ukcloud

"WE'VE LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT HOW TO IMPROVE IT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY."

Mark Edridge, Digital Programme Manager, Surrey County Council

Who is Surrey County Council?

Sector: Local government

Headquarters: Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

Population: ~1.1 million

Surrey County Council deals with social services, roads, trading standards and a range of other services. It works in partnership with 11 district and borough councils, whose responsibilities include housing, planning and waste collection.

SUPPORT VULNERABLE PEOPLE DURING A CRISIS

When an incident occurs in Surrey, Surrey County Council's Emergency Management Team often has a role to play alongside the emergency services.

In the winter floods of 2013-14, it had to help the county's most vulnerable people by:

· Gathering data about them from multiple sources

· Integrating and validating it, and distributing it to the field.

"Our team met best-practice standards to process most datasets within an hour of receipt, but we wanted to do more to overcome the limitations of the manual process," says Mark Edridge, Digital Programme Manager at the council.

SERVICES

Sovereignty and security

A platform that's easy to switch on and off

Procurement via G-Cloud

"We'll retain the ability to call on development environment services from UKCloud should we need it."

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Digital Programme Manager,
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The council decided to make things happen faster by developing an application to test new ways of working.

The main challenges were:

- Find a cost-effective infrastructure to support an agile development project
- Be able to deploy infrastructure resources quickly, alter them easily and turn them off without penalty
- Avoid putting personal data about vulnerable people at risk

UP IN TWO WEEKS

Surrey County Council selected UKCloud as its infrastructure provider. Why? Because it was a G-Cloud provider. Because of its exclusive focus on the UK public sector. And because it had a security evidence pack to hand.

While security due diligence was completed, UKCloud worked with the solution developer to scope out the initial cloud infrastructure design and cost.

Within two weeks, everything was ready for the alpha project to start.

PROVEN IN EIGHT WEEKS

After eight weeks the council had a functioning prototype that took minutes to:

- Import, merge, cleanse and validate data
- Display the results in a series of dashboards suited to the Emergency Management Team's responder levels

The next step was a beta solution. "We saw the flexibility of the UKCloud platform," says Edridge. "The technical architecture was quite different from the alpha solution, but the developers simply made the required infrastructure changes on the fly."

Once the solution is migrated to in-house production environment, the council will switch off the cloud infrastructure. "We'll retain the ability to call on development environment services from UKCloud should we need it," says Edridge.

Business benefits:

· Flexible infrastructure
Flexible cloud infrastructure that support agile development methodologies

· Data security and protection
UKCloud's assured, UK-based cloud platform maintains security for sensitive personal information

· Rapid deployment
Ability to deploy infrastructure resources quickly, alter them easily and turn them off without penalty

8 weeks
to build an application prototype

ukcloud | success story

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