

Community Transport BULLETIN

Supporting transport in your community

July 2015

Contracts awarded for community transport services in Basingstoke

Communities First Wessex has been awarded the contacts for both the Dial-a-Ride and Minibus Group Hire services in the Basingstoke area which are supported by Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment at Hampshire County Council, said: "I'm pleased to say that, following a tender process, the contracts for Basingstoke Dial-a-Ride and Minibus Group Hire services have been awarded to an operator with a good track record and who can offer good value for money for the council taxpayer. Communities First Wessex are already delivering community transport services in East Hampshire, Havant and Winchester under contract to the County Council.



Cllr S Woodward

"I would like to assure residents who use these services that we, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, will be working closely with Communities First Wessex to ensure a smooth handover.

"I would also like to thank Basingstoke Dial-a-Ride and Basingstoke Community Transport for their valuable work running these contracts over past years."

The new contract will bring benefits to Basingstoke residents using the services including booking lines remaining open for longer hours each day and a 'one stop shop' in Basingstoke for all the community transport services which the councils support.

Cabinet Member for Partnerships at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Cllr Cathy Osselton said: "Our priority is that the quality of service is maintained for those people who use and benefit from Community Transport services and we will work with Communities First Wessex and Hampshire County Council to make sure this continues."

Tim Houghton, Chief Executive, Communities First Wessex, added: "We're looking forward to working with Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to provide high quality and responsive Community Transport services for residents in Basingstoke and Deane. We know that Dial a Ride and Community Transport Services are greatly valued by local people and I want to reassure customers that our priority is to maintain the existing excellent quality of these services and the staff so that Communities First Wessex can help as many people as possible who rely on these services to access a wide range of leisure activities, shopping and social clubs.

“We take great pride in putting customers first and look forward to providing high quality services which meets the needs of local residents and community groups needing help with transport.”

The new contract will take effect from 1 September 2015. Users of Basingstoke Dial-a-Ride will be contacted about the new arrangements which will involve them being asked to register with the new operator, Communities First Wessex. The contract award also includes a number of home to school and local bus services which formed part of a package of services for the Basingstoke area which were tendered.

For further information, please contact Hampshire County Council's Passenger Transport team on 01962 846785.



Cango Services – Now Hail and Ride!

The Andover Cango services and the Alresford/Basingstoke Cango services are now running to a set route so passengers can just turn up at the designated time and go rather than booking their journey in advance. Most of the route will be 'hail and ride' so passengers don't even have to walk to a bus stop.



For more information please contact Hampshire County Council on **0845 602 4135**.

Change in rules for emergency exits in minibuses

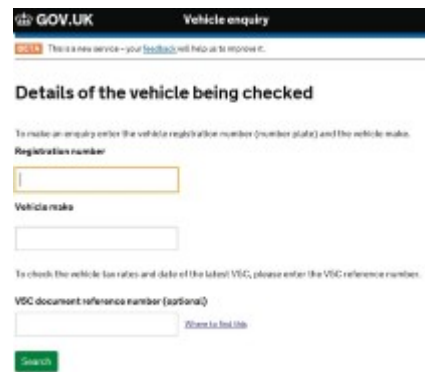
Construction regulations for minibuses have recently been changed by the European Union. It is now acceptable for the second exit in a minibus to be a 'break glass' emergency exit or emergency hatch. Arguably, this is a retrograde step, making it more difficult to evacuate a minibus than using the rear doors, but that is how the regulations have been written. It explains why some versions of the new model Ford Transit minibus have seats right across the back.

Online check for vehicle tax, MoT and more

For those that may not be aware; since the abolition of tax discs it is now possible to do an on-line check for any vehicle and find out whether it is taxed and MoT'd. Simply visit the web address below and enter the vehicle's make and registration number.

Other information that is provided includes: the date it was first registered, colour, engine size, year of manufacture, CO2 emissions and revenue weight.

www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-information-from-dvla



The screenshot shows the 'Vehicle enquiry' form on the GOV.UK website. It includes a header with the GOV.UK logo and the text 'This is a new service - your feedback will help us to improve it.' Below the header, the title 'Details of the vehicle being checked' is followed by instructions: 'To make an enquiry enter the vehicle registration number (number plate) and the vehicle make.' There are input fields for 'Registration number' and 'Vehicle make'. Further down, it says 'To check the vehicle tax rates and date of the latest VSC, please enter the VSC reference number.' There is an input field for 'VSC document reference number (optional)' and a 'Where to find this' link. A green 'Search' button is at the bottom.

DVLA changes to driving licence checking

You should already be aware that the paper counterpart to the driving licence was abolished on 8 June 2015 and that you can now check licence details online. One further change, as from 10 July, is that where a driver provides you with a 'licence check code' (also known as a 'share code') this will now be valid for 21 days. Until recently it has only been valid for 72 hours so the change is welcome.

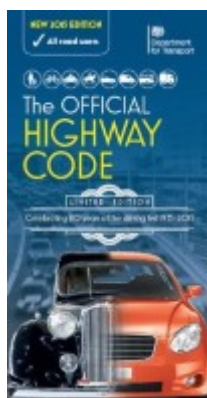
For more information please see: <https://dvladigital.blog.gov.uk/2015/07/10/share-driving-licence-changes-to-the-check-code/>

2015 edition of the Highway Code available now

A new limited edition version of the Highway Code has been launched in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the driving test.

"This 2015 edition includes the new drug-driving laws, HGV speed limit changes on single and dual carriageways in England and Wales, updated drink-driving limits in Scotland and general rule changes."

Extract from: www.safedrivingforlife.info/shop/product/official-highway-code-new-edition-2015



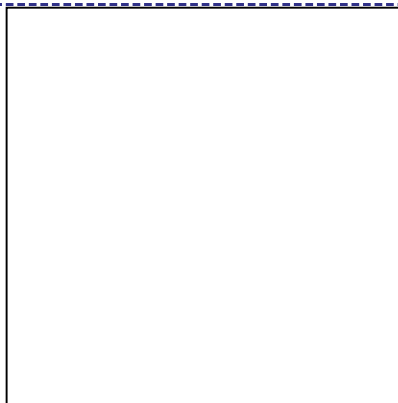
Save the date for Minibus Briefing Sessions - Tuesday 6 October 2015

This October, Hampshire County Council will once again be offering three briefing sessions specifically aimed at organisations which run their own minibus. These will be short sessions on: Section 19 Permits, Driver Licensing, and Minibus Maintenance. The sessions will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 6 October in Winchester with exact timings to be confirmed. If you are interested please save the date - further information will be sent out after the school holidays.

This CT Bulletin is available for download as a PDF from the following link:

www.hants.gov.uk/communitytransport

(Please note it may take up to two working days to appear online)



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