

Case study: Knowsley Local Education Authority

Knowsley LEA leads the Building Schools for the Future Programme with the support of Tribal and their software solutions.

Background

Knowsley LEA has been the recipient of several Government accolades for its exemplary progress, including being selected as one of the authorities whose 'wave one' proposals will lead the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Building Schools for the Future programme.

Influential in this success has been Tribal's Evolution asset management solution, which the LEA uses to store their school property data. Tribal also produced 'intelligent' computer aided design (CAD) plans of all the school properties, with dynamic links to the textual database. The high quality of the plans led to praise from the VA office when submitted as part of the sufficiency assessment.

With diverse building uses ranging from general education to sports, nursery care, adult education and general community use, Knowsley's property portfolio and its associated requirements are complex.

The solution

In 1999 Knowsley LEA purchased Tribal's Evolution solution to manage its considerable property portfolio in line with DfES asset management plan (AMP) objectives. The system's broad range of modules, combined with Tribal's after sales services, existing user references and competitive pricing schedule were major factors in the decision making process.



Knowsley's non-computerised general property information relating to the LEA's 172 school and 6 non-school buildings was incorporated into the core property register, along with condition, suitability, asbestos, and more recently sufficiency data in the relevant modules. Existing CAD plans included paper and basic AutoCAD drawings, have been converted to Genesis intelligent CAD to ensure the drawings are up-to-date and synchronised with textual data within the system. Presently 98% of the department's buildings are CAD enabled, and are used regularly by various surveyors, education finance to calculate payments, and by contract services to calculate cleaning charges.

Ian Hughes, Asset Management Plan Officer at Knowsley LEA, believes that without the system the authority would not have met all the DfES deadlines, and goes on to state that the database has become an important fixture that is used throughout the authority - not just within the education department.





“The information stored within Evolution has had a massive impact on the way in which capital investment decisions are made within the council, with data and information readily available to back up discussions.”

Ian Hughes, Asset Management Plan Officer, Knowsley LEA

Key details:

■ **Client profile:**

Knowsley Local Education Authority

■ **Objective:**

To manage their 172 school and 6 non-school buildings in-line with DfES requirements

■ **Solution provided:**

Evolution asset management system and Genesis CAD

The solution cont...

Looking into the future, Knowsley LEA has a number of plans in the pipeline to exploit the benefits of its AMP database. The recently purchased Mapinfo geographical information system (GIS) will be linked to the system database to spatially enable textual and CAD data. In keeping with advances in technology, the department aims to utilise the handheld facility in future condition surveys, with the added ability for surveyors to update architects plans.

In the near future it is hoped that individual schools will manage condition and suitability survey information, with data promoted and developed on Knowsley's intranet and central issues being discussed at a strategic level by the LEA.

Achievements

- The software has enabled the LEA to meet deadlines set by the DfES
- Supports capital investment decisions
- CAD enabled database used regularly by various stakeholders
- Comprehensive database of the LEA's entire educational property portfolio

Tribal Group offers consultancy, support and managed services to over 2,500 public sector organisations, including local authorities, housing associations, schools, colleges and universities, NHS trusts and health authorities, central government departments, and the voluntary and not-for-profit sector.

Tribal Education Ltd

Whiting House, Whiting Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 6DN

T: 01603 224 920 E: info.education@tribalgroup.co.uk

www.tribalgroup.co.uk