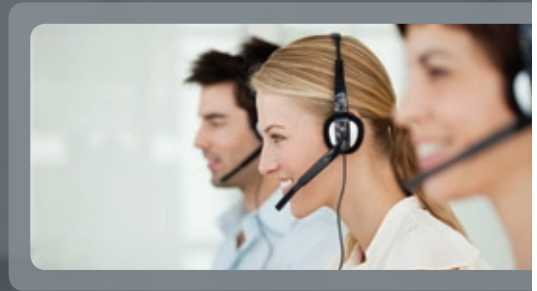


# ICT Services Cheshire West and Chester



## Broadening horizons to a "Connected Cheshire"

The county of Cheshire boasts a history dating back over 2,000 years. Its landscapes reflect the gentle pastures of the English Midlands and Welsh Marches, as well as the rugged hills of England's North Country. It is against this backdrop that the Councils are tasked with servicing the needs of the local community, businesses and environment in equal measure.

### The Business Issue

Consistent with central Government initiatives, its attention is focused on the effective use of IT systems and 'eGovernment' methods; with the aim of continually improving the quality and accessibility of services available to the community. The creation of a high-speed communications infrastructure linking all county services was seen as essential for achieving this vision.

### Our Approach

The Councils are working in partnership with a&o to design and implement a county-wide broadband solution to effectively connect schools, libraries and Council offices throughout the region. Planning is critical to any large scale project and both a&o and Cheshire West and Chester established an experienced project team to work together in evaluating, testing, implementing and supporting the technical and logistical migration process.

True partnership was vital in coordinating activities and open communication throughout the project ensured that a&o designed a flexible and scalable network that represented best value for the Councils

# ICT Services – Cheshire West and Chester

## Key Benefits

The “Connected Cheshire” Project launched the Councils towards achieving 2005 Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) targets set by Central Government.




To the local community and Cheshire schools and libraries this translates as increased education, training and development across the internet, now available through the new high-speed communications infrastructure. This enhanced environment will also support ongoing development of the Councils’ financial and administrative systems, a factor which will improve the everyday speed and efficiency of their services, whilst providing a modern, flexible IT platform for future services and initiatives.

## Building the Intelligent Network Foundation:

The full realisation of the e-Government initiative can only be achieved by a council that is able to deliver information and systems seamlessly across the whole organisation as well as the wider community. In the case of Cheshire, this necessitated the creation of a single network connecting some 192 remote council buildings and 352 primary, secondary and special schools and 39 libraries.

A particular feature of the proposed design was the adoption of high-speed radio technology. Boasting significantly reduced on-going costs over conventional leased lines, this solution also suited the close proximity of the core Council sites. Further use of broadband DSL circuits for the remote offices also allowed high bandwidth services to be provided at a minimal cost representing an exceptional return on investment compared to traditional methods.

## Solutions Implemented

-  Dynamic Services
-  Network Optimisation
-  Workspace Productivity

## Tailored Service:

Throughout the project, both the Council and a&o followed a highly cooperative approach based upon a long-term partnership. To this extent, a&o was able to gain a strong understanding of both the compelling reasons for the Councils’ objectives and external factors that will effect the development of the solution following implementation. This knowledge sharing enabled the solution to be tailored around the specific needs of the Councils’ business strategy and subsequent technology objectives.

*“This strategic initiative provides an opportunity for the citizens and business communities of Cheshire to be at the forefront of electronic service delivery.”*



To find out how we could help your business achieve significant efficiencies contact us today.

a&o systems  
 Prescott Road  
 Colnbrook, Berkshire  
 SL3 0AE  
 0871 971 8800  
 communications@aogroup.co.uk  
 www.aogroup.co.uk