

MDA No.: 1811

Title: Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Transport Committee meeting on 16 December 2025 the Committee resolved that:

Authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to the Mayor of London and the Transport for London Commissioner on car clubs in London, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, agrees the Committee's letter to the Mayor of London and the Transport for London Commissioner on car clubs in London, as attached at Appendix 1.**

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Printed Name: Elly Baker AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

Date: 19 December 2025

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation were agreed by the Chair, in consultation with relevant party Group Lead Members, under the standing authority granted to Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees. Officers confirm that the letter and its recommendations fall within these terms of reference.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter will be formally noted at the Transport Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): *Hannah Barlow*

Printed Name: Hannah Barlow, Principal Committee Manager

Date: 19 December 2025

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name:

Date:

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the Transport Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rebecca Arnold, Deputy Monitoring Officer

Date: 23 December 2025

Email: MonitoringOfficer@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- *Thomas Turrell AM (Deputy Chairman)*
- *Caroline Russell AM*
- *Hina Bokhari OBE AM*

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, until what date:

Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

Lead Officer / Author

Signature: *Eleanor Haigh*

Printed Name: Eleanor Haigh

Job Title: Senior Policy Advisor

Date: 19 December 2025

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen, Executive Director – Assembly Secretariat

Date: 23 December 2025

LONDON ASSEMBLY



Elly Baker AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

City Hall

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Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Andy Lord
TfL Commissioner
(Sent by email)

23 December 2025

Dear Sadiq and Andy,

Car clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 announcement

I am writing in relation to Zipcar's proposed withdrawal from London and the Committee's meeting on Tuesday 16 December.

This decision may undermine efforts to meet the key target in your Transport Strategy for 80 per cent of trips to be made by walking, cycling or public transport by 2041.¹ If only a small fraction of the estimated half million Zipcar users buy a private car, it could result in thousands more private car journeys being made. But, Zipcar's departure from London will also impact many Londoners, including charities, small businesses and public bodies, who rely on it to make the kinds of journeys public and active transport simply cannot support. We are disappointed therefore that TfL continues to show what Richard Dilks, Chief Executive of CoMoUK, described to us as a "lack of interest, lack of engagement, or even suspicion."²

¹ Mayor of London, [Mayor's Transport Strategy](#), March 2018

² London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript of Agenda Item 5 - Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 1](#), December 2025

As we made clear in our April 2025 report TfL's Stalling Car Clubs, London's car club industry was at risk of decline.³ Zipcar's announcement this month has shown this to be the case. Despite the Committee's warnings, TfL has failed to grasp the issue and address the underlying problems contributing to the decline.

Richard Dilks said the announcement came as a shock, but not a surprise;⁴ in effect, TfL should have seen it coming. Yet, the Deputy Mayor told the Committee Zipcar's announcement "took everybody by surprise."⁵ We are concerned about this divergence of opinion.

Ultimately, we see Zipcar's likely exit from London as a policy failure, which London's transport authorities could have taken steps to avoid. Yet, since the Committee published its report earlier this year,⁶ TfL has demonstrated a complete lack of progress on its thinking with regard to car clubs, and has instead shown a continued unwillingness to acknowledge where it could intervene. The Deputy Mayor told us that TfL took the view that since it does not have the highway responsibilities across all of London it would not be appropriate to create a car club action plan.⁷ While this may be technically accurate, it is not a complete explanation given TfL has previously taken a strategic leadership role in areas where its direct statutory responsibilities are similarly limited, including through the Walking Action Plan⁸ and Freight and Servicing Action Plan.⁹ TfL has also provided funding for cycle hangars and supported parking for dockless cycle hire on highways via Local Implementation Plan funding.

TfL should have taken action earlier this year to set a clear policy direction for car clubs in London and used its convening power to bring boroughs, operators and CoMoUK together to resolve some of the issues facing the sector. Instead, TfL is now left playing catch up after failing to engage with the sector. We heard from the Deputy Mayor that TfL and the GLA met with CoMoUK and some boroughs on 15 December.¹⁰ Two weeks after Zipcar's announcement. We heard that the last meeting between officers and Zipcar was in April. The Deputy Mayor was due to meet Zipcar on 17 December. Over two weeks after the announcement.¹¹ There is no sense of urgency on this issue.

