

St Albans Licensing

Newsletter

February 2020

Renewal Appointments

If you are due to renew your private hire driver's licence or hackney carriage driver's licence you should aim to have an appointment 6 weeks before expiry.

If you are due to renew your private hire vehicle or hackney carriage driver's badge you should aim to have an appointment 28 days before expiry.

If you do **not** apply to renew your licence before it expires then you will not be able to work, and would need to apply for a new licence.

To book your renewal appointment call us on 01727 819264 or email licensing@stalbans.gov.uk and we will be happy to advise you.

Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate

As part of your driver licence renewal you are required to complete an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The applicant is the only person who will receive a copy of the certificate. When you receive your DBS Disclosure, you must provide us with the original certificate. We cannot accept photocopies or photos emailed to us.

You will need to hand in the original certificate to reception (no appointment is required) Failure to provide us with the DBS certificate will result in a delay to your licence being issued.

Coping with cold, snow and ice

Breakdowns are more common in the winter and road conditions can be challenging, especially when snow and ice strike. Here are some tips to ensure your safety:

- Clean your windscreen inside and out.
- Replace worn or damaged wiper blades.
- Don't leave your wipers on auto when you park up if there's a risk of frost. If the blades freeze to the screen, you could damage the blades or wiper motor when you turn the ignition on.
- Use a suitable additive in your screenwash to reduce the chance of it freezing.
- Make sure all lights are working and lenses clean.
- If you have to clear snow, don't forget the lights – front and back.
- Clear snow from the roof – it can fall onto the windscreen and block your view.

Hackney Carriage Ranks

We would like to remind all hackney carriage drivers that there is no legal requirement that a passenger must take the first hackney carriage in the line of vehicles at a rank.

While you may agree with yourselves that the rank operates on a 'first come first serve basis', it is important to note that the hirer is free to choose any vehicle that they might prefer.

Anti-idling Reminder

The Council is aware many drivers already switch off their engines on the taxi ranks, but we are receiving an increasing number of complaints about taxis idling at the railway station and in St Peter's Street. Please remember to switch your engine off if you will be stationary for more than a few minutes. This will help to improve your air quality and save you money in fuel costs.

Paper Licences

Upon granting a driver or vehicle licence the council will issue you with a paper licence. The badge or plate provided with the paper licence are only there to show the public that you hold a licence. The paper licence is your official licence. Please ensure that you keep your paper licences in a safe place.

Recently we have had an influx of request for copies of the paper licence. The council does not currently charge for these copies to be issued, however this may change in the future. To avoid misplacing your paper licences file them with you important vehicle documents (V5. Insurance)

South Central Growth and Transport Plan (SCGTP)

Hertfordshire County Council has developed the South Central Growth and Transport Plan (SCGTP) which covers the Southern end of the A1(M), including the towns of Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Potters Bar, Borehamwood, Radlett and St Albans and key transport links between these towns and to surrounding areas. The SCGTP considers the key problems and opportunities which currently exist or may in the future on the transport network and identifies what types of interventions are needed to improve the transport network.

SCGTP identifies a set of 36 intervention packages which are based in towns and on key routes between them. The Plan is set out to enable readers to identify and focus on the intervention packages for their areas rather than having to read the document in its entirety. The packages are divided as follows:

Hatfield	Packages 1 -7
Welwyn Garden City connections to other towns	Packages 8 –11
Welwyn Garden City	Packages 12 – 14
Welwyn Garden City connections to larger towns	Packages 15-16
Potters Bar	Packages 17 -19
Borehamwood	Packages 20-22
Radlett	Package 23
St Albans	Package 24 – 29
St Albans District	Packages 30 - 36

The plan has been developed with support from HCC's consultant AECOM and has received input from district and borough councils in the area during the development of the Plan,

including workshops with key officers, and portfolio holders, and sought feedback during development and on earlier drafts.

We are writing to you to seek formal endorsement from St Albans City and District Council for the South Central Growth & Transport Plan as part of this consultation process. We would appreciate indication of your endorsement in the form of a supporting letter.

Consultation

Public consultation on the draft South Central Growth and Transport Plan starts on 6 January 2020 and **closes 30 March 2020**

The consultation material and supporting documents are online and you are invited to give us your views through the online survey at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations
You can also give additional feedback by email to A1GTP@hertfordshire.gov.uk

If you are not able to use the online survey, a response form can be provided on request to A1GTP@hertfordshire.gov.uk Paper copies of the SCGTP will be available for reference in libraries and district council offices in the plan area shortly.

To help us reach as many stakeholders as possible, I would be grateful if you could provide me with the email addresses for taxi associations within your district (or by passing the message onto the relevant contacts) regarding the North Central draft Growth and Transport Plan public consultation that started today.

Your comments and feedback will be considered in finalisation of the SCGTP.

If you have any queries, please contact A1GTP@hertfordshire.gov.uk.