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Case Study

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) implemented Execview to provide effective governance over its transformation programmes. The goal was to reduce timescale, risk and cost. The solution provided visibility for executive decision-makers. East Sussex County Council found Execview quick to configure and easy to learn.

In recent years, pressure on local authorities has grown fiercely to cut their spending. Budgets have been slashed by 2.9% leaving councils with a widening gap between what they need to spend to maintain standards, and what funding will likely be available.

Across England this gap has widened by a staggering £2.1 billion a year. In addition to funding cuts, local authorities are finding an increased strain on public services. Ultimately, authorities are expected to do more with less. In order to bridge the gap, it has been crucial for local authorities to take relative measures to maintain as normal a service as possible with reduced resources. To this end, transformation programmes are being set in place to save resources and ultimately make available resources work harder to come in 2.9% under previous budgets. Ailing programmes are being axed, new working approaches are being adopted and innovative technology is being implemented. In order to identify and manage flourishing and fruitless projects, Directorates need to make effective and efficient governance decisions.

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMES REQUIRE GOOD GOVERNANCE

In a bid to enhance the governance structure of the organisation, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) began working with Execview in 2013. The combination of high-level consultancy and automated open governance platform offered by Execview allowed ESCC to manage their strategic outcomes and become self-sufficient in making solid governance decisions based on the performance of various programmes.

Two examples of such transformation programmes are ESCC's ICT and Agile programmes. These programmes incorporated the rollout of laptops to council workers, implementation of

Windows 7 operating system across the organisation as well as a new network and the rollout of superfast broadband. Collectively, these programmes save office space outlay and give council workers the ability to work from home.

By having accessibility and oversight of such transformation programmes, ESCC can simply check progress, manage risk and see whether resources are being aptly utilised. Risks are calculated via the Execview platform and input data is accountable, meaning decisions made at board level are timely, holistic and based on a 'single version of the truth'.

BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMMES

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is the 24th largest two-tier council with a population of over 500,000 people across 62 wards. In ESCC's case, good governance ultimately ensures taxpayers' money is distributed effectively.

THE GOLDEN THREAD

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) found that Execview helped align staff and management, and that Project Managers and Board-level Sponsors were united in their vision using the platform. The 'golden thread' theory describes the link between corporate strategy and execution; a shared vision unites staff on all levels in a bid to move the organisation forward. Tony Summers, CIO at ESCC said: "Execview underpins our governance ethos. We decided to work with Execview to support the delivery of a number of programmes after a comprehensive tender process, and it's provided a golden thread which ensures everyone from project managers to board level sponsors are on the same level of understanding and can see how competing priorities contribute to the council's bigger picture".

"Execview underpins our governance ethos."

Tony Summers, CIO at East Sussex County Council

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FAST SETUP, FAST RESULTS

Tony continues: "The Execview platform itself was easy to implement and configure, a degree of training and skills transfer allowed 'beginner' users to be competent on the system fairly quickly.

