

## **Car Clubs Show Exponential Growth**

Data reveals new growth trends across UK

Carplus, the national charity promoting responsible car use has published its first quarterly report into the increasing influence of car clubs in Britain. The report is based on data provided by the four accredited operators of car clubs in this country and is the first of its kind to make nationally coordinated data publicly available.

The report reveals important trends in membership growth, with the number of members rising rapidly in recent years to its current level of 23,000, mainly due to a large concentration of members within London (70%) and the major cities across the UK. The number of vehicles currently available to car club members stands at 700, with an overall average of 32 members per car. It is expected that these figures will continue to increase rapidly, over the coming months, as new car clubs launch across the UK and existing clubs attract new members.

Carplus revamped its accreditation scheme this year to include the collection of data on growth, private car displacement and modal shift. The scheme was originally launched in 2005 with the endorsement of the Department for Transport. Accredited operators are required to provide a certain level of service in order to obtain certification. Only accredited operators are permitted to tender for contracts in many local authority regions. The four accredited operators are currently City Car Club, Streetcar, WhizzGo and Zipcar.

Antonia Roberts, Co-Director of Carplus said 'We are very pleased with the data – this is the first time we have been able to present a national picture of car clubs. They show, as we expected, that car clubs are continuing to increase their influence across the country. Carplus will continue working towards a national network of car clubs, where everyone will experience the benefits of access to a car without ownership.'

A copy of the report is available to download from [www.carplus.org.uk](http://www.carplus.org.uk) and click on Resources.

Notes to Editors:

Carplus is a national charity, which urges a rethink of car use. Recognising the benefits of the car the organisation seeks to minimise the financial and environmental burdens current patterns of car use place upon society.

Carplus is developing a programme of responsible car use, including a national network of car clubs and car sharing alongside other suitable measures to complement an acceptable sustainable transport system across the country.

Carplus Co-director, Antonia Roberts, is available for further information, comment or interview on 0113 234 9299

### **Car clubs**

A car club provides its members with quick and easy access to a car for short term hire. Members can make use of car club vehicles as and when they need them. All they have to do is:

- Book - for as little as half an hour at a time, using telephone or internet. The booking can be made well ahead of time or with a few minutes notice and can be extended if necessary.
- Unlock - cars are located at designated parking bays in the local area and accessed using the member's smart card
- Drive – Once inside the driver enters a pin and drives away, returning the car at the end of the journey. It is possible to extend the booking if necessary
- Pay - Pay-as-you-go charges include fuel and maintenance costs.