

Edinburgh Car Club marks 10th anniversary

Conference to be held at City Chambers ten years after car club was first established in the capital.

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292 Views



A conference is to be held in Edinburgh to mark the tenth anniversary of Britain's first commercial car club, established in the city in 1999.

The City Car Club allows members to access a pool of vehicles across the city without the hassle of paying for insurance, MOTs and even petrol - all of which is included in the membership fee.

Cars are accessed using a membership card that is placed over a reader on the windscreen, opening the doors. Members then tap their PIN number into an on-board computer to start the engine.

The Edinburgh club was the first of its kind in the UK when it launched in March 1999. They now plan on opening their 100th car location in the city later this year.

Chas Ball, founder of City Car Club, said: "Edinburgh has a number of initiatives that make it distinctive in transport and land use planning - high levels of cycling and the introduction of a new tram network to complement a well supported bus network help to keep car use at bay.

"The car club, which is planning to offer its 100th car location this year, is another part of the portfolio that is finally being recognized as an important alternative to car ownership.

"The conference will provide the opportunity for lessons to be shared with cities across Europe.

"It will be interesting to consider what a city like Edinburgh might look like in 10 years time with a new tram system, a larger car club, a city-wide bike hire scheme, and an interchangeable travelcard allowing travel on buses, train, trams, bikes and car club cars."

City of Edinburgh Council and Transform Scotland Trust will hold the conference at Edinburgh's City Chambers from 9.30am on Thursday.

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