"The on-hand consultancy programme meant that we could be self-sufficient whilst knowing that help is at hand should we need it. The combination of the two was something which worked really well for us".
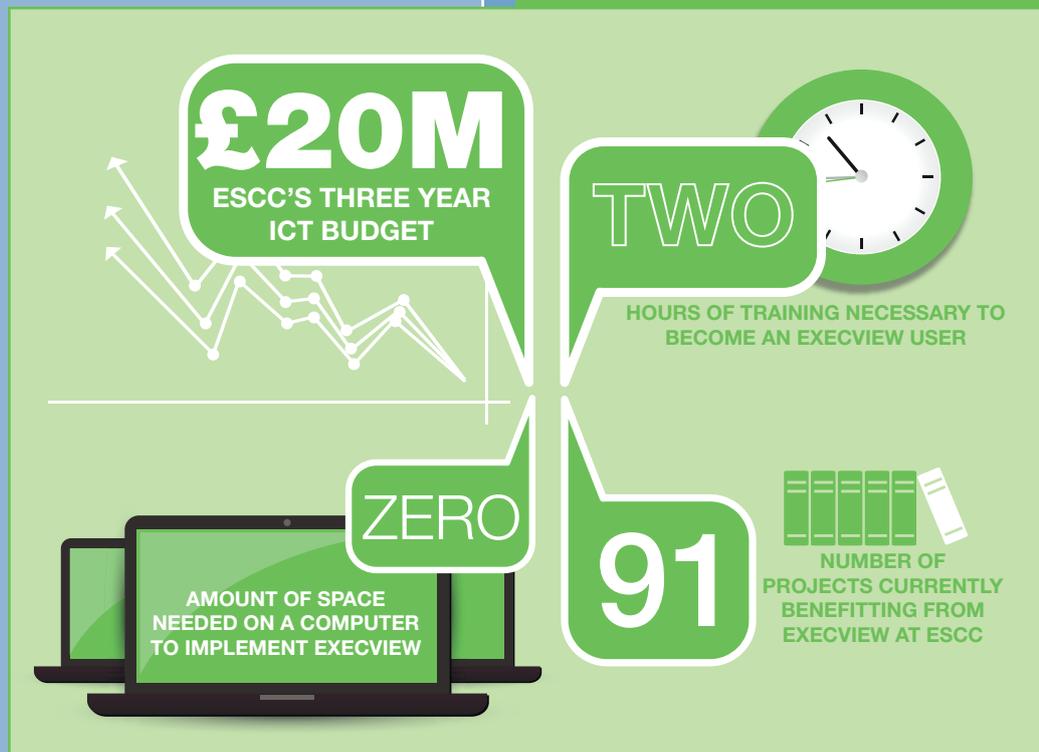
MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Since working with Execview, ESCC quickly picked up on its effectiveness, starting with more meaningful board meetings with increased focus and on a more efficient timescale. This is owing to the Execview platform's 'meeting friendly' scorecards. Tony explains: **"Execview's programme-on-a-page view is something we often use in board and sponsor meetings in place of reams of papers".**

"We can clearly see the status of various aspects of specific programmes. Meetings have become more focussed in that a clear order is displayed. The option to drill-down as far as project level if we so wish is useful and reassuring; the board can make executive governance decisions based on unbiased and accurate data."

Everyone from Project Managers to Board-level sponsors are now actively involved in the use of Execview at ESCC. High-level board members can make solid governance decisions based on reliable data which filters up through Execview from PMs, and sponsors can see how their projects are really doing. Perhaps the most significant change since the introduction of Execview, is that ESCC now has complete programme

oversight, where previously visibility was a challenge. Executives can now easily see where dependencies lie on resources and take action where necessary.

Execview and East Sussex County Council have worked together to bring the organisation forward, become more transparent, store unbiased data for key decisions and save money and resources, simply by implementing an exemplary governance structure.

£20M
ESCC'S THREE YEAR ICT BUDGET

TWO
HOURS OF TRAINING NECESSARY TO BECOME AN EXECVIEW USER

ZERO
AMOUNT OF SPACE NEEDED ON A COMPUTER TO IMPLEMENT EXECVIEW

91
NUMBER OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY BENEFITTING FROM EXECVIEW AT ESCC

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Tony Summers
CIO
East Sussex County Council

If you would like to improve or establish a governance structure within your organisation, why not start a conversation?

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT EXECVIEW

Founded in 2003, Execview brings together a skilled and experienced team of experts able to work at the highest levels of the organisation, from Board Directors to teams throughout the business. Working in synergy with the Execview Open Governance Platform, we tailor a service that will work for your individual organisation.

The Execview platform, an Open Governance Platform (OGP), allows executives to be self-sufficient in making good governance decisions. Taking strategic outcomes from ideas through to execution and operations - overseeing the full business lifecycle - continually evaluating and flagging risks and compliances along the way.

Quick to set up and cloud-based, the platform is ready to go when you are. The advantage of being cloud-based is that there is no need to change any of your existing IT systems, simply log in online and begin. Large-scale organisational changes and day-to-day operational activities are logged and displayed via 'meeting friendly' and easy-to-read reports and scorecards, mixing graphical data with expert commentary and evaluations.

If you would like to be making better business decisions and saving millions of pounds within your organisation, why not get in touch today?

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