

# CARPLUS

## WRITTEN SUBMISSION

### 1. About Carplus

Carplus Trust (“Carplus”) is a not-for-profit, environmental transport organisation that promotes accessible, affordable and low-carbon options in shared transport and other new mobility solutions, as alternatives to traditional car use in the UK. While recognising the benefits that cars can bring to society, Carplus believes that a new approach to car use and ownership is needed in order to mitigate the financial, environmental, social and health costs of motoring today.

Carplus is the national accreditation body for car clubs and car sharing in the UK and co-ordinates annual data collection and research for the sector. In Scotland Carplus provides technical and financial assistance to support the development of car clubs in urban and rural communities across Scotland through the, Transport Scotland funded, Developing Car Clubs in Scotland (DCCS) programme.

Since 2010 Scottish Government funding has facilitated the expansion of Scotland’s car club network from 3 car clubs in 2010 to 15 car clubs in 20 communities and a doubling of membership in just over three years to around 8,000 members across Scotland today.

More information can be found on the Carplus website: <http://www.carplus.org.uk/>.

### 2. Scope of our response

We are commenting on to what extent the draft Scottish Budget will contribute to improving performance on the following National Indicators:

- Reduce Scotland’s carbon footprint
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Increase the proportion of journeys to work by public or active travel

### 2. Car clubs and National Indicators

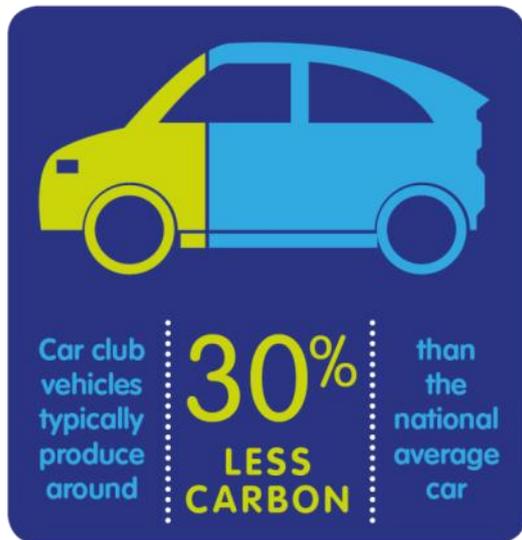
A car club is a membership-based organisation that provides access to pay-as-you-drive vehicles. Car club vehicles are available for hire on an hourly or daily basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Vehicles tend to be parked in dedicated and clearly marked parking spaces close to the homes and workplaces of car club members. Members can book cars online, by mobile

app, or over the phone and access car club vehicles via a smart card or key safe.

Car clubs typically own or lease vehicles that are then made available to their members for short term use. The car club covers all the costs of owning and operating the vehicles, such as insurance, tax, fuel, cleaning and servicing. Members usually pay an annual membership fee to be part of a car club and then pay an hourly charge (typically between £3.75 and £7.00) to hire a vehicle and a mileage charge (typically around 13-24p per mile) that covers fuel and vehicle wear and tear. Members are usually billed for their use monthly in arrears.

### **Reduce Scotland's carbon footprint**

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act (2009) sets very ambitious targets for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) reduction for both 2020 and 2050.



In order to meet these emissions targets, there needs to be greater emphasis on encouraging sustainable modes of travel, including car clubs.

Car clubs can make an important contribution to decarbonising road transport in Scotland. Car Club cars tend to be newer and more fuel-efficient and the average car club car in Scotland emits 30% less carbon emissions than the average car on Scotland's roads.

In addition Scottish car clubs are also providing convenient and affordable access to zero emission electric vehicles (EVs) in both urban and rural communities across Scotland.

EVs currently make up 4% and petrol/electric hybrid vehicles make up 10% of the car club fleet in Scotland and Scottish car clubs are in the process of adding over 50 additional car clubs EVs to the network with £1M of additional funding from the Scottish Government.

