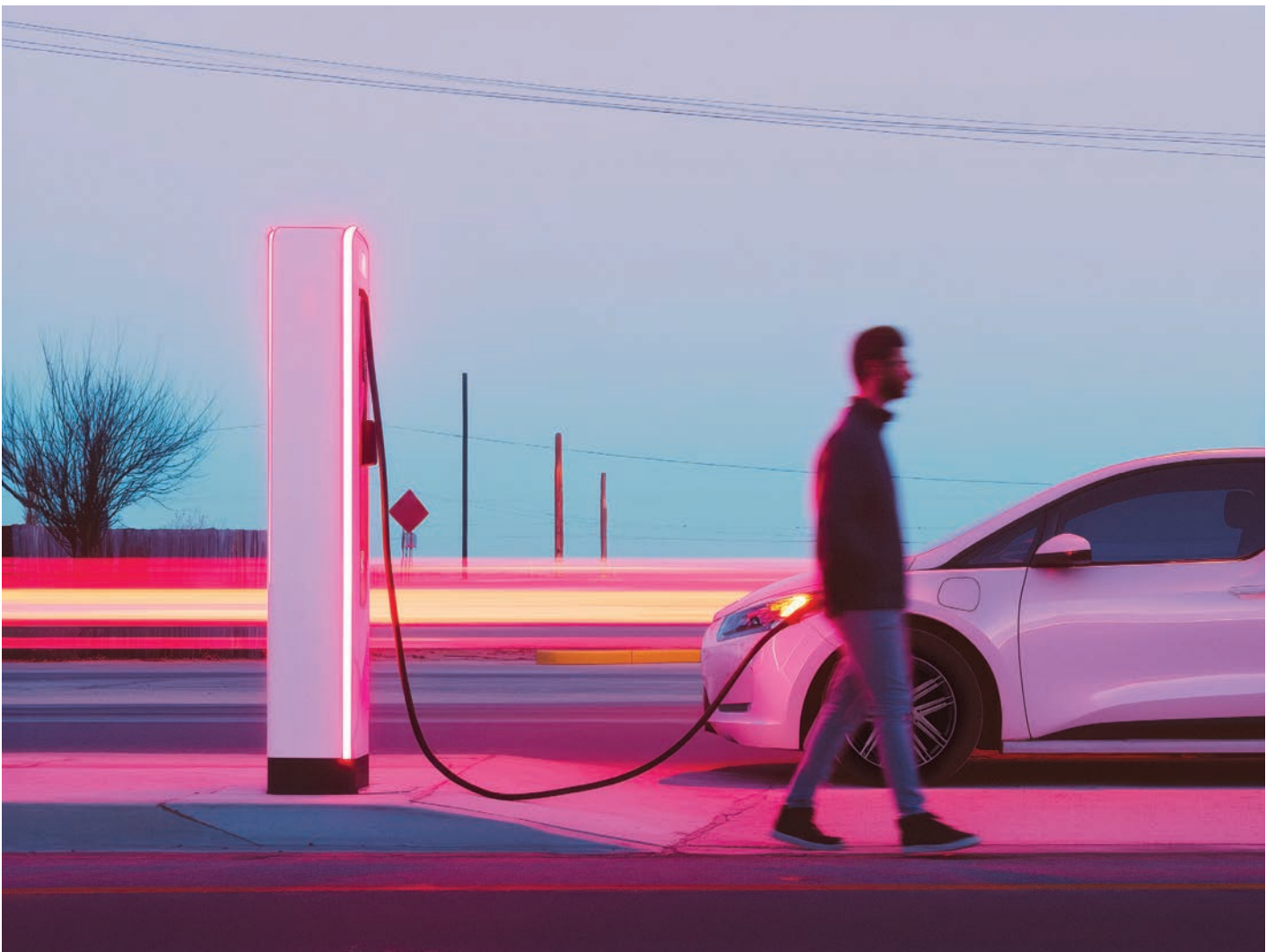


Discover the Open Market for parking



A smarter way to pay for and manage parking

The way people move through cities is changing. And so are their expectations. Motorists want greater flexibility, better parking experiences and more connected mobility services. The Open Market makes this possible. It encourages choice, fuels innovation and delivers a better experience for both parking operators and motorists.

Here's how it works – and why it matters.

Why an Open Market?

Limited choice. Lack of innovation. High barriers to entry. The current parking experience is held back by outdated systems, inconsistent rules and restricted access for start-ups and smaller parking apps.

