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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL DATA CENTRE RE-ARCHITECTURE PROJECT

Recently voted the UK's favourite seaside resort, the Lancashire coastal town of Blackpool has a population of 142,000, which makes it the fourth most densely populated borough of England and Wales outside Greater London.



Consultative procurement process resulting in dramatic savings in revenue costs



Improved services delivered by leveraging dark fibre, Virgin Media and Openreach services

THE CHALLENGE

Against a backdrop of reduced revenue budgets and increased demand for online services, including cloud-based education resources.

Blackpool Council was aware that this consolidation exercise was a vast undertaking that would require a complex procurement and project management process. Additionally, the migration process came with an added element of difficulty, as the original data centre had continuously evolved, meaning that although some critical services had dual-site resilience, replication across the two sites was minimal. In order to ensure that the correct provider and solution was commissioned for every element at every stage of the project, expert consultation was needed.

TNP'S SOLUTION

TNP was selected to assist the council as an agency partner, supporting the delivery of the project from its procurement process to its completion. Working in a consultative capacity, TNP acted as an end-to-end expert advisor to the council. This expertise was leveraged from supplier engagement and evaluation with TNP having a physical presence in procurement meetings, to the implementation of each service and solution. This expertise resulted in the right partner being selected for each part of the consolidation process.

As well as the cost-saving benefits that resulted from consulting with an industry expert, the new data centre technologies, all of which are fully resilient, and which include a multiple 10Gb DC core network with over 60Gb of capacity, have also improved the performance and resilience of the Council's datacentre network and servers significantly. The implementation of these new technologies means that even multiple component failures will not result in an outage at a single site. Furthermore, fully resilient power and air conditioning create the perfect environment, reducing any potential downtime as a consequence of data loss or corruption.

THE BENEFITS

The benefits enjoyed by Blackpool Council through this project include:

- Dual state-of-the-art DCs with full, automatic resilience thanks to features including backup power, cooling system and fire suppression
- Flexible estates strategies, with any future relocation of essential services and buildings made possible without punitive network charges
- Secure PSN compliant multi-tenancy.

