

DELIVERING REMOTE SAVINGS



ENGINEERING
CONNECTIVITY
CONSULTANCY
SECURITY
SUPPORT

ADVANCED NETWORK FOR SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL

When Shetland Islands Council's Scottish-government-subsidised IT network came to an end in March 2014, it would have cost over £1 million to renew. The Council therefore was in urgent need of a cost-effective alternative that would provide faster and more reliable internet connections.

£1.6m

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Significant cost efficiencies, projected to save the Council up to £1.6 million



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An almost tenfold increase in network speed in some areas

THE CHALLENGE

Aside from the tight timescale due to the imminent ending of Council's incumbent IT network contract, working in the British Isles' most remote location and its unique weather conditions, with ground wind speeds in excess of 60mph, would have been too big a challenge for most network providers. In January and February 2014, just as TNP's engineers were installing equipment on 40-metre-high telecoms masts, Shetland was hit by the worst storms it had seen for 20 years.

TNP'S SOLUTION

The solution designed by TNP offered a hybrid solution that would see a combination of commercial masts, wireless and ADSL technology. Installing equipment on seven masts to provide connectivity for 21 sites, the new network also comprised dark fibre, ADSL and satellite equipment. In addition, TNP provided consultancy around how the Council could best connect 39 remaining sites. TNP's engineers utilised existing assets wherever possible, as well as installing a high-speed backbone tied into a fibre network at strategic points,

and helped the authority purchase further equipment and services direct from manufacturers, saving the Council thousands of pounds in the process.

THE BENEFITS

The benefits enjoyed by Shetland Islands Council through this project include:

- Connectivity across 60 sites, including schools, council offices, community groups and local charities
- An almost tenfold increase in network speed in some areas
- Significant cost efficiencies; the new network is projected to save the Council up to £1.6 million
- Utilisation of existing assets and equipment where feasible
- Council-owned network and assets to ensure self-sufficiency; vital due to the islands' remote location.