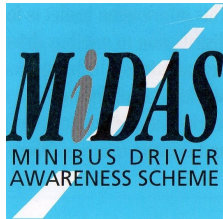


Minibus Volunteer Drivers

In addition to a volunteer car driver, MDCT Volunteer Minibus Drivers;

- may need a D1 entitlement on their driving licence
- be willing to undergo the nationally recognised Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme course (MiDAS)
- are reimbursed for any mileage they incur to/from the minibus pick-up/drop-off point.



MiDAS stands for the Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme. This is a nationally approved two day training course, covering the driving of minibuses and passenger related safety. All MDCT minibus drivers receive free MiDAS training and the certificate is valid for 4 years.

MDCT always requires more Volunteer Drivers

For more information regarding our services or volunteering opportunities contact Viking on

01621 843 164



Viking Community Transport is the operational name of
Maldon District Community Transport: Registered Charity No 1131334
A company limited by guarantee – registered in England No 6514901
A wholly owned subsidiary of Maldon & District Community Volunteer Service:
The Square, Holloway Road, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex. CM9 6ER



Registered Charity No 1131334

Who we are and what we do

Maldon District Community Transport (MDCT) took over the running of Viking from Essex County Council in 2008 and the name has been retained for continuity purposes. Viking continues to be funded by Essex County Council in partnership with Maldon District Council.

The aims of MDCT are to provide and maintain non-profit transport services for the inhabitants of the District of Maldon and its environs who have need, because of age, mental or physical disability, poverty, geographical isolation, social and economic disadvantages or by reason of inadequate means to transport themselves.

MDCT is a not for profit organisation and a subsidiary of Maldon and District Community Volunteer Services (CVS) Both MDCT and the CVS are registered charities in their own right.

Like most schemes MDCT operates as a membership scheme with transport being provided by mainly volunteer drivers, either using their own vehicles or one of the organisation's minibuses. All of the volunteers are checked for criminal records and minibus drivers undergo training through the Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme (MiDAS).

MDCT always needs more volunteers

MDCT is a member of the national Community Transport Association (C.T.A.)



Book-A-Ride Scheme



In essence the Book-A-Ride scheme is a pre-booked, chargeable service that collects a member from their home and takes him/her to their required destination. This can be used by members for such things as shopping, visiting friends, social outings, learning opportunities, to visit friends or relatives in hospital, etc. This service is carried out either by volunteers using their own vehicles, or by wheelchair accessible minibus.

Contributions to the Book-A-Ride Scheme are currently 40p per mile (min charge £2.00 per one way trip) for all related miles travelled by the volunteer in their own vehicle, however if there is no volunteer driver available within a reasonable distance of the passenger's pick up, MDCT may subsidise up to £2.00 for each journey. Due to the increased costs of running a minibus, a subsidised sliding scale is used for the accessible minibuses and is available on application.

- Annual Subscription to the scheme is £7.50 per year.
- Every journey must be booked with our office with a min 2 working days notice whenever possible.
- Journeys may be "block booked" for regular journeys.
- Journeys may be booked by anybody on behalf of a member.
- Journeys are booked on a first come first served basis.
- Two return journeys per week*.
- All carers/escorts travel free of charge

All bookings are dependant on a volunteer driver being available.

* This may be increased if volunteers are available and/or the need is unexpected e.g. doctors visit.

Excursions

All Book-a-Ride members are eligible for occasional minibus excursions that are operated by MDCT for the benefit of its members. Trips could be special shopping trips to larger nearby towns, sightseeing trips or simply a social trip to a local pub or restaurant. These trips are organised around the availability of a suitable minibus.



Minibus Hire Scheme

This enables any bona fide non-profit making group within the District of Maldon to hire a minibus.



We currently have four fully accessible minibuses with rear tail lifts, seating a maximum of 12 or 15 passengers depending on the vehicle and a maximum of 2-5 wheelchairs. The numbers of passenger seats have to be reduced to accommodate wheelchairs and the seating arrangements may vary.



- Bookings are made on a first come first served basis.
- Bookings must be made at least 5 working days in advance.
- Annual Subscription is £15.00.
- Cost to hire a minibus is £1.00 per mile for the total journey.
- There is a minimum charge £15.00 per hire

(Special lower rates apply for mileage over 100 miles and an extra charge will apply for hires over one day)

*Some electric wheelchairs/scooters cannot be accommodated due to their weight and/or design.

Volunteer Drivers

With only two part time minibus drivers MDCT relies very heavily on volunteer drivers to provide their services.

- Volunteers must have a valid clean driving licence
- Be able to assist people in and out of vehicles
- Supply two references and undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check.
- Volunteers may reclaim out of pocket expenses including any mileage incurred whilst volunteering at 40p per mile.
- If driving their own vehicle, it must be adequately insured** and roadworthy with a current test certificate and tax disc.

** Help will be given to notify the insurance company and volunteering should not affect any premiums.