



# Car Club Development in Scotland - a Review

for sustainable transport

## **Transform Scotland Trust - Car Clubs Review**

### **Is there a mutual route for car clubs?**

Consultation on Car Clubs and Co-operatives

**Glasgow** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

Venue: Scottish Enterprise 13.00 – 15.00 (incl. light lunch)

Transform Scotland Trust is currently conducting a review of car club development in Scotland to identify what is required to create a more supportive environment for both commercial car clubs to flourish in bigger conurbations and co-operative or voluntary schemes in smaller communities. The review will bring forward recommendations for the Scottish Government and local government and will consider the potential contribution that car clubs can make both directly and indirectly to reducing carbon emissions from transport.

In Scotland today the only car club of any significance is operated by a private company. In the UK just four private companies dominate the market. But as in Europe and North America, there are several successful smaller car clubs operating, which are run as mutuals. The independent car club sector, which includes independent consumer co-ops and community interest companies, faces some difficult challenges. Through buying in “back office” and other services it is gearing up for a decade of change in society’s relationship to the car.

Is the mutual the route for car clubs in Scotland? Will car clubs work effectively in smaller towns and rural areas, where private operators are unlikely to provide services? Or are the business opportunities here currently too difficult for any business to thrive?

This workshop will examine whether car club development in Scotland could take the mutual route. Key issues include:

Scale of operation

Capital requirements

Employment opportunities

Relationship with private car club operators

Opportunities for co-operation with public transport providers

Role of local authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships

This workshop complements the four regional consultations and is designed to explore opportunities for developing car-sharing clubs as co-operatives. The final regional workshops are in Perth (9<sup>th</sup> November) and Linlithgow (3<sup>rd</sup> December)

**Transform Scotland Trust (Registered Scottish charity SC036706) [www.transformscotland.org.uk](http://www.transformscotland.org.uk)**

The project is funded by 3 regional transport partnerships – SEStran, SPT, TACTRAN - and by Co-operative Development Scotland.

The project would also like to acknowledge the support of HITRANS, First ScotRail and the Scottish Government.

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Chas Ball is an associate with Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd RATC Ltd is providing support services for this project [www.ratransport.co.uk](http://www.ratransport.co.uk)



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## Outline Programme

13.00	Coffee/tea – registration and light lunch
13.15	<i>Transform Scotland Trust</i> – Consultation objectives
	Participants – introductions
13.30	<i>Chas Ball, founder, City Car Club (TST consultant)</i> Car clubs – introduction to key issues for the day 1. How car clubs work, who uses them and what is their effect? 2. Business models and legal structures – commercial – community enterprise - co-operative
13.50	Focus on co-operatives and car clubs – opportunities for expanding the sector. Discussion
14.50	Summarising group findings Conclusions – key points for the Car Club Review

Venue: Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, Atrium Court, 50 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6HQ. Transform Scotland Trust would like to thank Co-operative Development Scotland for arranging the venue for this event.

Please use the web-based booking form on the same page as the programme to reserve a place or send us an e-mail. The workshop is free but places are limited. Coffee and tea and light snack on arrival. We will send you joining instructions by e-mail before the event.

If you have any problems with making a booking please ring Jen Taylor at RATC Ltd on 0161 368 6603 or e-mail [info@ratransport.co.uk](mailto:info@ratransport.co.uk).

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Consultant, Transform Scotland Trust  
October 2009

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