



## Powys Council's long-standing partnership with Advanced expands to provide important benefits.

The addition of a hosted service, and new solutions from the Finance software suite, increase productivity and secure team collaboration.



### Background

Powys County Council operates over a large part of central Wales. Created as a unitary authority on 1 April 1996, we are the largest in Wales by land area.

### The need to outsource

Since 1996, Powys Council has benefited from Advanced's eFinancials software. We originally hosted the application on our own servers and it worked well for us, with our Database Administration Service provided by employees who had a deep understanding of both the Council's operations and the technology that underpins it.

However, as time moved on, these internal experts moved on and were replaced with experts with differing skill sets, and we were less able to rely on the in-house team for systems expertise.

### Embracing external expertise

The outcome of a competitive tender process in 2018 for a hosted finance system approach saw Advanced successfully take on the hosting

of the eFinancials solutions in their own Tier III Data Centres. Since then, we have experienced little disruption, with our system being available whenever we require it, making us more productive. Time is also saved because we are working with experts who get straight to the heart of the matter.

Sue Spencer, our Systems Accountant said, "I've got more confidence that the servers and the system are being looked after by people who understand the software and the database. It all works really well in the hosted environment, Advanced has thought of everything!"

### Removing the headaches

Councils are increasingly looking to consume Cloud technology, and of course, security is a concern for all of us. We are reassured that Advanced has invested heavily in world-class security that is ISO 27001 accredited. Sue adds, "The end-to-end experience of having Advanced manage all aspects of both the software and hardware of such a critical finance system has taken away a huge headache for us."

### Client >

Powys County Council

### Sector >

Local government

### Project >

Implementing a seamless suite of financial management software.

*"The end-to-end experience of having Advanced manage all aspects of both the software and hardware of such a critical finance system has taken away a huge headache for us."*

Sue Spencer >  
Systems Accountant >  
Powys County Council

# Collaboration of budget holders and finance teams



## Working during a pandemic

We have also been using another of Advanced's solutions to help us overcome the recent challenges faced due to the pandemic. The automated invoice capture solution, DbCapture, integrates seamlessly into eFinancials. Sue comments, "This has been a real benefit since going into lockdown. We were able to continue to pay invoices, while the vast majority of our workforce were working from home, due to our switch over to electronic invoices. We are now down to less than 10 per cent of them being paper-based. This has reduced the amount of invoices being manually entered on a daily basis. It is a huge relief for myself to be able to carry on working efficiently while the team and I are operating remotely."

## Benefiting from additional modules

We have been constantly progressing with our use of eFinancials, and the suite that surrounds it, over the years. This includes Collaborative Planning (budgeting and forecasting software) and eProcurement, which acts as our front-end solution to view data and create orders. Sue comments, "we are embracing the other modules within the suite to help us really drill down. We love the simple user interfaces that focus on the task in hand, such as Finance Process Manager (FPM) when receiving debtor invoices."

Through a combination of Advanced software and services, we are truly benefiting from an end-to-end IT solution. Over time, our partnership has meant that we can call on experts who fully understand our situation and actively work to better our operations.

Spencer concludes, "Advanced understand the critical nature of our finance systems, and the importance of secure collaboration and processing. Advanced deliver technology that meets all of these needs, helps my team to add even more value and supports Powys Council every day."

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Sue Spencer >  
Systems Accountant >  
Powys County Council

## More information

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