



Southwark Liberal Democrat Group
Southwark Council
Liberal Democrat Group Room
160 Tooley Street
London SE1P 5L

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
London E16 1ZE

Dear Sir Sadiq,

Zipcar's withdrawal from London and the impact on Southwark

I am writing on behalf of Southwark Liberal Democrats following Zipcar's decision to withdraw from London, and the consequences this will have for residents in our borough.

In Southwark, car-sharing is a core part of how local transport and housing are expected to work. Many new developments across the borough have been approved as car-free or car-lite, often in areas where on-street parking is already under pressure. Residents have come to expect that car clubs would provide access to a vehicle when needed without adding to congestion or pollution.

That approach depends on City Hall maintaining a policy environment in which car-sharing services can operate viably.

This outcome was foreseeable. In August last year, the Liberal Democrat Group on the London Assembly wrote to Andy Lord warning that planned increases to the Congestion Charge, alongside changes to the Cleaner Vehicle Discount, risked undermining shared and zero-emission vehicle schemes across London.

Those concerns were not addressed. The combined effect of higher charges and the removal of incentives has made London a less attractive market for car-sharing operators. Zipcar's departure is now being felt most acutely at borough level, including in Southwark.

If car-sharing continues to disappear, the impact on Southwark will be clear: more residents pushed towards private car ownership, worsening congestion on already busy roads, and growing frustration among people who were encouraged to live car-free.

I would welcome clarity on what steps you now intend to take to review congestion charging and related incentives, and how you will ensure that boroughs like Southwark are not left dealing with the consequences of policies set at City Hall.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Leader of the Opposition
Borough and Bankside Ward
Southwark Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Graham Neale
Environment Spokesperson
St George's Ward
Southwark Liberal Democrat Group