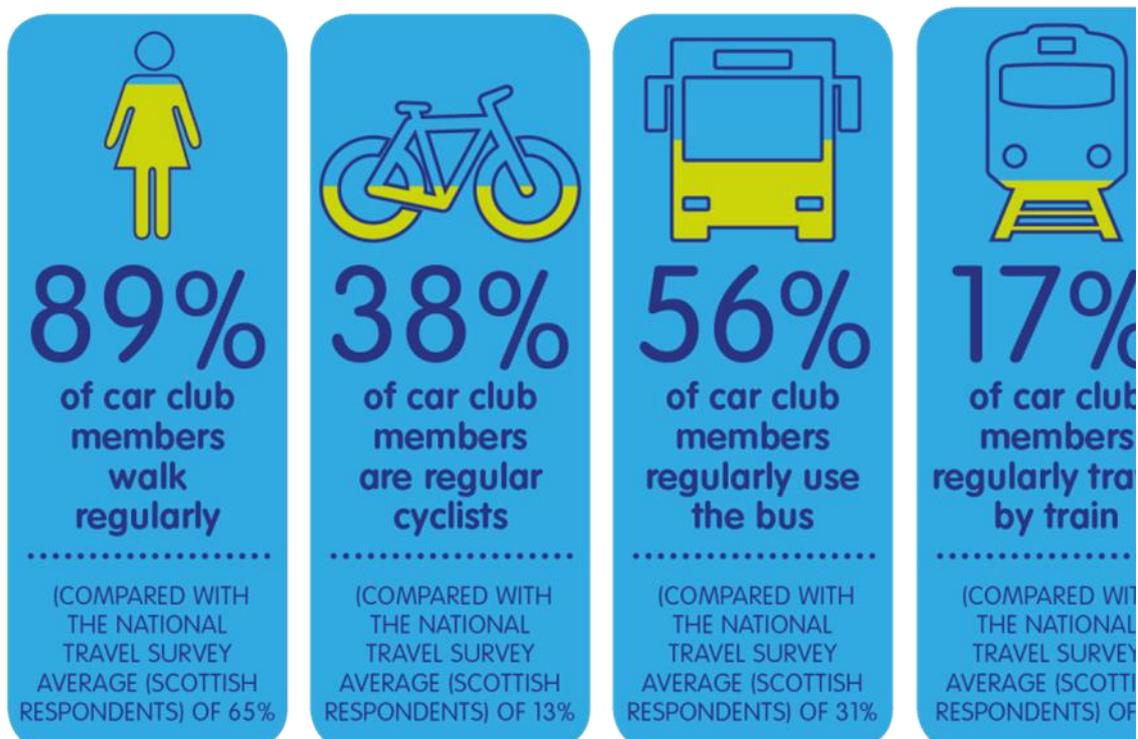
### **Reduce traffic congestion**

Journeys delayed due to congestion can result in significant cost to the Scottish economy. Car clubs can make an important contribution to reducing the number of cars on Scotland's roads by offering affordable and convenient shared access to car club cars as an alternative private car ownership.



For each car club car in operation in Scotland, approximately 4 private cars are removed from the road as a result of members disposing of unwanted privately owned vehicles. Each car club car also results in the deferral of approximately 8 vehicles as a result of members using car club cars rather than purchasing privately owned vehicles. This results in 2750 fewer cars on Scotland's roads.

**Increase the proportion of journeys to work by public or active transport**  
 The Scottish Government faces a significant challenge in growing the sustainable transport modal share. Car clubs can also play an important role in increasing walking cycling and public transport use by decoupling car use from car ownership, thereby making members more likely to consider the full range of transport options available to them for each journey. As a result, car club members are far more likely to walk, cycle and use public transport than the general population.



### 3. Conclusion

Transport Scotland already recognises the important role car clubs can play in helping the Scottish Government meet key National Indicators. However, if Scottish Government is to consistently meet its National Indicators on carbon emissions, traffic congestion and increasing the number of journeys by public transport and active travel, it must increase its funding for sustainable and active travel, including car clubs.

Evidence from countries such as Germany, Austria and Switzerland, indicate significant untapped potential of car clubs to reduce the impacts of car traffic, support active travel and facilitate modal integration. In addition car clubs help connect otherwise very isolated, transport poor places to the wider transport network.

**CARPLUS**  
**28 October 2014**