

Driving Excellence

in Derbyshire



**CORPORATE &
TRANSACTIONAL**

A Local Authority Guide to Transport Operation

Summary

We're all in the same business - so doesn't it make sense we all work together? That's the feeling among local authorities in Derbyshire and one of the reasons why they have an excellent reputation for partnership working.

Local authorities in Derbyshire have been working hard to analyse their transport operations because they found it's an area which could derive benefit from information sharing.

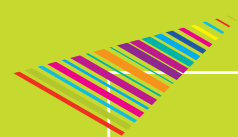
One of the results of their partnership working is the 'Driving Excellence in Derbyshire' guide which brings together a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience from across the county. The following case study showcases how the guide came into existence and why it is particularly useful to local authorities, in Derbyshire, the East Midlands, and nationwide.

Quote

"I know this guide will not just be kept in every garage and traffic office but will also be used regularly as a practical working document that will soon become indispensable to every busy transport operator. I am delighted to endorse it."

Beverley Bell,
Traffic Commissioner
North West Traffic Area

Improvement through efficiency



Centre of
Excellence

East Midlands

emce.gov.uk

Project background

Local authority chief executives in Derbyshire have worked closely with their partner organisations for many years, with the aim of providing benefits for the whole county. In 2005 the partnership held a workshop to examine areas where increased collaboration could deliver advantages.

One area where potential benefits were immediately obvious was the transport operation which shared many common factors such as staff, vehicles, depots, procurement, maintenance and training. In response to this Derbyshire County Council's chief executive Nick Hodgson was asked to lead a new Transport Working Group (TWG). The TWG brought together key transport personnel from all eleven local authorities within the county and Derbyshire Constabulary.

The group set about designing an action plan which would eliminate risks to the authorities' ability to deliver frontline services and reduce any subsequent financial implications, for example safeguarding the Operator's Licence and duty of care.

The idea to harness expertise from around Derbyshire resulted from a March 2006 transport seminar designed to raise transport safety awareness.

Keynote speaker was North West Traffic Commissioner Beverley Bell who praised the work being done in Derbyshire and asked if the county's Transport Working Group would consider producing a best practice guide for local authority transport.

Objectives

In response to this request the Transport Working Group set out bring together their vast wealth of knowledge, skills and experience from across the county, and set about identifying the key objectives for a guide document.

The group agreed that the guide should:

- Inform experienced drivers as well as those with limited knowledge of transport legislation and how it affects their work
- Act as a guide to those who set transport policy within the authority
- Be designed and published in format relevant to the subject matter

- Consist of individual booklets for each subject area. It will then be possible to update each subject area and avoid the expense of republishing the whole guide
- Be easy to read and understand.

The completed guide was titled 'Driving Excellence in Derbyshire - a local authority guide to transport operation'.

The guide has been published as an electronic document for web download and as a glove box sized wallet information pack which is easy to store in a vehicle or carry.

The guide

By publishing the Driving Excellence in Derbyshire guide the TWG has shown that there are numerous benefits available to those who are prepared to work in partnership with fellow local authorities on a common area of concern.

Driving Excellence in Derbyshire has been published in six key sections incorporating an explanatory introduction, reference guide and the five key areas of transport safety.

Each section not only covers an organisation's main fleet but also their 'grey feet', in other words employees who use their own vehicle in connection with their work.

The guide provides an overview of the legislation associated with local authority fleet operations and is therefore useful to staff who are required to work to procedures without understanding their origin. It also acts as a checklist for those who write transport policies.

The ability to monitor performance is vital to managing any local authority function and these guides also detail Key Performance Indicators which all transport operations should monitor against.

Driving Excellence in Derbyshire - the six sections:

- Introduction
- The Operator's Licence
- Vehicle maintenance
- Duty of care
- Drivers duties
- Hired in vehicles.

Benefits achieved and lessons learned

By publishing the Driving Excellence in Derbyshire guide the TWG has shown that there are numerous benefits available to those who are prepared to work in partnership with fellow local authorities on a common area of concern.

By drawing upon the knowledge of twelve public sector bodies the TWG was able to produce a guide that would cover every base and ensure that no grey areas existed.

Savings have also been made by designing a single information pack, and by exploiting the significant discounts that can be obtained by printing large volumes of a single print run.

Risks

Local authority transport operations can be called to public inquiries. These inquiries can be damaging to an authority's reputation and can impact on budgets and future operations.

To reduce the risk of this happening Driving Excellence in Derbyshire is designed to help transport managers to review current policies and to provide drivers and staff with information in an easy-to-use format, that explains why it is important to conform to the authority's policies.

Role of RCE

The East Midlands Centre of Excellence understood the importance of Derbyshire's 'local authority guide to transport operation', and provided £3,000 in financial support towards the publication and printing costs. The additional financial, developmental, and promotional support from the EMCE is intended to help this guide become part of every transport operators' reference collection.

As the financial contribution to this project was a small one off payment, and because the EMCE did not initiate this project a Return on Investment analysis was not undertaken.

Partner authorities

Amber Valley Borough Council
Bolsover District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Derby City Council
Derbyshire Constabulary
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Erewash Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
Peak District National Park Authority
South Derbyshire District Council

Web guide

Download the web version of Driving Excellence in Derbyshire from the case study page at www.emce.gov.uk

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