



# TAXI News

[www.warwickdc.gov.uk](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk)

Issue 1 | August 2018



**Welcome to Taxi News, a newsletter from Warwick District Council to help keep licensed drivers in the district updated with the latest news and useful information.**

## Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Taxi Times

We are introducing a newsletter as a means of 2 way communication. In this issue we have written about issues that are important to us as a licensing team, but that we think are equally important to you as licence holders.

In future issues we would like to take the opportunity to answer some of your questions and update you on on-going projects or enforcement work.

If you have a question that you would like answered, and we feel that other licence holders may have the same question or concern we will address the issue in the newsletter for everyone's benefit.

If you would like to contact us about future articles please send your questions or ideas in writing and mark your letter or email "Newsletter".

I hope you find the Taxi Times useful!

## Enforcement Update

Officers are still 'out and about' both during the day and through the night.

A WDC driver has had their licence revoked at a hearing for receiving multiple complaints about their driving standards.

Two New driver applicants have been refused licences at hearings as they did not meet our licence requirements.

A number of vehicles have lost their licences due to late production of renewal paperwork and a number of drivers and vehicles have been unable to work due to the late presentation of renewal paperwork.

## National Transport Tokens

WDC Licensing Team has been contacted by National Transport Tokens to inform us that they will cease trading on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

If you currently accept their aluminium transport tokens in payment for any journeys you have until the 31<sup>st</sup> October to redeem them.

More information is available on our web site, including contact details for NTT.

## Taxi Rank Review

Together with Warwickshire County Council, we are reviewing all taxi ranks. The aim of the review is to clarify some of the confusion that is caused by the times of operation for some of the temporary ranks, and to reduce the likelihood that private vehicles will be parked in our ranks.

We are currently working to replace some of the existing 'Traffic Orders' to standardise the operating hours of the temporary ranks. This will extend the hours of some of the temporary ranks and make no changes to others. We are also looking in to the possibility of closing some of the physical gaps in some of the ranks.

Alongside this, we are working with colleagues at WDC to improve the information available on the web site, and colleagues from WCC to improve the town centre signage in all of the main towns.

At this stage we are not proposing to add any additional ranks or to extend any of the existing ranks. If you have any suggestions that you would like to add to the review please contact the licensing team in writing and mark your letter or email "Rank Review".

**For more information please contact the licensing team on 01926 456705 or [licensing@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@warwickdc.gov.uk) or visit [www.warwickdc.gov.uk](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk)**

## Uber Update

### UBER REGIONS - MIDLANDS

Uber vehicles continue to work within the District, in the main they are doing so legally. The change to the operating practices within Uber will not change the fact that Uber vehicles will be working here. While we should no longer be seeing vehicles from TFL or Manchester, we will still be seeing vehicles from any of the Midlands authorities.

### ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Officers have been out in the town and we are currently pursuing cases with Uber drivers from Birmingham and Wolverhampton. One of those cases was brought to our attention by one of our drivers sending pictures of the vehicle, driver and licence plate to [Licensing@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@warwickdc.gov.uk) together with a statement of what, where and when.

## The Licence Holders Conduct Scheme (LHCS)

The aim of the LHCS is to add to the enforcement options available to Licensing Enforcement Officers. It provides us with a more formal, stepped action plan. It is designed to be transparent, fair and proportionate. All licence holders are treated in the same way, and full details of the scheme can be found in the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers, Vehicles and Operators Handbook.

The primary objective of the scheme is to improve levels of compliance and to help us to improve standards for the travelling public.

Any points awarded to you will remain on a licence for twelve months. The period is on a roll forward basis, so as to allow any older points to be considered as spent and therefore excluded from the running total recorded against any individual licensee. The trigger for referral to committee for any licence holder is 12 points for a driver or vehicle and 24 points for an Operator licence.

However, the full conduct of a licence holder over the full duration of their licence holding history will be considered by committee in their determination of the appropriate course of action.

Complaints from the public concerning significant breaches of conduct will be subject to investigation by Officers and may be reported to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, for the issue of discretionary points.

We would urge licence holders to read the full policy statement in the handbook and be aware of the scheme.

## Zero Emission Taxi Excise Duty

The government have recently published a proposal to remove the 'Expensive Car Supplement' for new zero-emission taxi vehicles.

The law will be changed in April 2019 to remove the additional VED payment for purpose built zero-emission taxi vehicles.

## Hot Topics

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A number of renewing drivers have been found to have had moved home address during the previous licence period and not informed the Licensing Team of the changes. It is both a condition of your licence and a legal requirement that you 'inform us in writing, within 7 days of the change taking place'. 3 points on the Licence holders conduct scheme (LHCS) will be issued for the first offence and 9 for the second, beyond that more formal action may be taken. We cannot tell you about changes to your licence if we cannot contact you!

### CHANGE IN MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If your medical condition changes, or you are diagnosed with a medical condition, you must inform us. It is a condition of your licence to inform us of any changes within 7 days (or as soon as is practical) in writing. In many cases it will have little bearing on your licence, however, not informing us of a change could lead to us issuing 6 points under the LHCS.

### ACCIDENTS AND CONVICTIONS

A number of drivers have failed to inform the licensing team of accidents that they have been involved with, and driving or other convictions or cautions that have been issued to them during the period of their licence. In some cases that has led to the late renewal of their licence and attendance at a Licensing and Regulatory Panel. You are required to inform us in writing of any of the above within 7 days. Failing to tell us will result in 6 points under the LHCS being issued.

### PLATES AND SIGNAGE

A number of vehicles have been found to be displaying their licence plate in windows or on removable magnetic strips. Your plate must be 'permanently affixed to the vehicle'. 6 Points under the LHCS will be issued on the first offence and more formal action will be taken on a second offence.