

# Guidance for Community Bike Share Schemes



## SECTION 01

### The “what” and “why” of bike share



# 01: The “what” and “why” of bike share

This section provides an overview of what we mean by bike share and the benefits that schemes can bring to a community



## What is bike share?

Bike share is the pooling together of bikes for multiple users in a particular setting. See our [Models of Bike Share](#) document for detailed information on the different types of bike share models and approaches. These can all be applied within a community run setting, however some require a high density of people, funding and staff to operate.

Most community-run schemes involve bikes being hired and loaned out from a community building for residents and local groups. Some will be kept in other types of storage where people have the ability

to access the bikes without having to be handed one by someone else.

This guide will focus on community schemes running bike pools and loans (not schemes such as universities and councils that are only available for their employees or students).

Cycling Scotland's [Access to Bike Schemes in Scotland report](#) also provides useful information on some of the common approaches communities have taken when running bike share schemes.

## The benefits of bike share

Sharing bikes can provide many benefits, which will vary from scheme to scheme, depending on what the project has set out to accomplish. Bike share schemes can support:

- Healthy lives through active travel
- Low carbon travel
- Low cost travel
- Links to existing public transport (facilitating first and last mile journeys)
- Creating a nicer place to live by replacing and reducing car journeys
- Bikes can help people access places and opportunities they may have not been able to before

- Bike share attracts a higher proportion of female riders than traditional cycling
- When e-bikes are used these can attract more older riders, those with health issues and they also encourage more use in hillier areas
- Bike share can re-engage lapsed cyclists
- Bike share can encourage users to buy their own

Check out our the main [bike share](#) pages on our website for more evidence on the benefits of bike share, case studies and impact studies.

## Next steps:

Now you have a better idea of what we mean by bike share and the benefits, head to the next section - **Planning for success** - which covers some key areas to think about, for creating a successful scheme.



## Further help and support from CoMoUK

CoMoUK is the national charity for the public benefit of shared mobility. Founded in 1999, CoMoUK enters its third decade with a depth of expertise and research into shared transport and the built environment.

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CoMoUK can provide bespoke information and support on how to set up and develop your community bike share scheme. This includes:

- Helping you to think about business cases and project plans
- Providing examples of best practice and case studies
- Sign posting you to other parties and relevant organisations
- Providing advice on potential sharing solutions for your scheme (such as booking and billing)

To find out more about how we can help you, please contact [scotland@como.org.uk](mailto:scotland@como.org.uk) for details.

Please also see our website [como.org.uk](https://como.org.uk) for further information and to sign up to our newsletter and forums.

Find out more about CoMoUK and collaborative mobility online at [como.org.uk](https://como.org.uk)

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