

Report to:	Licensing Committee
Date:	13 August 2020
Title:	Dual Taxi and Private Hire Driver Licence
Report of:	Tim Whelan – Director of Service Delivery
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To provide consultation feedback on proposal to introduce dual driver licence in Lewes.
Officer recommendation(s):	<p>(1) Licensing Committee review the consultation comments received.</p> <p>(2) Licensing Committee consider the approval of the introduction of dual drivers licences as per para 3.1 of the Report.</p> <p>(3) If dual driver’s licences are agreed then Members to consider the options outlined at paras 3(2) to 3(4) of the Report.</p> <p>(4) If dual drivers licences are agreed Members to agree to delegate the implementation to the Environmental Health and Licensing Senior Specialist Advisor in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee and in light of the options agreed at paras 3(2) to 3(4) of the Report.</p>
Reasons for recommendations:	To introduce dual licences for hackney and private hire drivers.
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1 Introduction

- 1.1** Currently Lewes District Council offers Hackney Carriage, Private Hire, Restricted Private Hire and Dual Driver licences. Restricted Private Hire licences permit the driver to undertake school contract service but are not permitted to do other private hire work in the District.

- 1.2 The Licensing Committee approved new Lewes District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Guidance on 19 September 2019 but requested officers undertake further consultation with regards to the implementation of Dual Driver licences.
- 1.3 Consultation took place from 10 February 2020 and was concluded on 3 April 2020. The consultation asked a number of questions but also invited general feedback from members of the public and the taxi trade.
- 1.4 The consultation concerned the implementation of dual driver's licences which would replace the current separate private hire and hackney drivers licences. Restricted private hire licences would continue in relation to school contract work. The proposal is to have new dual drivers licences issued as standard and existing licenced drivers could apply for a new licence if they wish to do so.
- 1.5 The holder of a dual drivers licence will still be required to hold the relevant vehicle licence, either a licence for a hackney carriage or one for a private hire vehicle.

2 Consultation Process and Findings

- 2.1 A total of 148 online consultation responses were received from residents, existing hackney and private hire drivers, operators and professional bodies. The results of this online consultation can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 In addition a letter was received from the GMB Union which can be found in **Appendix 2**. Direct correspondence was also received in relation to the consultation which has been collated and provided as **Appendix 3**.
- 2.3 Of the 138 online consultation responses received, 70 responses were received from residents and 68 were received from existing hackney carriage or private hire drivers.
- 2.4 The consultation asked a number of questions, the results which relate to dual driver licences can be found in the tables below.
- 2.5 All Consultation Responses (Trade and Residents)

Consultation Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
Do you think that Lewes District Council should issue Dual Driver Licences rather than Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences? (144 Answers)	51.39%	40.28%	8.33%
Do you think that new dual drivers should be required to undertake the higher taxi standard knowledge test? (145 Answers)	72.41%	24.83%	2.76%
Do you think that existing Private Hire Drivers should undertake a new knowledge test if they wish to change	60.96%	36.3%	2.74%

their existing private hire/hackney carriage to a dual license? (146 answers)			
Do you think that existing Hackney Carriage Drivers should be able to apply for a new dual drivers licence without an additional test as they have already completed the higher standard knowledge test? (145 Answers)	70.34%	24.14%	5.52%

2.6 Driver and Operator Only Responses

Driver/Operator Type	Response Percentage
Hackney Carriage Driver	36.49%
Private Hire Driver	41.89%
Existing Dual Driver	13.51%
Private Hire Operator	5.41%
Professional Body	2.7%

Consultation Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
Do you think that Lewes District Council should issue Dual Driver Licences rather than Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences?	38.89%	52.78%	8.33%
Do you think that new dual drivers should be required to undertake the higher taxi standard knowledge test?	58.11%	37.84%	4.05%
Do you think that existing Private Hire Drivers should undertake a new knowledge test if they wish to change their existing private hire/hackney carriage to a dual license?	44.59%	52.70%	2.70%
Do you think that existing Hackney Carriage Drivers should be able to apply for a new dual drivers licence without an additional test as they have already completed the higher standard knowledge test?	70.27%	27.03%	2.70%

2.7 Residents Only Responses

Consultation Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
Do you think that Lewes District Council should issue Dual Driver Licences rather than Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences?	64.29%	28.57%	7.14%
Do you think that new dual drivers should be required to undertake the higher taxi standard knowledge test?	86.96%	11.59%	1.45%
Do you think that existing Private Hire Drivers should undertake a new knowledge test if they wish to change their existing private hire/hackney carriage to a dual license?	77.14%	20.00%	2.86%
Do you think that existing Hackney Carriage Drivers should be able to apply for a new dual drivers licence without an additional test as they have already completed the higher standard knowledge test?	69.57%	21.74%	8.70%

- 2.8 Overall it can be seen that more than 50% of all consultees thought that dual driver licences should be issued, with only 38% of the trade but 64% of residents.
- 2.9 72% of all consultees thought that new dual drivers should sit the higher taxi knowledge test, with 58% of the trade and 86% of residents.
- 2.10 60% of all consultees thought that existing Private Hire Drivers should undertake a new knowledge test if they wish to change their existing private hire/hackney carriage to a dual license. 44% of the trade were of this opinion and 77% of residents.
- 2.11 In total 70% of all responses agreed that that existing Hackney Carriage Drivers should be able to apply for a new dual drivers licence without an additional test. 70% of the trade were also in agreement and 69% of residents.
- 2.12 The majority of direct responses received which can be seen in **Appendix 3** supported the need for the higher standard knowledge test to be taken by a private hire driver before a Dual licence could be applied for.

3 Options

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider whether or not to implement dual driver licences as standard to all new driver applications.
- 3.2 If dual driver licences are approved Members are asked to consider whether or not all new dual driver applicants should be required to undertake the higher standard knowledge test.

3.3 If dual driver licences are agreed Members are asked to consider whether or not any existing private hire drivers should be required to undertake the higher standard knowledge test as part of any application for a dual drivers licence.

3.4 If dual driver licences are agreed, Members are asked to consider whether or not existing hackney carriage drivers should be required to undertake the higher standard knowledge test as part of any application for a dual drivers licences. Members are asked to note that hackney carriage drivers will have already undertaken the higher standard knowledge test when they first applied for their hackney carriage drivers licence.

4 Financial appraisal

4.1 The introduction of dual licences will have no significant financial impact on licensing income. It may actually increase if private hire operators wish to transfer onto a dual licence and would therefore need to undertake an additional knowledge test.

5 Legal implications

5.1 The Legal Section considered this Report on 3 August 2020 (IKEN 9365-LDC-MW).

6 Risk management implications

6.1 It is necessary for the Council to properly consider the consultation responses prior to making any changes to the Lewes District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Guidance.

7 Equality analysis

7.1 There are no equality implications as a result of this report.

8 Environmental sustainability implications

8.1 There are no environmental sustainability implications as a result of this report.

9 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Dual driver online consultation results 2020
- Appendix 2 – Dual driver consultation GMB response
- Appendix 3 – Dual driver consultation direct responses

10 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

[Lewes District Council Licensing Committee - Thursday, 19th September, 2019 10.00 am](#)