

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Consultation Survey Results

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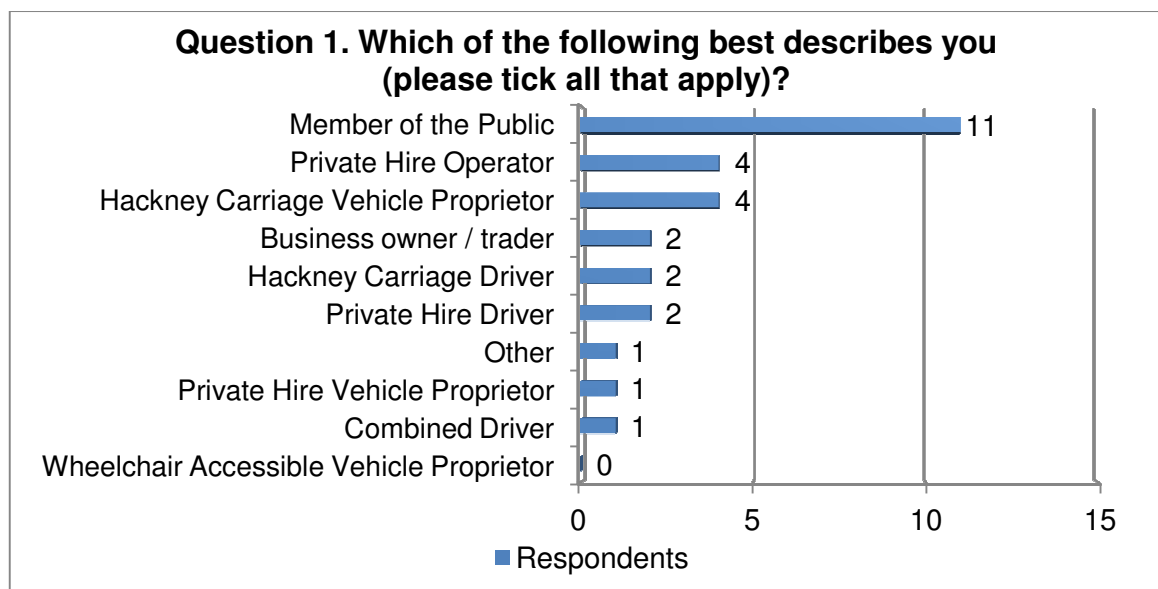
North Tyneside Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A consultation survey was carried out between 1 July 2016 and 30 September 2016. The purpose of the survey was to consult on the council's revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and to gather the views and perceptions of drivers, proprietors and operators, as well as members of the public, relating specifically to advertising on vehicles, the issuing of Combined Licenses, the use of current knowledge test and display of vehicle decals.
- 1.2 The consultation survey was carried out electronically. A copy of the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy was hosted on North Tyneside Council's website on the Business Homepage and where possible on the Residents Homepage¹ along with a link to an electronic survey, created using SNAP (the council's online survey software).

2. Consultation Survey Results

- 2.1 There were 26 respondents overall to the survey, although respondents could select more than one option as the best description of their profession or status. There were 28 profession or status selected in total.



- 2.2 The highest number of submissions (11) were from Members of the Public. There were 4 Private Hire Operator and 4 Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietor respondents. There were 2 Business Owners/Traders, 2 Hackney Carriage Drivers and 2 Private Hire Drivers. The respondent who identified as 'Other' was a police officer.

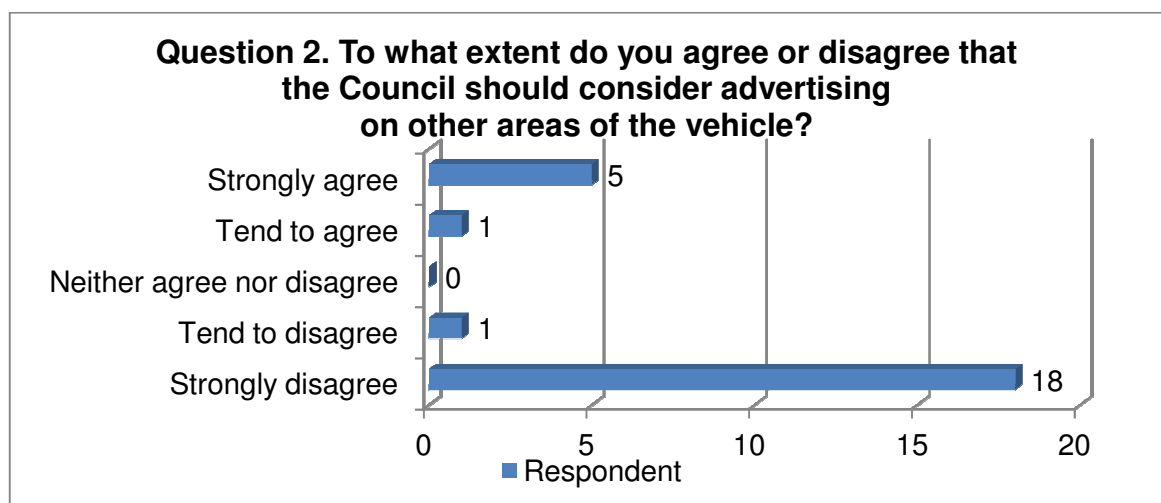
¹ The consultation would not be displayed on the residents homepage throughout the whole 3 month consultation period, as other information and emergency bulletins had to be prioritised.

