

COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted to Council in Accordance with the Council Procedural Rules

1 ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL PARKING PLATFORM

Proposed by Cllr Janet Clowes and Seconded by Cllr Mike Sewart

- 1 That this Council joins the National Parking Platform (NPP) Pilot Expansion programme for Q2/Q3 2023, with immediate effect.
- 2 That this Council, on joining the NPP Pilot, incorporates current NPP evidential learning and practices into any future Car Park Charging Strategy for Cheshire East.

Background

Since the creation of Cheshire East Council in 2008, this Unitary Authority has failed in its best endeavours to introduce a fiscally sound, efficient and equitable car park charging strategy that meets and 'future-proofs' the related needs of Council, Businesses and Residents.

THE NATIONAL PARKING PLATFORM (See Appendix A)

The **NPP Pilot** was initiated by the Department of Transport (DoT) in 2019 as a joint project, hosted by Manchester City Council, DfT and Parking Matters. Over time, numerous additional partners have joined, including Liverpool City Council and CIPFA comparator authorities Cheshire West & Chester, Cornwall and Oxfordshire. The most recent NPP report was published in March 2023 and following the success of phases 1 to 3 of the pilot, the DfT has opened the Platform (Phase 4), to all Local Authorities and other interested parties for Q2/Q3 2023; (32 councils are now currently engaged).

See the MAY 2023 NPP PRESENTATION:

<https://npp-uk.org/assets/pdf/information-pack.pdf>

Some of the evidenced benefits for Local Authorities (NPP and BPA 2023) include:

- Reduced requirement for on-street equipment and improved customer experience. More choice has been proven to encourage greater use of cashless payment.
- Simplified procurement processes. Use of NPPco removes the requirement for public procurement of payment providers which promotes innovation and resilience.
- It is inexpensive to setup and operate (across all sizes of council)

Other benefits include reduced costs associated with enforcement, (a particular problem for Cheshire East council) and important synergies with other Cheshire East Policy Strategies and Policies (For example; Air Quality, Sustainable Transport, EV charging).

This is a unique and opportune moment for Cheshire East Council to access an evidence-based, national platform that will inform flexible, sustainable and cost-effective, borough-wide solutions now and into the future.

National Parking Platform

NPP – A Brief Introduction

Payment for parking is lagging behind developments in other markets and industries. Parking customers, both on-street and in car parks, face a fragmented market offering a wide variety of payment options making the simple act of parking and paying complex and confusing as options are dependent on where they want to park and which payment app they have (or don't have). The National Parking Platform (NPP) is a local authority owned and DfT funded pilot project that brings customer experience into the 21st century by facilitating data exchange, digital payments, and a new way of delivering better parking and mobility services. In essence, the NPP:

1. Provides a simplified and improved customer journey from start to finish for the end-customer
2. Creates a centralised and cost-efficient system supplying data to councils that can inform present and future strategic decisions
3. Enables a competitive, innovative market by allowing systems to communicate with each other via open data standards and interfaces (APDS/ISO TS 5206-1)
4. Is a publicly owned, not for profit, national facility that enables Parking Operators (public and private) to communicate digitally with Service Providers.

The NPP has benefits for everyone

For the end-customer

The NPP allows the customer to use their preferred service provider app (or integrated in-vehicle system) to find and pay for their parking at any participating location. The different service providers will compete for business by offering the best customer experience. The NPP also offers wider access to parking availability data leading to better journey planning, reducing circulating traffic searching for a place to park and the associated congestion and emissions.

For local authorities

The NPP can form a central and cost-efficient component of a local authority's parking technology infrastructure, enabling the supply of open data to app providers and enhancing the Council's customer service with the involvement of the Council's existing suppliers. It offers:

- Reduced requirement for payment equipment - improved customer experience and more choice encourage greater use of cashless payment
- Simplified procurement as the requirement for, and cost of, public procurement of payment providers is removed, and supplier lock-in avoided
- A simple way of publishing details of parking locations in an open data platform
 - Inexpensive set up and operation (for all sizes of Council) and a reduced cost of collecting parking revenues
 - Single, auditable session payment schedule from all payment providers
 - Secure environment where Councils own and control the data

It enables Councils to make informed strategic decisions on the implementation of policies to:

- Achieve sustainability goals (e.g. differential tariffs, air quality)
- Provide evidence to support tariff policies
- Encourage more sustainable journeys (providing information to support multi modal journeys)
- Support local businesses (through validation schemes etc.)
- Improve traffic management (through better information on parking availability)
- Monitor and optimise service performance and reduce costs e.g. intelligent enforcement

For Private Operators

The NPP has similar benefits for Private Operators, ensuring that:

- Car parks are 'digitally visible'
- Customers can pay using their in-vehicle or favourite phone app
- Features such as 'frictionless' parking and pay by app are simple to provide

For the market

NPP encourages competition and innovation in the market by managing data on payments and vehicles using open data standards and interfaces (APDS/ISO TS- TS 5206-1), making it easier for systems to communicate with each other.

Barriers to entry for new players are removed, new services can gain access to the market, and a stable base for investors is created.

As a data source for parking place information, the NPP will also promote high quality data as the data will become the primary source for information supporting parking payments. Innovators can use the data to introduce new ways to pay for parking services, enhance these services, integrate additional services, and reduce the cost of living for motorists. This aligns the parking industry to today's expectations of an integrated system for the range of different motorist charges.

1. National Parking Platform Pilot Introduction

<https://npp-uk.org/assets/pdf/information-pack.pdf>

2. British Parking Association

<https://www.britishparking.co.uk/National-Parking-Platform>

2 Commission an Independent Hydrogeology Report for the South Macclesfield Development Area

Proposed by Cllr Chris O'Leary and Seconded by Cllr Janet Clowes

We request that:

Council notes:

- that Cheshire East Council is the lead organisation and majority landowner for the *South Macclesfield Development Area* (SMDA), as identified in the 2017 Local development Plan;
- that as lead organisation and majority landowner, Cheshire East Council may prepare or commission additional information to provide assurance that proposals to develop the SMDA are sound;
- that Cheshire East Council, in its role as proposed developer of the South Macclesfield Development Area (SMDA) must submit appropriate, detailed ecological, environmental and groundworks data to support development of this extensive site and should include a full, hydrogeological assessment that investigates the impacts of any proposed development on below-surface water flows through the peat deposits of the SMDA, together with the effect this might have on synergistic water flows into or out of the adjacent Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- That such detailed evidence should be submitted at the appropriate time for consideration by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to enable the LPA to make fully informed planning decisions.

Cheshire East Council therefore resolves to:

- That this Council, as landowner and developer, commissions an independent HYDROGEOLOGY Report to provide a hydrogeological assessment that investigates the impacts of any proposed development on below-surface water flows through the peat deposits of the SMDA, together with the effect this might have on synergistic water flows into or out of the adjacent Danes Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and;
- That this report is published in the public interest and used to review and inform past and future development decisions on this site.