificates are submitted.

**4.3** As part of the application process the applicants are asked to submit a current electrical certificate in respect of the premises. The electrical report submitted is noted as being unsatisfactory. No remedial action notification has been provided to state that the failings in the electrical system have been fixed. The applicant has not provided a Gas-Safe certificate for the gas appliance. The Risk Assessment also needs to be updated.

Until the satisfactory electrical certificate, gas certificate and updated risk assessment are 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 11 December 2024.

### **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 the applicant who, in the terms of paragraph 4(2) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, has been invited to attend and will be provided with an opportunity to be heard by the Committee.

The applicant has also been advised of the procedure which will be followed at the meeting which may also be viewed via the following link:

[Licensing hearings procedures | Licensing hearings procedure \(Licensing Committee\) \(highland.gov.uk\)](https://www.highland.gov.uk/licensing-hearings-procedures)

## **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 the satisfactory electrical certificate, gas certificate and updated risk assessment are submitted.

**6.2** Alternatively the Committee could grant delegated powers to the Principal Solicitor to refuse the application if an electrical certificate, gas certificate and updated risk assessment are submitted has not been received by 11 December 2024.

## **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 [Apply for a licence - Public entertainment | The Highland Council](#) or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

## **8. Implications**

**8.1** Not applicable.

Date: 28 October 2024  
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Ref: 32049

## Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982