³ London Assembly Transport Committee, [TfL's Stalling Car Clubs – Transport Committee Report](#), April 2025

⁴ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript of Agenda Item 5 – Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 1](#), December 2025

⁵ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript pf Agenda Item 5 – Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 2](#), December 2025

⁶ London Assembly Transport Committee, [TfL's Stalling Car Clubs – Transport Committee Report](#), April 2025

⁷ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript pf Agenda Item 5 – Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 2](#), December 2025

⁸ TfL, [Walking action plan](#), July 2018

⁹ TfL, [Freight and servicing action plan](#), March 2019

¹⁰ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript pf Agenda Item 5 – Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 2](#), December 2025

¹¹ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript pf Agenda Item 5 – Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 2](#), December 2025

We heard from TfL that it is working to update its six commitments on car clubs, and this work will continue in the new year.¹² Yet, if Zipcar goes ahead with its proposal, 90 per cent of London's car club market will have disappeared by then. TfL must take action now to ensure that car club provision in London does not disappear entirely.

In our meeting, the Deputy Mayor called on Zipcar's parent company to reconsider its decision to withdraw from London given the impact on Londoners. Yet, he declined to speculate on the reasons behind this commercial decision and what support he could offer to Zipcar to reverse the decision prior to a meeting planned for 17 December.¹³ Given that meeting has now taken place, we now **ask that the Deputy Mayor write to the Committee with¹⁴:**

- **Information gathered in relation to the reasons behind Zipcar's proposal to cease its UK operations**
- **What incentives, policies, or other actions are under consideration or have been offered to Zipcar**

In order to secure the future viability of car clubs in London the Committee recommends¹⁵ that TfL take the following actions in the short-term:

- **Work to ensure that the provision of parking bays used by Zipcar's fleet are protected for car club cars and not given over to private car parking or other modes.**
- **Ensure that Local Implementation Plan funding directly permits funding for car club bays, and provide the Committee with evidence of this.**
- **Engage directly and urgently with CoMoUK, all London boroughs, car club operators and London Councils to convene these stakeholders to support car clubs**

¹² London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript pf Agenda Item 5 – Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 2](#), December 2025

¹³ London Assembly Transport Committee, [Transcript pf Agenda Item 5 – Car Clubs in London: Zipcar December 2025 Announcement – Panel 2](#), December 2025

¹⁴ Assembly Members Thomas Turrell and Neil Garratt dissent from the specifics of this recommendation given it:

- Lacks specific timeframes - for example, protecting bays within 30 days and convening the necessary stakeholders in January.
- Does not contain a request to the Mayor to: (i) provide any assessment TfL conducted on the cumulative impact of Congestion Charge changes; and (ii) explain why no mitigation beyond the zone-based exemption was offered.

¹⁵ Assembly Members Thomas Turrell and Neil Garratt dissent from the specifics of this recommendation given it does not:

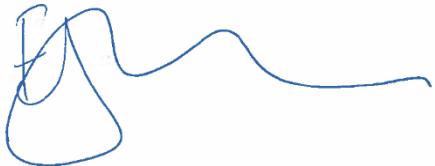
- Make reference to the impacts on residents of car-free developments and that a request was not made to the Mayor on the number of car-free developments, guidance to boroughs and residents, and whether the Mayor considers the London Plan's approach to car-free development sustainable without guaranteed car club provision.
- Ask that TfL work with Zipcar to communicate with the estimated 550,000 affected users about alternative options before the service ends and contact details are lost.
- Reference the [electric Vehicle Excise Duty \(eVED\)](#) a new mileage charge for electric and plug-in hybrid cars announced at Budget 2025 that may have led to ZipCar's proposed withdrawal.

in London, including active steps to support a coordinated approach to procurement.

In the longer-term, the Committee reiterates the recommendations set out in its report, TfL's Stalling Car Clubs, and requests that you re-consider your previous response to these.ⁱ

I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter urgently. Please send your response to Hannah Barlow, Principal Committee Manager and Eleanor Haigh, Senior Policy Adviser at assemblytransport@london.gov.uk.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elly Baker AM'.

**Elly Baker AM
Chair of the Transport Committee**

cc Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport

ⁱ Assmby Members at the meeting on 16 December 2025 inlcuded: Elly Baker AM (Chair), Hina Bokhari OBE AM, Sem Moema AM, Caroline Russell AM, Anne Clarke AM, Krupesh Hirani AM