

“With a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a unified council, we needed a high-performance network to match.”

Mike Foley – Head of information Services Auckland Council

## A world-class network for a unified Auckland.



Auckland Council is the product of an ambitious vision: to bring all eight former local authorities together to create a single unified entity. The result – the largest local authority in New Zealand. The sheer complexity and scale of the integration demanded a network powerful enough to provide a platform for creating innovative new services that would benefit 1.5 million citizens in the Auckland region.

As New Zealand’s first and only certified world-class network, VectorFibre Carrier Ethernet was elected to the task. This is part of VectorFibre’s suite of services that have been independently certified to MetroEthernet Forum (MEF) standards, the global accreditation body for the industry.

This powerful new service delivers assured performance and reliability along with the flexibility to manage different types of application traffic. By prioritising data types, critical applications are never compromised. With the network running perfectly, Mike and his team can get on with the business of building a unified Auckland.

“With a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a unified council, we needed a network to match. And that’s exactly what VectorFibre Carrier Ethernet delivers. Assured service quality that gives me and my team the confidence to focus on the needs of 1.5 million citizens in the Auckland region.”

Mike Foley – Head of information Services

### THE CHALLENGE

The task was not a simple one. Integrate all of the telecommunications and data networking across all of Auckland Council’s former authorities. Merge 17 different sites for ease of use and communication. And ensure high availability for the Council’s many critical applications.

“Vector Communications met with everyone on the project, piecing together what was required to meet or exceed everyone’s expectations. They never complicated matters, showing good understanding of our business needs. And they were very responsive when we made suggestions or when new challenges came to light.”

**Mike Foley** – Head of information Services

“The network made it easy to integrate all the sites across a massive organisation with ease of use and transparency. What’s more, we can prioritise our different traffic types to ensure that critical applications are available for our users.”

**Mike Foley** – Head of information Services

## THE DETAILS

In their mission to unite all of Auckland, the Council had an extensive check list for their new service provider. Firstly they wanted a robust, high performance network with an easy Ethernet WAN interface that had scope for future growth. Seamless connectivity was required between all of the sites, and the service had to be reliable so that mission critical and delay sensitive applications could be run with confidence.

Multiple application traffic needed to run off one platform, including voice, video and data. Performance of critical and sensitive applications such as voice calling could not be compromised.

In short, the Council wanted a network provider that would give them the freedom to function without technical restrictions.

## THE SOLUTION

The challenge was easily met by VectorFibre Carrier Ethernet Flex. This high performance service provides Auckland Council with total replacement enterprise architecture to link all the different sites and services into one integrated network. The Flex service delivers:

- Six Class of Service (CoS) profiles to effectively prioritise all their applications for consistent performance across all the sites.
- A committed bandwidth profile, guaranteeing capacity is available as needed.
- ELAN (Ethernet LAN) configuration to connect all the different sites. By replacing multiple point-to-point connectivity, this simple and effective solution reduces network management complexity.
- The ability to choose the required bandwidth at each location. This enables the Council to dimension the solution to exactly match different requirements. They can quickly scale any site at any time.
- Diversity options at critical sites that ensure high availability. This means that critical Council functions will keep functioning even when any possible local failures occur.
- The MEF certification guarantees Auckland Council a service that rivals the best networks around the world.

“We know we can rely on the network. It’s easy to access and gives us the flexibility to manage different types of traffic so the most critical applications always perform consistently.”

**Mike Foley** – Head of information Services

## THE END RESULT

- Auckland Council staff can access information faster and collaborate more effectively.
- Seamless connectivity between the sites sets up a platform for innovation where new applications can be developed and implemented quickly.
- The Council can ensure the performance of enterprise-critical applications and sensitive voice data amid all the other data types transported. This allows maximum efficiency from the bandwidth – making it cost-effective, while ensuring high performance of the critical applications.
- The flexible platform allows easy scaling or adding new sites as required. Along with its open architecture, this provides ample future proofing for the Council.
- The Council can ensure high availability of its services and applications.
- The flexibility of the network lowers the cost of transition and makes it quicker to set up new networks.

From an IT management perspective, having the greatest choice of availability options on the market – going up to 99.999% availability – provides reassurance that services would be available as needed. It offers easy management and scalability because it is an end-to-end service.

## DOWNLOADS/LINKS

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

“We knew this was the only network that would give us the confidence to execute our future plans for local government. The MEF certification gave us the certainty that we could depend on this service.”

**Mike Foley** – Head of information Services

## WHY VECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

Auckland Council chose Vector Communications because of the knowledge and level of engagement demonstrated during a previous project for the former Auckland Transitional Authority. The Council was also confident that the MEF certified network would deliver a world-class solution. They were impressed by the Flex service because of its performance, transparency, scalability and how easy it is to set up additional sites. It also allows them to work with any system integrator.