

## West Berkshire Council finds new strength with IBM System x



### Overview

#### ■ Challenge

Reclaim data center space and resources; position the organization for dynamic growth

#### ■ Solution

Implement server consolidation and virtualization with IBM System x™ 8-way servers, IBM BladeCenter® and VMware

#### ■ Key Benefits

Consolidated 80+ servers onto 4 IBM System x servers, reduced power connections by 80 percent and dramatically reduced server deployment time

Education, social services, highways, benefits, libraries and accountancy—these are just a handful of the services West Berkshire Council provides to the citizens of Berkshire, a rural area located west of London. Behind the scenes lies a huge IT infrastructure, including systems, network, backup and server storage, supporting these services for the district's almost 150,000 residents. Pulling it all together is Simon Lawrence, the Council's senior corporate support analyst and senior member of West Berkshire Council's ICT Operations Team.

### IT growing pains

As a public entity providing critical local government services, the Council's IT needs are ever evolving, including demands for more 24x7 services, Web support for e-government initiatives, hosting for new systems, and ongoing legislative compliance. Eventually, the increasing IT demands began to take a toll on the Council's existing infrastructure. "We were rapidly running out of data center rack space," explains Lawrence. "We were running out of network connections, running out of power." The infrastructure was also very fractured, with systems running in 3 major sites and 120 satellite sites around the district.

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— Simon Lawrence, senior corporate analyst, West Berkshire Council

Facing challenges on multiple fronts, West Berkshire Council began looking at possible solutions, calling in Q Associates, an IBM Business Partner based in the UK. Q Associates used its extensive knowledge of the Council's infrastructure, applications and processes to recommend a strategy for a council-wide server and storage consolidation and virtualization solution. This solution takes advantage of IBM's System x3950 (formerly IBM eServer™ xSeries® 460) servers to host VMware services, and IBM BladeCenter servers to host Citrix.

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#### **More with less**

With an aggressive migration schedule in place, Lawrence and the ICT Operations Team have successfully virtualized 50 different servers. They have 80 more to go. But the implementation has already had a measurable impact on the data center. They're reclaiming valuable rack space. They aim to go from 220 network points down to 60, and they've reduced power connections from 200 to 40.

"We're doing more with less," says Lawrence. "That was our goal. We're running four times as many applications per processor without any loss of performance." The Council has been able to reduce cost and complexity while improving responsiveness and expandability. But Lawrence says the real cost savings are in time: "It used to take two to three days to build a physical server. Now I can provision a server in half an hour. It's that simple."

#### **For more information**

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For more information about West Berkshire Council visit: [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)



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