

STCS PROJECT PROFILE

Local Government Planning And Building Standards

STCS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS

A major City Council now provides a number of Planning and Building Standards services online through its Planning and Building Standards portal. STCS helped development an online application process as sub-contractors to BT, the main supplier of IT services to the Council.

PROJECT REQUIREMENT AND SCOPE

The City Council asked BT to develop a system allowing users to complete and submit planning and building applications online.

The main requirements for the system were as follows:

- The application process must be accessible to a registered user group, via the existing Planning and Building Standards online portal.
- A series of wizard-based application forms should allow users to supply all required information online.
- Functionality to submit drawings and plans online to support applications must be available.
- The system must calculate the fee payable (based on the information supplied in the application forms) and interface with an online payment provider.
- A Case Management screen must be provided to allow users to track and maintain their applications.

STCS were asked to join an existing BT team for the initial phase which involved developing the online Planning Applications process.

Following the success of this project in 2006, STCS were then asked to undertake the next phase in 2008 – developing similar functionality for Building Standards applications.

TECHNICAL APPROACH

The system was developed as a J2EE web application using a Struts 1.0 framework.

All page structure and dynamic content variables were held in database tables, leading to an easily configurable system.

As the system aimed to reduce the number of rejected applications, we employed both client side and server side validation (via javascript and validation scripts held on the database).

An interface to WorldPay (online payment service provider) was also developed.

In addition to undertaking a second development phase (Building Standards forms), STCS continue to provide support and development for this project as required.

KEY TECHNOLOGIES USED

Languages: J2EE, JavaServer Pages, JavaScript, CSS, HTML/DHTML, PL/SQL.

MVC Model: Struts

Database: Oracle