Motorists are often forced to use a single parking app, chosen by a local authority or private operator – regardless of personal preference.

Parking operators face costly procurement and complex legal processes. And the widely used tender model often results in long-term contracts, making it harder to keep pace with new technologies or evolving user needs.

The Open Market is a simpler way to manage and pay for parking.

The Open Market impact

The Open Market swaps the traditional model for a 'one app fits all' parking platform. It puts motorists in control, letting them choose the app that best suits their needs – service quality, user experience, features, price or convenience.

Parking operators are freed from the cost and complexity of repeated procurement cycles. And it paves the way for services like integrated EV charging, multi-modal transport options and bundled mobility solutions.

This is parking that's smarter, more flexible – and easier for everyone.



How the Open Market works

The Open Market is supported by the National Parking Platform (NPP) – a centralised hub that connects participating car parks all in one place. No complex tenders. No exclusive contracts.

Multiple apps can operate alongside each other, giving motorists the freedom to choose how they pay. And data from each transaction allows parking operators to make smarter decisions.

The NPP reduces implementation and operating costs and speeds up digital adoption – all while creating a more flexible, nationwide parking experience for motorists and parking operators.

It's the easy way to manage parking and mobility services across the UK.

Benefits of the Open Market



Parking operator efficiency

- Make cost savings from improved efficiencies
- Remove costly procurement and complex legal processes
- Enhance data analytics to support informed decisions
- Increase resilience by having multiple suppliers to rely on
- Streamline onboarding of new parking app providers
- Provide more choice for drivers. Happier motorists. Fewer complaints
- Free up staff time so employees can focus on other tasks instead of managing tenders



Motorist convenience

- Can use their preferred parking app anywhere
- No need to download multiple apps
- Access to additional services
- Flexible payment options
- Better connected to mobility services
- Improved experience as more services become available



App innovation

- Higher competition driving better products
- Invest in better apps and smarter ways to pay
- Simpler, more stable business models
- Easier for new apps to enter the market

“Since the introduction of the Open Market for parking, our motorists have a variety of apps to choose from, giving them greater flexibility in managing their parking needs. For other councils seeking richer parking data to support local policymaking and inform decisions, we highly recommend exploring the Open Market for parking.”

Michael Lester, Parking Services Manager –
Cheshire West and Chester Council



Open Market expansion is transforming parking across the UK

Meet NPP – the not-for-profit company rolling out the National Parking Platform (NPP) across the UK. Set up following the Department for Transport's pilot scheme, it's mission is clear: to make parking simpler, smarter and accessible for everyone through a unified digital platform.

The NPP is live nationwide, with local authorities across the UK continuing to join and others expressing interest in taking part. This growing momentum is helping accelerate adoption and extend the reach of the Open Market to more towns and cities.

The Open Market is a proven model used across much of Europe. It has been operating for over a decade in some places and is especially popular in the Nordics, the Netherlands and Germany.

As more parking operators tap into the NPP and unlock the benefits, parking apps will invest in improved features and integrated services to attract more motorists to make the switch to digital payments.

How the NPP pilot scheme paved the way

The NPP pilot scheme, funded by the Department for Transport, ran from 2021 to 2025. It involved 10 local authorities: Manchester, Oxfordshire, Coventry, Peterborough, East Suffolk, Buckinghamshire, Liverpool, Walsall, Cheshire West and Chester, and the London Borough of Sutton.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Councils reported stronger service resilience and gained better data to support informed decisions. And motorists valued the flexibility and convenience of paying with their preferred app.

Introducing NPP – the not-for-profit company behind the platform

NPP is built by the industry, for the industry. Led by the British Parking Association and supported by the Department for Transport, it consists of members (local authorities, other public parking operators, service providers and trade bodies) who help steer the company, and a board of directors who run it.

As part of Arrive, RingGo is championing the UK's Open Market transition

Arrive is the brand uniting Europe's leading parking solutions. In the UK, it's represented by RingGo – the market-leading app and key advocate for the Open Market and NPP.

RingGo in action

- ✓ 20m+ UK customers.
- ✓ Participant in the DfT's NPP pilot.
- ✓ 4+ years championing Open Market development and leading NPP advocacy.
- ✓ Trusted by 170+ local authorities and operators.
- ✓ Now part of Arrive, connecting UK leadership with global expertise to expand choice and flexibility.

Find out more

To find out how your area can benefit from the Open Market for parking, contact the NPP team at engagement@npp.uk.net

For more information about the National Parking Platform, [visit the NPP website](#).

