

Sefton Council



Sefton is the local authority for an area of north Merseyside running from Bootle in the south to the resort of Southport in the north. The borough has more than 280,000 residents with towns including Bootle, Litherland, Seaforth, Crosby, Formby, Maghull and Southport. Sefton has 22 miles of coast, featuring the industrial Port of Liverpool, Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' artwork and sprawling sandy beaches and dunes. It is also home to the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree Racecourse and Royal Birkdale Golf Club – a regular Open Championship venue.



The Planning & Building Control department of Sefton Council processes and monitors planning and building regulation applications. Its policy team sets local planning policy based on monitoring and evidence-based work carried out by the technical support team. This team also oversees the implementation of the GIS to support planning and building control officers as well as managing the data they use on a day-to-day basis. Sefton Council is deploying an overarching 'One Council' policy where departments collaborate more closely. It had a requirement for a GIS to support this policy and to enable an open method for data sharing.

CHALLENGE

- Outdated servers and a web mapping system that was no longer supported
- Poor data quality and difficulty in managing and importing new datasets
- Encouraging departments to share data and work together



SOLUTION

- Cost-effective and flexible intranet and internet web mapping system for 20,000 log-ins from over 300 users per annum
- Intuitive system with click and drag functionality
- Self-serve system of easily accessible information for council and public-facing use



OUTCOMES

- Customised web mapping application branded SIMON (Sefton Interactive Maps Online)
- Increased efficiency in sharing information and data across the council as well as with local businesses and the public
- Confidence in the accuracy of the information available.

Cadcorp Web Map Layers customised to offer linked data to planning applications and submitted plans and documents

“The implementation went really smoothly and the support we had from Cadcorp was first rate. They knew the best way to implement the package and configure it to give it a Sefton flavour.”

~ Chris Nelson, Technical Officer
Sefton Council

CHALLENGE

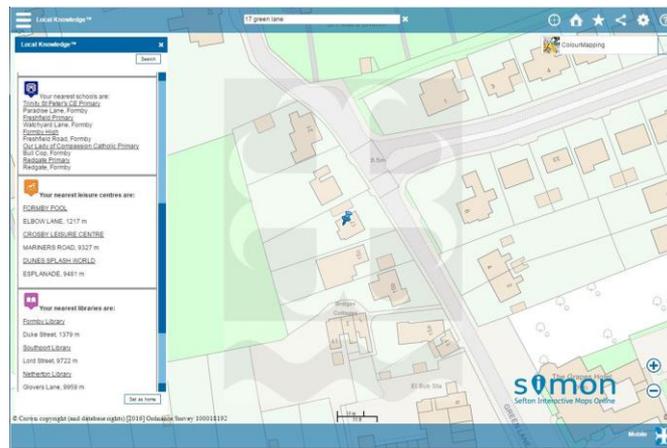
The web mapping system at Sefton Council was running on old technology and was no longer supported by its supplier. New users found it difficult to manage and import new datasets. Experienced users were increasingly having their time called upon to supply information. Data and information needed to become centralised, easier to manage and more effortless for the entire council and public to access.

SOLUTION

Sefton Council selected **Cadcorp GeognoSIS** as their GIS server, and **Cadcorp SIS Desktop** for administrative tasks. The council uses **Cadcorp Web Map Layers** as their public-facing application together with the standalone web service **Local Knowledge**. The council branded the resultant system as SIMON (Sefton Interactive Maps Online) and the SIMON+ version was added to give internal staff more functionality, more datasets and more detail on those datasets.

“ With Local Knowledge you know ‘where’s my nearest school’ or ‘who are my councillors’ and ‘am I in a conservation area’. The information is there at the click of a button and saves the council a lot of time and money in terms of response by allowing citizens to self-serve. ”

~ Chris Nelson, Technical Officer
Sefton Council



Cadcorp Local Knowledge in SIMON

OUTCOMES

Address and location information from council departments dealing with planning, local land charge searches, environmental protection and road adoption is centralised and more readily available through SIMON. Council staff in the public-facing Contact Centre and the public alike can be more self-sufficient by accessing this information directly. The scope of SIMON is already expanding and will soon be utilised as part of a Brown Field Land Register to show exactly where each site is, and its relationship to local facilities. In addition, the internal SIMON+ system will shortly be used to manage parks and gardens across Sefton Council and is being considered as a tool for analysing anti-social incident data.




Products & services

- Cadcorp GeognoSIS®
- Cadcorp SIS Desktop
- Cadcorp Web Map Layers
- Onsite training
- Technical support

