

Customer Success Story

The Client

Formed in April 2009, **Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council** is the new unitary authority serving the 327,500 population of the historic city of Chester, Ellesmere Port, Neston, Winsford, Northwich and Frodsham.

The new council is the fourth largest unitary authority in the North West giving it an important strategic voice in the UK and enabling it to drive forward initiatives to support developments in the area.

The Council's vision, "Customer first - Value for money - Best practice", is at the heart of everything it does.



The Requirement

With an ever increasing reliance on ICT Systems to deliver front line services to the public in its geographic area, the Council recognised the need to update and enhance its Data Centre capability as part of its forward-thinking 25-year Data Centre strategy.

An essential element to the successful delivery of the Council's overall project was the provision of a fully resilient, multiple core high speed fibre network linking the new primary Data Centre with the Council's key operational sites.

Under a partnership agreement, the Cheshire West and Chester Council are to share the new facility with Cheshire East Council, another new unitary authority in the area. The utilisation of a high speed fibre network quite simply facilitates the linking of all operational sites for both councils.

The Solution

Cheshire West and Chester Council assessed a number of possible solutions and concluded that a dark fibre network would best meet their present requirements; giving them the flexibility to grow to meet their expected future increase in demand for bandwidth. All capable suppliers were included in the Buying Solutions procurement process.

FibreSpan was selected not only for the benefits of its National Telecommunications Licence, commercial offering, technical solution, project management skills, and 'in life' support; but also because of its reputation for providing the best value dark fibre solutions and responsive service.

"Leasing bespoke, seamless and secure dark fibre from FibreSpan provides us with a flexible future proof network which will develop with the Council's requirement."

**Justin Williams
Programme Manager**

The Benefits

Working to a challenging 3 month installation timescale, FibreSpan worked closely and openly with the Council to deliver the 9km network on schedule and to budget.

FibreSpan managed all the planning aspects of the deployment, including the organisation of the landlord wayleave agreements and all other required permissions.

Regular project reviews gave the Council visibility of progress and the confidence to focus on other aspects of their overall project.

The Council's 25-year Data Centre strategy is now underpinned by the flexibility of the FibreSpan network providing endless scope to evolve with the continually changing needs of the Council, its citizens and service delivery requirements.

"It's a testament to how well this has gone, in that at the outset, getting the fibre laid in time was our biggest concern but ended up being the least of our worries."

Paul Hayward, Project Manager

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