

The latest news, views, and announcements

Digital Driving Licences

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The government has announced the introduction of a digital driving licence, a new initiative set to roll out later this year with the aim of making access to driving credentials more convenient and secure for individuals and businesses alike.

The DVLA is developing the digital licence, which will be accessible through the GOV.UK Wallet, a new smartphone app developed to store official digital documents securely and is designed to complement the existing plastic card licence, which will remain valid and in use alongside its digital counterpart.

This change will eliminate the need to carry the physical card for everyday tasks such as identification or proof of entitlement to drive and includes advanced security features to protect drivers' information, reducing risks associated with lost or stolen licences.

The move to a digital driving licence is part of a broader effort to streamline DVLA services. Other improvements include the ability to register newly purchased vehicles online, replacing the current paper-based process. These updates are aimed at reducing administrative burdens, improving service efficiency, and supporting the transition to a more digital economy.

Further details about the digital driving licence, including its launch date and specific functionalities, are expected to be released in the coming months. This innovation represents a positive step forward in the modernisation of transport-related services, benefiting individuals and businesses across the UK.

Dates for Your Diary



25th February

Members Meeting

9th March

Members Dinner

The Stratford Manor Hotel,
Stratford Upon Avon

10th March

AGM & Conference

Volvo Group, Warwick

27th March

The Big Coach Conversation
Derbyshire County Cricket Club

12th & 13th April

UK Coach Rally, Blackpool

Call for Ideas on Integrated National Transport Strategy Closes Soon

The government's Call for Ideas on the future of transport in the UK is closing soon, with the deadline for submissions set for 20th February 2025. This is a crucial opportunity for the coach sector to have its say on the development of a long-term Integrated National Transport Strategy.

The Department for Transport is seeking input from individuals, businesses, and organisations on how the country's transport networks can be improved to better support economic growth, connectivity, and sustainability.

This consultation provides an important chance for the coach sector to make its voice heard. Operators can highlight key issues, including the challenges related to roads and congestion, EV charging infrastructure, accessibility, and the need for policies that support coach-friendly environments.

UKCOA members are encouraged to respond before the deadline to ensure that the voice of the coach industry is heard in shaping future transport policy.

For full details and to submit your response, visit the Government's Call for Ideas page [here](#).

Temporary Closure of Great Yarmouth Beach Coach Station

Great Yarmouth's Beach Coach Station, located on North Drive near the seafront, was closed temporarily on Monday, 27th January until Friday, 14th February. This closure will allow for an assessment of the site's suitability for redevelopment into housing as part of the council's efforts to meet local housing needs.

The station is an important facility for coaches bringing visitors to the town, offering parking and drop-off points for group travel but during the closure, coach operators will need to make alternative arrangements.

The possible long-term redevelopment of the site into housing raises concerns about the future availability of dedicated coach parking in Great Yarmouth. While no final decisions have been announced, the closure highlights the challenges faced by towns balancing housing needs with maintaining infrastructure for tourism.



Great Yarmouth remains a popular destination for coach travel, and maintaining suitable facilities will be vital to supporting its economy and tourism sector.

Norfolk County council has stated its commitment to engaging with stakeholders to find solutions that accommodate both housing needs and the continued accessibility of Great Yarmouth for coach operators.



Drury Lane, London will be closed between Aldwych and Jean Street from 24 February to 7 March 2025.

An Unforgettable Evening at the Winter Ball

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and attended our Winter Ball on Saturday! It was an incredible evening, made even more special by the wonderful mix of members, industry partners, colleagues, family, and friends who joined us. Your presence helped create a warm and festive atmosphere, and we couldn't have asked for a better turnout.

Thank you all for making this night truly unforgettable, and we look forward to celebrating with you again in the future!

