

# Local Government

## Westminster Wireless City

The City of Westminster is home to some of the most famous sites in London including House of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and SoHo. It has a residential community of over 230,000 people with over a million tourists and commuter traffic each day. As the centre of London's nightlife, it has hundreds of pubs, restaurants and clubs and also faces high crime and anti-social behaviour.

### The Challenge

Part of Westminster's ambition was to become a wireless city: a city where people can be automatically on-line just by walking down the street; where video and other types of monitoring can be extended at a fraction of current costs and where new services can be delivered directly to residents - particularly the most vulnerable ones. Westminster is a 24-hour city, which places even greater demands on both the council and the Metropolitan Police. The city is looking to build on its recent 'Council of the Year' award, with the benefits that the wireless infrastructure can deliver across all services.

### The Solution

The new wireless network is an extension of Westminster's fixed network. Using Cisco WiFi equipment, it provides base stations to support wireless connection to the network. Video and data feeds are transmitted from fixed cameras around the city using DVTEL video encoders and received, viewed and recorded using DVTEL's Latitude Network Video Management System (NVMS). Currently the network is using the 802.11b license-exempt wireless frequency which delivers 11 Mbps, but it will be implementing 802.11g to provide greater capacity and speed - up to 54 Mbps.

- The 3-month proof of concept began in December, 2003 starting in Soho Square
- Web-based Latitude NVMS was implemented for camera control and viewing on a PDA
- A Remote Mobile Response Unit was added to respond immediately to incidents
- Received an additional £500,000 in new funding for additional cameras
- Service was expanded to include Internet Access in the Business Centre
- eLearning classes are being offered to the community for continuing education



### The Highlights

- Savings of £30,000 per camera in cabling costs
- Camera set-up time is reduced from eight hours to under one hour
- Mobile workers no longer have to re-enter data, saving seven-hours a week
- Significant reduction in street crime and anti-social behaviour
- Council funding increased 15% with the levy of new fines including illegal parking, fly-posting, and rubbish dumping
- System paid for itself within two years

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