

Essential information for new arrivals in Derbyshire

driving & travel



In Derbyshire, there are people from different backgrounds, ages, cultures and religions, who we hope feel they belong to one community. The information provided outlines the key elements of living in a cohesive community, as well as how to engage with various services to make the most for your life in Derbyshire.

The Derbyshire Constabulary's Community Safety Team at Force Headquarters has made every effort to ensure the information provided from its own and partner organisations, is accurate at the time of publication. The information may change over time and is for guidance purposes only.

Readers are therefore encouraged to obtain copies of the other leaflets designed to help new arrivals settle into their life within Derbyshire through accessing services available.

Driving licence

Before driving on a road, it is important to make sure you fulfil the legal requirements and understand the correct procedures before making a journey. If you have a full driving licence issued in a European Economic Area (EEA) country, you do not need to exchange it for a UK licence.

It is advised by Derbyshire Constabulary that you change this into a full UK driving licence after the first 12 month period to avoid confusion when questioned by the police. If you have a non-EEA driving licence, you can only drive for up to 12 months from the date you first arrived. After 12 months, you must obtain a provisional UK licence. Details and application forms for this process can be obtained from your local Post Office. When questioned by the police, you will also need to provide the UK counterpart driving licence alongside your plastic identity card.

Vehicle documentation

All motor vehicles in the UK must be registered, taxed, and insured with UK documentation. When your car insurance is due for renewal, this must be taken out with a UK car insurance company and insured for use within the UK.

If your car is more than 3 years old, the car must be checked by a registered garage and a certificate of road-worthiness (known as an MOT test) obtained every year before the expiry of the last MOT, which is valid for 12 months.

Your vehicle will also need a motor vehicle licence and registered for driving within the UK. This can be obtained through applying for your Motor vehicle licence (known as tax) through the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). This can be completed online at www.taxdisc.direct.gov.uk or alternatively you could apply through your local post office using the postal reminder to renew your tax disc.

It is important to bear in mind that after 12 months of driving within the UK, you must change your original registration plate for a UK one.

To drive a car or motorcycle in the UK, you must:

- be at least 17 years old
- have a valid driving licence
- have UK vehicle insurance
- display a valid tax disc in your vehicle
- have a valid MOT certificate for your vehicle

If you have an accident in a motor vehicle, you must stop and give:

- your name and address
- the name of your insurance company
- the name and address of the vehicle's owner (if different)

To all the other drivers/pedestrians/cyclists involved, the owners of any property that has been damaged and anyone acting on their behalf.

Safety for drivers and their passengers

- The law in the UK states that seatbelts must be worn by all passengers and drivers where they are fitted i.e. both in the front and back
- Children must also wear a seat belt and sit in the correct car seat. Drivers with children not obeying these rules could be fined. For further information visit: www.protectchildgb.org.uk
- All children up to 135 centimetres in height or aged 12 (whichever comes first) must travel in the correct child restraint for their weight in all motor vehicles
- Never drive with a child on your lap
- Airbags should be switched off if a child under 12 years old is travelling in the front passenger seat

Public transport

If you do not own your own vehicle and/or are interested in supporting the environment, there are several means of public transport available to you within the UK. These include; buses, trams, trains, community car schemes, taxis, cycling and walking.

Buses, trams and trains all operate a timetabled service within the County and Nationally, which are payable at the start of your journey and you will be charged for travel to your destination point. There may be some concessionary fares available on these methods of transport, and they are usually cheaper than travelling by another means.

Taxis are generally more expensive than using a bus or train, but are flexible to take you to your exact destination point.

Cycling helps to reduce congestion, improve the environment and increase people's health and fitness. Some roads have special cycle lanes which help keep cyclists safe from cars. Cyclists do however also have to follow the Highway Code and it is strongly advisable to wear a cycle helmet and reflective strips for your personal safety.

Useful contacts

You are advised that you can attend any of the 46 Derbyshire County Council's state public libraries, which have 400 public PC's with free broadband access. These will assist you in accessing some of the information which is provided on the websites listed below.

Copy of the Highway Code is available at:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/travelandtransport/highwaycode/index.htm

The Department of Transport Road Safety www.dft.gov.uk/think

For further information on driving www.direct.gov.uk/motoring

For renewing your Tax Disc take your renewal letter into your local participating Post Office or visit: www.taxdisc.direct.gov.uk

For further information on public transport in Derbyshire, including bus timetables, journey maps and links to transport providers
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/public_transport
www.nationalexpress.com

East Midlands Trains

www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk www.thetrainline.co.uk

Some key council services are dealt with by Call Derbyshire
(Derbyshire County Council's contact centre)

Tel: 08456 058058 (weekdays 8am-8pm and Saturdays 9:30am-4pm)
www.derbyshire.gov.uk

If you require this leaflet in Braille, large print or another format,
please write with your request and contact details to:
Force Headquarters Butterley Hall Ripley Derbyshire DE5 3RS
or Tel: 0345 123 3333.

www.derbyshire.police.uk

In producing this and associated leaflets, various partner
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