



"We have no hesitation recommending Aspire due to their dedication to ensuring this project was a success." - Steve Craison, Senior ICT Project Manager at Accent Housing

Accent Housing is a registered provider of social housing. The company are committed to helping all their customers build better futures.

Accent is responsible for the management and development of affordable housing, and currently provides around 20,700 homes to almost 42,000 customers across the UK.

The Challenge

As part of their corporate property strategy, Accent was looking to relocate their Primary Data Centre from its location in Accent's Head Office to a new hosted Tier 3 Data Centre location, including the provision of reliable high-speed network connectivity to the existing Accent Housing Wide Area Network.

Accent came out to tender for the Data Centre relocation requirement, and in parallel issued a second tender for Wide Area Network connectivity. Aspire was subsequently successful in winning both contracts.

Aspire's Solution

Aspire's solution involved migrating Accent's IT infrastructure to their tier 3+, ISO27001 data centre at Stellium Data Centre, a state-of-the-art facility and one of the most advanced data centre locations in Western Europe.

To enable the migration, Aspire initially provided dual resilient 1Gbps network connections from Stellium to Accent's existing secondary data centre to support network integration testing. This proved invaluable as testing identified issues with the existing switching infrastructure which were subsequently resolved prior to the migration of services.

Due to the extensive preparation and testing undertaken, the final migration of infrastructure to Stellium was completed without issue and Accent's IT infrastructure went fully live in Stellium in May 2023.

Working with Aspire

The migration to colocation services at Stellium has resulted in Accent benefiting from the ultra-reliability provided by a tier 3+ ASHRAE certified facility, with the highest levels of environmental and security controls.

Migrating their IT infrastructure to Stellium has enabled Accent to de-couple their IT strategy from their property/estates strategy as well as providing connectivity to a wealth of ISPs and public/private cloud service providers accessible through the carrier-neutral data centre.

Stellium also offers very high levels of energy efficiency with 100% of power taken from REGO-certified 100% renewable green energy, hence supporting Accent's own sustainability objectives.

Steve Craison, Senior ICT Project Manager at Accent Housing said "We knew that a project of this nature was high risk for any business to undertake; essentially we were moving our organisation's data centre to a new location. As this was such a critical project, we had to be certain that the supplier that we selected as part of the competitive tender process had the skills, experience and dedication to assure our internal stakeholders that the project would be a success. Aspire's experience proved pivotal as the detailed pre-move testing recommended from them highlighted certain concerns that needed to be resolved ahead of the move.

"During the weekend move, Aspire worked around the clock (literally into the early hours) along with the Accent team to ensure the move was a complete success. We managed, met and exceeded our internal customer expectations, going fully live in the new location with all services fully operational by the following Monday."

Customer Benefits

- > Enhanced reliability and security
- > Seamless migration
- > A solution that supports Accent's sustainability objectives

Solution

- > Dual resilient 1Gbps network connections from Stellium Data Centre
- > Cost-effective, flexible and secure colocation
- > Dedicated project management and support

