

The National Network Proposal



Carplus has submitted plans to the Department of Transport to roll out a network of car clubs across the country. The four year plan will significantly increase the spread and speed of car club growth giving 180 000 people access to 8 000 cars. At a cost to the public of £12.8m, the project will deliver an annual carbon saving of over 135 000 tonnes per annum after 25 years. The project shows a Benefit Cost Ratio of 9.49 and is clearly excellent value for money.

Car clubs bring a range of benefits:

- Significant reduction in carbon emissions
- Easing congestion
- Enhancing travel plans (workplace, residential, school)
- Reducing transport costs (household and business)
- Supporting sustainable transport
- Revitalising communities and neighbourhoods
- Enabling regeneration of city centres without increasing traffic through reduced parking ratios
- Enhancing social inclusion and accessibility by increasing transport choice
- Reaching non traditional public transport segments
- Creating new businesses and employment
- Air quality improvements
- Health benefits

The proposed project will deliver these benefits approximately ten times faster than if development is left to market forces. It will, paradoxically, both increase accessibility and reduce car use. These benefits are achieved voluntarily, and the scheme is able to avoid being seen as anti-car.

The scheme will establish the necessary infrastructure to enable local schemes to be developed and to be economically viable, will establish partnerships within local communities and across local authority areas, and will have the credibility to negotiate with national bodies (eg public transport, developers and planners, vehicle manufacturers and insurance providers).

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