2.3 Chapter 2 – Vehicles

2.3.1 **Paragraph 31 of the Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy states** - *No signs, notices, advertisements, video or audio display etc or other markings shall be displayed on, in or from the vehicle subject to the following exceptions:-*

- *Any sign, notice or other marking required to be displayed by legislation or any condition attached to this licence*
- *Advertising on the rear doors, rear wings and boot area of the vehicle (of two-dimensional insignia type) approved by the Council*
- *Advertising along the top 8 cm strip of the windscreen of the vehicle provided that it is not illuminated and it bears only the name and/or telephone number in block letters of the firm operating the vehicle.*

2.3.2 In response to question 2 asking to what extent respondents agreed or disagreed that the council should consider advertising on other areas of the vehicle, the majority of respondents disagreed; 18 respondents strongly disagreed and one tended to disagree. This compared to 5 respondents who strongly agreed that advertising on other areas of the vehicle should be considered and one respondent who tended to agree.

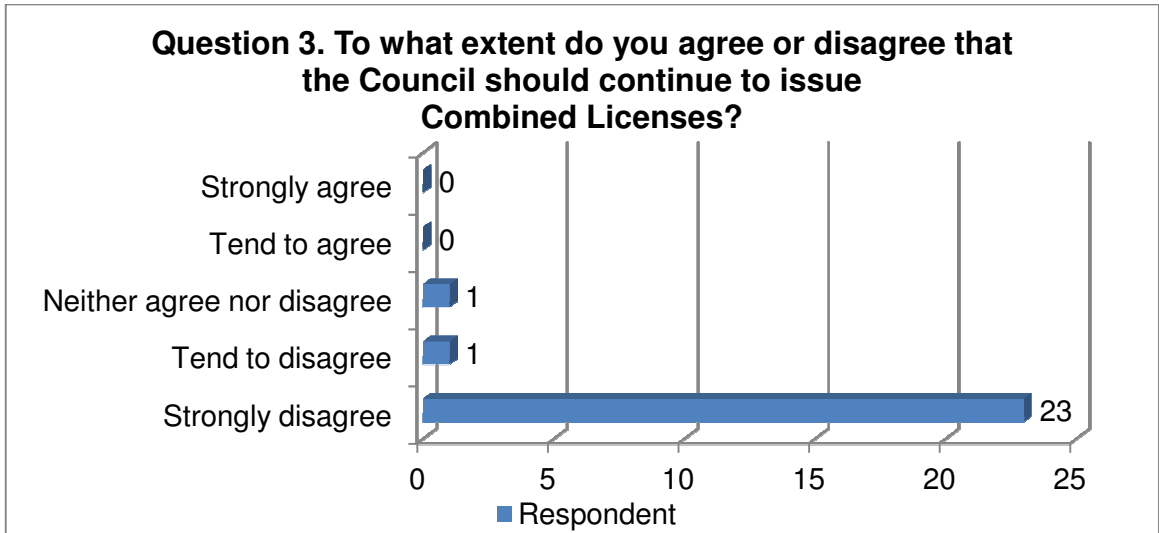


2.4 Chapter 3 – Drivers

2.4.1 **Paragraph 1 of the Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy states** - *North Tyneside Council issues the following driver Licenses:-*

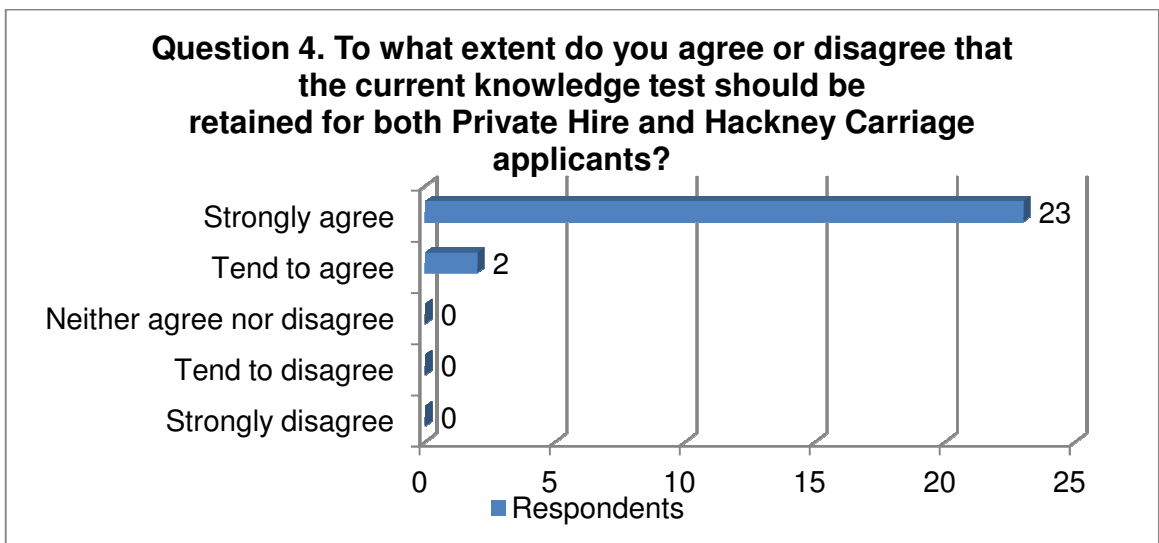
- *Private Hire Driver*
- *Hackney Carriage Driver*
- *Combined Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Driver*

