

Business Solutions

Where skills or resources are constrained, outsourcing can be a very cost-effective way of achieving results. Budgets are known from the start; deadlines are agreed up front; and specialist expertise brings the right skills for the project with no effect on headcount or staffing levels. By outsourcing projects, an organisation can get on with what it does best. RM's unequalled technical capability can be combined with the specialist data management of Forvus, and the expert web design and development capability of 3T, to provide elegant solutions for different business needs.



Background

Two very different projects from the TTA and the DfES are linked by a need to have straightforward access to information.

The TTA needed a system to manage its Employment Based Routes (EBR) teacher training scheme. EBR enables schools to employ teachers who are not yet qualified and to support them through an individual training programme leading to Qualified Teacher Status. These programmes suit mature, well-qualified people who can quickly take on teaching responsibilities and who need to earn a living while they train.

The DfES needed a means by which its many Consultations could be easily accessed, so that the decision-making was opened up to a wide range of people and organisations.

Employment Based Routes for the TTA

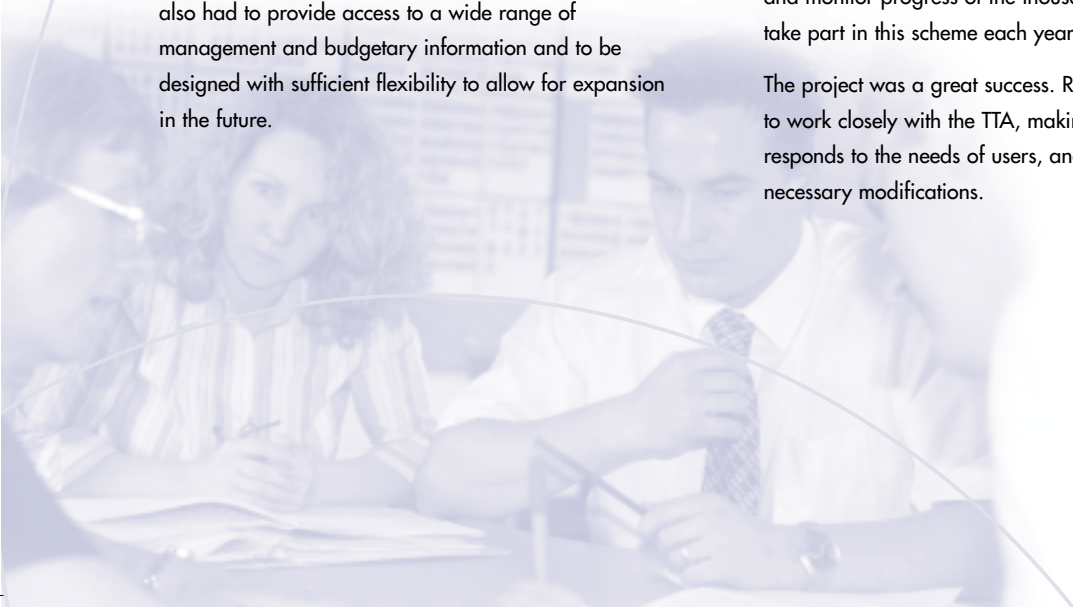
The need

The TTA required a web-enabled data management system for the Employment Based Routes scheme so that all teacher training programme information could be collated centrally through web-based forms. The system also had to provide access to a wide range of management and budgetary information and to be designed with sufficient flexibility to allow for expansion in the future.

The solution

Forvus developed a robust, secure and user-friendly online EBR system to a very tight timescale. Since the launch in September 2002, organisations have been able to enter and amend data at institution, programme and trainee level, and to obtain a wide range of management and budgetary information. Both the TTA and the providers of EBR Teacher Training can record recruitment and monitor progress of the thousands of trainees who take part in this scheme each year.

The project was a great success. RM and Forvus continue to work closely with the TTA, making sure that the system responds to the needs of users, and implementing any necessary modifications.



Business Solutions

DfES E-Consultations website

The need

The DfES wanted to develop an E-consultation website, with straightforward access to live and archived Consultations and their results, and the ability to respond online.

The solution

www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations, developed by 3T, was launched in February 2004. Consultations are listed in date order, and there is a search facility to find a Consultation by title or keyword.

An individual can create a user account and subscribe to receive email updates when new consultations of particular interest are published. The consultation can simply be viewed, and/or responded to, as needed.

RM's strengths

Forvus specialises in data management and has built a deserved reputation for delivering successful solutions on time and to budget.

The high-stakes EBR project underpins the TTA's drive to recruit more teachers from all walks of life. The Agency needed a trusted partner who not only understood the issues in recruiting new teachers, but also could deliver a highly-technical system as a user-friendly tool. Forvus was chosen by the TTA as a technical partner whose experience also ensured an understanding of the educational issues.

Forvus developed a system of collecting and presenting data about thousands of trainee teachers from many providers that is highly complex behind the scenes, but very easy to use. Information is entered through straightforward screens and menus, and no special skills or software are needed to use the system.

The DfES E-Consultations website is straightforward to use by those without advanced PC skills, making all Consultations available to everyone. This accessibility can only be achieved by a combination of technical skills and a genuine understanding of how stakeholders want such a system to work.

3T's knowledge of education, and their experience of developing simple highly-effective websites, helped significantly in making access to Consultations much easier and more efficient than it was previously.

The E-Consultations system assists the Department for Education and Skills in complying with the Cabinet Office 'Code of Practice on Consultation' by opening up the decision-making to a wide range of people and organisations. It also contributes to the Government's goal of making all information and services capable of delivery online. Individual users choose their preferred way to access Consultations, and responses can also be submitted in a way that best suits the user.

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