> The system **could not be easier to use** and **provides reassurance** to our end users, ICT and Information Security alike.

Kevin Maxwell,
ICT Service Support Manager,
Cumbria County Council

Cumbria County Council

Following the devastating impact of Storm Desmond on the local community, Cumbria was faced with a major re-build project. Around 600 assets required important documentation to be produced in collaboration with external contractors and civil engineers. This was all with a high level of urgency.

Storm Desmond hit Cumbria on 5 December, 2015. With a record breaking 341.4mm of rain falling within 24 hours, Cumbria Police declared the situation a 'major incident'. With nearly 6,500 houses flooded, 45,000 left without power, and key roads and bridges severely damaged, the total costs of the storm were estimated at more than £500m. However, the potential longer-term costs to the Cumbrian economy were much greater if the rebuilding process was not completed as soon as possible.

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- **Critical processes enabled** across multiple operating functions

- **Expedited rebuilding** of critical infrastructure post-natural disaster

- **Cost-effective and scalable** licensing model

- **Accredited by CESG** for information up to Official (Sensitive) level providing reassurance to end users, ICT and Information Security

- **User friendly and intuitive,** allows for rapid onboarding of key stakeholders regardless of IT proficiency

- **Minimal IT** management overhead

Cumbria County Council

Objective CONNECT | Objective

Cumbria County Council

> Storm Desmond had a devastating effect on the infrastructure of Cumbria. Objective Connect was a key resource that allowed Council highways engineers to quickly set up **secure file sharing of maps, images and plans with third parties from any location**.

Kevin Maxwell,

ICT Service Support Manager,
Cumbria County Council

Rebuilding Cumbria

With around 600 assets (roads, bridges and other infrastructure), David Sheard (Cumbria County Council's Programme Manager in Economy and Highways) and his team had a daunting task on their hands.

Each asset required an Assessment Report to be produced (to understand the nature and extent of damage to it), and then a Solution Scope (detailing how it would be repaired and the associated costs).

Completing such a complex and crucial task required collaboration with a large number external contractors and civil engineers. The work was only made harder due to its urgency.

Assessing the options

When considering how best to manage the rebuilding process, David understood that being able to work quickly and easily on large volumes of information, with a large number of external parties, was going to be critical to the success of the project. During his investigations, David assessed a Secure Email and Large File Transfer Service, USBs and Objective Connect. "USB memory was not an option due to the requirement for encrypted memory sticks being mandatory across the County Council platform," said David. The Secure Email and Large File Transfer Service also missed the mark. Unless the external participant had their own Secure Email or File Transfer account, there was only a single directional flow of information.

Choosing the right solution

At the end of the investigation, Cumbria County Council made the decisive call to use Objective Connect to manage the information being generated in the aftermath of Storm Desmond.

"Objective Connect was considered to be the right solution due to its compliance with security protocol and ease of access by independent organisations outside the public sector," said David.

Cumbria County Council

600
Assessment reports
created for assets across
the county

External collaboration
with many contractor
and civil engineers

Objective Connect
has contributed to more
efficient ways of working

Reduced training
requirements thanks to
user-centric design

Objective Connect's value

Objective Connect sped up the rebuilding of Cumbria's infrastructure by enabling David and his team to complete a significant number of reports more quickly than they would otherwise have been able to.
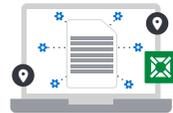
"Objective Connect provides an effective solution for the sharing, transfer and editing of these documents across the team before final sign off, yet complying with the security protocols required by the public sector IT infrastructure," said David. This, in turn, means that there is a reduced impact on the Cumbrian economy from the floods of December 2015, and life has been able to return to normal more quickly.

Kevin Maxwell, ICT Service Support Manager at the Council agrees on the value that Connect brought to major re-build project, adding "Storm Desmond had a devastating effect on the infrastructure of Cumbria. Objective Connect was a key resource that allowed Council highways engineers to quickly set up secure file sharing of maps, images and plans with third parties from any location."

Used beyond the rebuild

Before Storm Desmond, Objective Connect had already been selected by Cumbria County Council's ICT Department as its external collaboration platform of choice.

Objective Connect was seen as the most cost effective solution that offered both the security required by the Council's governance team and the ease-of-use required by the internal and external user community.

Objective

In addition to being used by David Sheard's Economy & Highways team, Objective Connect is also used within:

■ Legal Services to exchange case notes with private law firms and barristers.

■ Health Care and Community Services to share client case notes and support plans with external healthcare agencies.

■ IT Services to collaborate with suppliers and consultants on sensitive data related to IT projects.

■ Archives to distribute genealogy and other research results with paying clients.

Kevin Maxwell commented: "Objective Connect has provided us with an easy-to-use, secure solution for our file sharing needs. The system could not be easier to use and provides reassurance to our end users, ICT and Information Security alike."

Digital government.
Stronger communities.

We create software that makes a difference.

Using Objective software, thousands of public sector organisations are shifting to being completely digital. Where our customers can work from anywhere; with access to information, governance guaranteed, and security assured.

Innovation is our lifeblood. We invest significantly in the ongoing development of our products to deliver outstanding solutions to the public sector and regulated industries.

The result - stronger national and community outcomes, and accountability that builds trust in government.

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