



SWORD

UPGRADE YOUR BUSINESS

SwordCTSpace

Sunderland ARC Urban Regeneration

Founded by English Partnerships, One NorthEast and Sunderland City Council

The remit is to deliver the physical regeneration of large areas within the city of Sunderland. The company is part of the government sponsored Urban Renaissance aimed at transforming the economic and social life of cities.

Urban Regeneration Companies (URC's) were first promoted in 1999 to stimulate new investment into areas of economic decline and coordinate plans for urban regeneration and redevelopment. English Partnerships developed the working model and the first three pilot companies were launched in Liverpool, Manchester East and Sheffield. The URC model has now been deployed across some 16 regions of England.

Working in partnership with English Partnerships, One NorthEast and Sunderland City Council the ARC will invest more than £1billion in the regeneration of the City of Sunderland over the next 15 years. This includes over 300 hectares of brownfield land, more than 3 million sq ft of commercial, retail, leisure and civic space as well as more than 3,000 housing units.

One of the most ambitious programmes is planned for the North East of England. Here Sunderland ARC is working to transform the urban landscape and accelerate the redevelopment of Wearside. This would create more than 11,000 jobs to replace the devastating unemployment caused by the Groves Cranes and Vaux Brewery closures.

To help undertake this work, Sunderland ARC is supported by a powerful local, regional and national partnership of the City of Sunderland Council, One NorthEast and English Partnerships, who jointly fund the regeneration company's operation. The programme is aiming to achieve exemplar status for Sunderland ARC in terms of quality of projects and methods of delivery.

Sunderland ARC were faced with the following challenges:

- Achieving a collaborative work environment among the mix of public and private sector partners who are all used to working to different practices, protocols and reporting procedures.
- Providing comprehensive reporting about work in progress to different audiences.
- Managing teams and work practices across multiple projects – up to 50 in total.
- High standards have been set and Communication is key to the success of this programme, both amongst the internal partners and externally with the public.

Benefits

Quick and efficient management of project documentation

Manage immense volumes of documentation and correspondence

Reduce costs

Minimise errors and delays

Implement effective chains of communication

Encourage collaborative working

Mitigate risk and ensure regulatory compliance by maintaining a complete audit trail

Standardise best practice across projects

Improve visibility, control and problem diagnosis in the design and construction phases of the project

Leverage information from previous projects with archiving capabilities

“Using Sword CTSpace on the Holmeside Project has streamlined the whole communication process and made decision-making easier and more efficient.”

Craig Taylor, Project Manager

The project management team identified a need to trial a document management and collaboration tool to support the communication process. They specified that the solution should not require significant investment in hardware, software or set-up and would be easy to use by all participants on the bid team.

Sword CTSpace was implemented on the Holmeside Project, a major retail and leisure development planned near the city centre. The Sword CTSpace platform provided the Holmeside Project team with the necessary tools that would be made accessible to the bid team and its partners from a standard Internet browser.

Users from some 20 partner companies were trained to use the system and adoption was very swift. The team used the document management tools early on in the design phase to manage all drawings and plans centrally. This enabled all team members to access the most up to date information.

Using the notification tool, members of the team were kept informed about changes and updates to key documentation. The reporting facility also helped inform the management team about work in progress.

Following the successful deployment of the Sword CTSpace solution during the design phase, the solution is now supporting the Holmeside team in the procurement phase. As multiple developers apply for the contract, distribution of all relevant documentation is being coordinated through the Sword CTSpace platform. The system is maintaining a complete log of all documentation and activity across the lifetime of the project.

Through the implementation of the Sword CTSpace solution, Sunderland ARC have been able to:

- Improve communications and logistics management across the Project Team.
- Deliver a consistent working approach with team members from very different company backgrounds (Sunderland ARC, Planning Departments, Project Management).
- Demonstrate significant time and financial saving of the cost



of copying and posting documents and drawings to the 20 companies represented on the team.

- Improve turnaround times of approval on documents and drawings.
- Reduce the risk of errors by ensuring the team always work with the most current drawings and documents.
- Provide good management reporting through greater transparency of information.
- Log all documents, drawings and version history.

Following the positive experience of using Sword CTSpace on a trial basis at Holmeside, the management team took the decision to deploy the solution across a further four major projects. This was supported by a comprehensive training and implementation programme.

“We have been so impressed by the productivity improvements that we have gained using Sword CTSpace that we have decided to roll the software out across several of our major development projects at Sunderland ARC.” Ben Hall, Operations Manager, Sunderland ARC.

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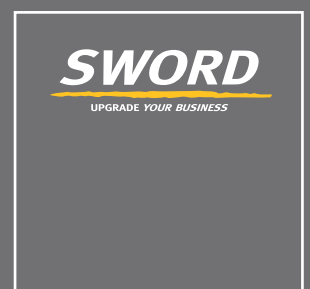
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