



West Lindsey
District Council

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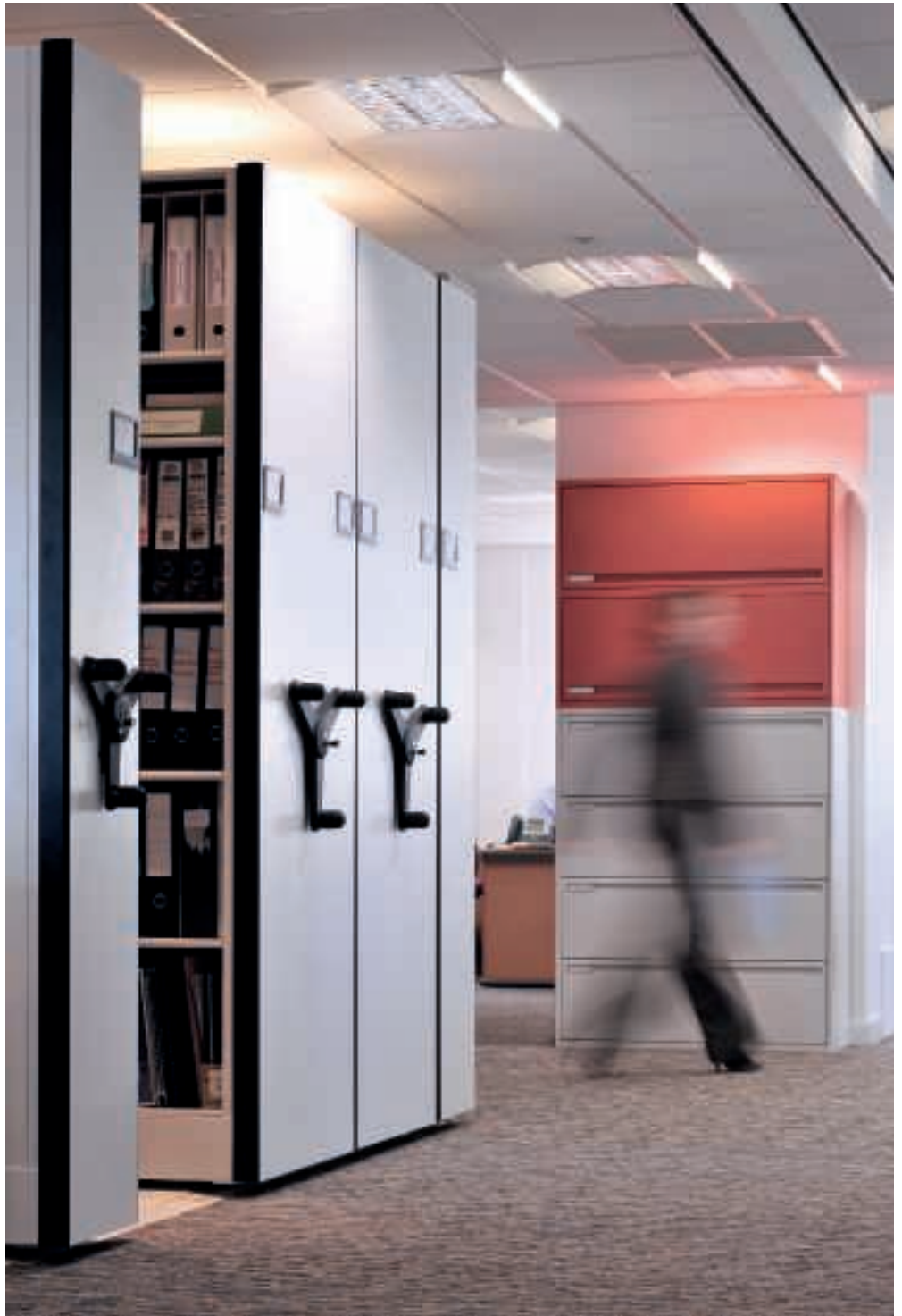
district lines

We've once again headed merrily up the A1 into that most green of counties, Lincolnshire. To be slightly more precise, we are in the picturesque market town of Gainsborough to take a look at the new facilities of West Lindsey District Council.

