

Customer: Hartlepool Borough Council
Area: UK
Solution: BreezeACCESS® EZ
Application: Residential access for safe Internet connection for schoolchildren

The Challenge

To provide a cost-effective and reliable connectivity solution to support safe residential Internet access for schoolchildren.

The Solution

BreezeACCESS EZ in 5.8 GHz (21 sectors) and more than 500 CPEs, covering the entire city and creating a proprietary, secure school network which ensures safe access from home.

The Result

- Successful delivery of basic, safe connectivity for residential access
- First large scale BreezeACCESS EZ deployment in the UK for a proprietary network and a vertical business application
- e-Education success story connecting 600 households
- Promotes the PC-for-children idea with a municipal wireless network

Our Partners

Northgate Information Solutions is a leading provider of innovative technology solutions to the public services and utilities markets. Invisible Link is a privately-owned wireless integration services company.



Hartlepool Borough Council, UK

Using wireless technology as a reliable and cost-effective connectivity solution for e-Education and safe residential Internet access

“ *Alvarion’s wireless network is providing safe and proprietary connectivity between homes and schools, enabling us to bridge the digital divide and give schoolchildren an equal opportunity for development of ICT skills.* ”

Colin Scott, Senior Adviser Strategic Director for e-Learning, Hartlepool Borough Council

About Hartlepool Borough Council

Hartlepool, a North Sea port town in the north-east of England, has suffered badly from high unemployment over the years, particularly with the decline in shipbuilding and steel-making industries. Major investments in the 1990s, such as revival of the town center and a new marina, have improved this situation. Furthermore, the Borough Council is investing in education, taking advantage of UK policy to put Information and Communications Technology (ICT) into the homes of disadvantaged pupils in order to improve their chances of success in the future.

The Challenge

The Education Department of Hartlepool Borough Council sought to increase personal access to ICT at home for disadvantaged secondary-age pupils — to provide a cost-effective and reliable connectivity solution to support safe residential Internet access. The project had a number of targets, and in particular sought to bridge the digital divide and give these pupils and their families the same opportunities as more fortunate peers; provide conditions that would contribute towards raising educational achievement; support personalized learning; increase motivation; and encourage the development of ICT skills appropriate for the 21st century.

The Solution

Since not all households have landlines, wireless technology was selected as the best value for delivering connectivity to both homes and schools, as well as offering the opportunity to serve as a backbone for future expansion possibilities. The actual cost of a standard 2.4 GHz solution eliminated the initiative to create a Wi-Fi cloud over Hartlepool, and the 5.8 GHz wireless solution was also ideal for the flat terrain of the Hartlepool area. Furthermore, wireless broadband offered the possibility of creating a proprietary, secure school network which ensures safe Internet access.



Antenna installation at one of the homes in Hartlepool

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The network deployment consists of Alvarion's BreezeACCESS EZ in 5.8 GHz (21 sectors) and 600 CPEs. Covering the entire city, it includes network management which assigns the pupils to their school network. Base stations are located on the school rooftops (this was the best solution, eliminating external mounting charges), and the whole deployment, from RF planning to the start of installation, was completed in only 6 weeks.

The Result

Since the start of the actual field deployment of the network in the first quarter of 2008, Alvarion's solution in the Hartlepool education project is successfully delivering basic, safe connectivity for residential access, and the project is viewed by the city council as an enabler for other projects in the future. A large scale BreezeACCESS EZ deployment in the UK for a proprietary network and a vertical business application, it is an e-Education success story, connecting more than 500 households and promoting the PC-for-children idea with a municipal wireless network.

About Our Partners

Northgate Infrastructure Solutions provide world class ICT and managed services across public and private sectors. Northgate work in partnership with a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector organizations throughout the UK harnessing technology to improve business outcomes. As part of a strategic IT partnership, Northgate provide ICT-managed services and solutions for Hartlepool Borough Council.

Invisible Link is a privately-owned wireless distribution and integration service specialist to the IT and communications industry founded to provide the combined skill sets of data/voice systems integration and wireless system expertise. The company works with a range of selected industry partners providing expertise in bespoke wireless solution design and delivery. The company's customer base includes SME local businesses to blue-chip multinational, government and semi-state to global telecommunications carriers.

*Base station
deployment at
primary school*



About Alvarion

Alvarion is the largest WiMAX pure player, ensuring customer long-term success with fixed and mobile solutions for the full range of frequency bands. Based on its OPEN™ WiMAX strategy, the company offers superior wireless broadband infrastructure and an all-IP best-of-breed ecosystem in cooperation with its strategic partners. Alvarion has delivered over 200 commercial WiMAX deployments worldwide.