2.4.2 The majority of respondents disagreed that the council should continue to issue Combined Licenses; 23 strongly disagreed and 1 tended to agree. 1 respondent neither agreed nor disagreed with the policy.



2.4.3 Paragraph 5 of the Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy states - *In order to determine the fitness of a person to hold a licence, all new applicants are required to sit and pass a test on their knowledge of the local geography, driver conduct, licensing legislation and the highway code.*

2.4.4 All survey respondents agreed that the current knowledge test should be retained for both Private Hire and Hackney Carriage applicants; 23 strongly agreed and 2 tended to agree.

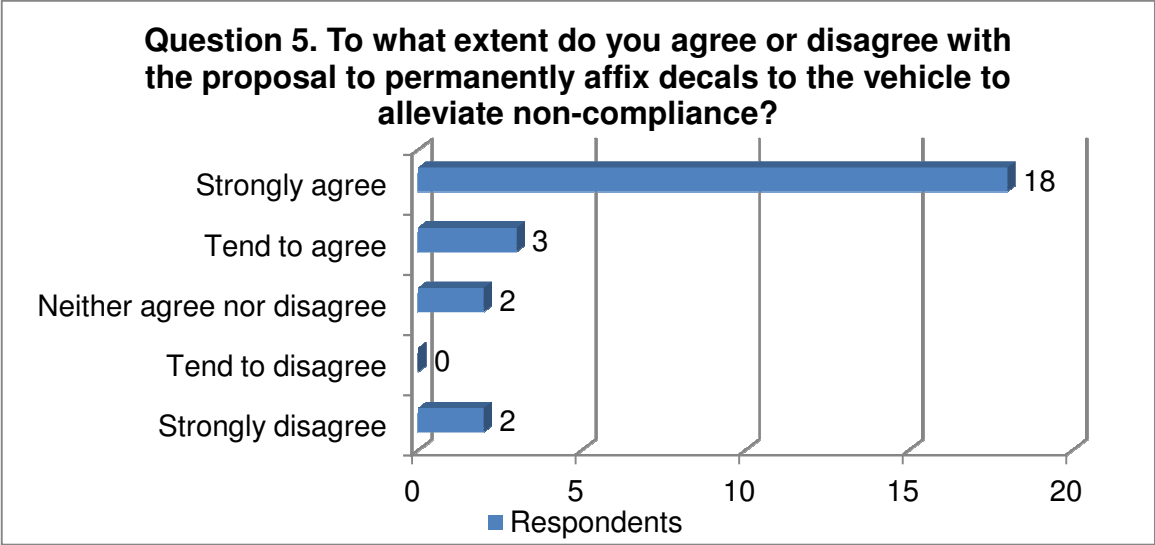


2.5 Appendix B – Conditions

2.5.1 Paragraph 5 of the Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy states - *There shall be attached centrally to each front door of the vehicle the appropriate hackney carriage or private hire vehicle decals supplied by the council. The decals must be permanently affixed to the vehicle and these must be maintained in a satisfactory condition and be legible.*

2.5.2 The majority of survey respondents agreed with the proposal to permanently affix decals to vehicles; 18 strongly agreed and 3 tended to agree. This

compared to 2 respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal. There were 2 respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal.



- 3. Survey respondents were invited to provide any other comments, suggestions or amendments they may have in relation to the Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and suggestions offered were to have more taxi ranks and not allow darkened glass in vehicles.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 Survey respondents agreed that the current knowledge test should be retained for new Private Hire and Hackney Carriage applicants. Respondents also agreed that vehicle decals supplied by the council should be permanently affixed to each of the front door of vehicles.
- 4.2 Survey respondents disagreed that the council should continue to issue Combined Licenses for both Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers. The majority also disagreed that the council should consider advertising on other areas of vehicle not set out in chapter 2 of the draft policy.