The District of West Lindsey covers the area immediately north of Lincoln and forms the north west gateway to Lincolnshire. Covering an area of 115,773 hectares (447 square miles, 1,158 square kilometres), the district is predominantly rural and provides an attractive setting for its three market towns of Caistor, Gainsborough and Market Rasen. West Lindsey is part of Lincoln County Council.

Sited in the market town of Gainsborough, the District Council has 250 employees and is home to the Council Chambers and Public Offices. The new building was designed specifically for the Council, as part of Marshall's Yard, a development utilising the old tractor factory.

We meet with Hilary Wright from Dalby Development Limited, the organisation given >>>





▶▶▶▶ that they are taking massive steps to have a building built for them. It has to work long term and must be a great place to work and for all to work together instead of in separate buildings.

‘One of the first criteria was to discover which department works with each other

and put them close together on the same floor and the others directly above or below, so there is horizontal or vertical communications. Previously, staff booked meetings with each other whereas now there is more interaction, and communication is much easier.’

So what were the major challenges Hilary and the team faced at West Lindsey? ‘Sheer quantity of paper that has to be available was the biggest problem – and accessibility to it,’ Hilary is quick to answer. ‘The solution needs to be highly interchangeable. With the help of KI, I could create a solution that could be delivered from one supplier. All the storage would be metal for longevity. All files that needed to be used on a day to day basis would be in four drawer units no higher than 1m. Should a department need more storage in the future, extra tops boxes could be added to the drawer units, to create tall storage, by keeping bases and tops as separate units. In the long term there is the flexibility to keep mixing units so you never get stuck with a tall unit in the middle of a room.

‘For the remainder of filing it was agreed we use high density rolling units, fitted in recesses (we even removed internal rooms from the plan and replaced them with open rolling units) to save space.

‘I would never have been able to work this out on my own. It was extremely complex, but KI produced a storage audit for every department and then spent hours▶▶▶▶▶





and can quite simply be moved from floor to floor.

These were specially produced with white frames and a maple finish to match the building's doors, while glazing and bright purple fabric on exterior walls adds to the dynamic feel here.

We ask Neil Cucksey, the Asset and Property Services Manager at West Lindsey District Council, to give us the client's perspective of the project: 'Generally the relocation has gone better than expected,' Neil reveals. 'No one likes change and moving office for some is a stressful business. We have tried to ensure that staff had information and some ownership of the new environment they were moving to. This was done through several open sessions where staff could drop in and view plans, colour schemes, finishes, storage solutions etc. We also appointed Move Champions, through which communication of the various stages of the move process were coordinated.

'Since moving in we have already seen benefits in working in one building rather than four previously. There is greater interaction and knowledge sharing across the departments and we are now working in a more flexible manner.'

We'll leave the final words to Hilary Wright – who once again is happy to share the plaudits with one particular supplier. 'A good office is one where people have the resources to do their jobs effectively and efficiently, in an environment they want to be in. With the help of KI, West Lindsey District Council has achieved a great working environment that will keep on working.' ●

▶▶▶▶with me making all the pieces of the jigsaw work.'

Continuing with the subject of product specification, we ask about the process and the timescales. 'All the products were ready to be specified by June for a September move,' Hilary recalls, 'but unfortunately the building ran five months late and the products could not be ordered.

'I saw all the possible suppliers a few times before submitting my three options for furniture and flooring to the Head of Property Services.

'The building is all white and glass and I wanted to add colour to each floor by choosing different colour carpet for each floor and pulling out a bright colour from the carpet for the KI Mail box units, such as turquoise, purple and orange.'

Hilary and the team at West Lindsey based their selection on longevity, quality and flexibility. This can be witnessed throughout the impressive new facility, and includes Screen Solution Formation Pods, which are available for staff privacy but, unlike partitioning, are extremely flexible

essential ingredients

Client:	• West Lindsey District Council
Design & Planning:	• Dalby Development Limited
Storage:	• KI 020 7404 7441
Carpets:	• Desso 01235 554848
Seating Solutions:	• Boss Design 01384 455570
Table Solutions:	• Hands 020 7490 5722
Privacy Pods:	• Screen Solutions 01273 589922