

**Question & Answer document – Climate Emergency and Sustainability
Scrutiny Panel**

Thursday 9th November 2023 10.00am Guildhall, Bath

Question from Nicolette Boater:

I note that the Council “hope[s] to be in a position to commence a new car club in Spring 2024” and to this end, is taking advice “on commercial models for car clubs across the district in B&NES” and seeking support “with market engagement to deliver a competitive tender process”(paragraph 3.22 of the Journey to Net Zero Update (Item 9 of 9.11.23 CE&S PDS agenda).

In view of the Council’s

- *renewed commitment in its 2023-27 Corporate Strategy to ‘giving people a bigger say’ ; and*
- *desire to embed a Doughnut Economics approach into all its decision-making (as indicated in the authority’s [Local Plan 2022-42 Launch Document](#)) and affirmed the importance of this empowering all 4 sectors of Kate Raworth’s Embedded Economy (in the DEAL led 3rd October Doughnut Economics workshop);*

what steps has or will the Council be taking to enabling and encourage the provision of such car clubs on a financially sustainable community owned business model where surplus profits are reinvested in the community to support and catalyse sustainable travel aligned with its Journey to Net Zero Strategy?

Answer provided by officers:

The council is committed to achieving the greatest social value from its contracts. We are currently working with Collaborative Mobility UK (CoMoUK) on the procurement of a new car club. CoMoUK work collaboratively with public, private and third sector organisations, conduct unique research and advise public authorities on shared transport and sustainable transport more broadly. All business models will be considered as part of the options assessment to ensure that the right long term sustainable approach is taken in providing a car club offer for all residents.

Working with CoMoUK, the national charity dedicated to the Social economic and environmental benefits of shared transport, we have a strong partner to lead in our engagement with market leaders to inform our scope and bidding process to achieve best value. Our approach will focus on delivering outcomes which reflect our commitments as an authority to achieve net zero and support our residents through creating thriving communities. By providing a Car Club we will provide communities with access to a greater number of transport options.

We will be expanding our local engagement to collaborate with Bath Universities, College, hospitals and other organisations to aim to widen the sustainable benefits and increase transport availability options.

We will use the Community Engagement Plan produced and Published by CoMoUk as a base for engaging with Local Authority officers, elected members, community and town councils, Local residents, businesses directly affected and any other resident with an interest in the scheme.

We aim to have the new scheme in place in spring 2024.