
Car Clubs in New Developments

This project explored the factors influencing the relative success of car clubs in new developments. This was a joint project between CTS and Carplus, the umbrella organisation for car clubs in the UK. It was funded by the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, Transport Scotland, CIHT Foundation and Redrow Homes.

Objectives

To explore:

1. the benefits, challenges and policy impacts of car clubs in housing developments.
2. factors affecting car club feasibility and success.
3. the respective roles of the developer, the local authority and the car club operator in delivering successful car clubs.
4. the use planning tools, especially planning conditions, supplementary planning guidance (SPG) and planning agreements in the delivery of car clubs in new developments.

Methodology

Case studies were produced for 8 local authorities and 12 housing developments, which were selected to cover a wide range of different contexts in which car clubs have been provided through planning agreements or conditions.

The main research method was semistructured interviews with:

- local authority officers (and some councillors)
- developers (and some site managers)
- car club operators

The interviews were mostly conducted in person; a few were by telephone. The interviewees were given the opportunity to comment on the draft reports and made changes to their comments. In some cases, follow-up questions were sent by email or discussed by telephone; this occurred on some occasions where one interviewee raised an issue which prompted a response from another. In addition, the development case study sites were visited, to make observations about the local context, particularly with respect to parking in the vicinity. Documentary evidence was collected and analysed for each of the case studies; this typically included: council policies, records of past developments, relevant elements of planning applications, transport plans and site plans. The car club operators also supplied information about the usage of vehicles in or near to the case study developments.

Findings

Car clubs are more likely to be successfully established within a development (or in a neighbourhood adjacent to a development) if consideration is given early enough in the planning process to its viability as a location. In evaluating this, there are several key factors which help to identify where car clubs might be successfully established in new developments. These include: population density, PTAL rating and availability of public transport, parking constraints, car ownership levels and other cultural and socioeconomic/demographic characteristics. See [final report and case studies](#).

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