

## ASSISTING WITH THE ELECTRONIC EXECUTION OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS FOR UK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY



### CHALLENGE

- Bury Metropolitan Borough Council is a local authority based in the North West of England which serves a population of around 182,00 and covers an area of 99km<sup>2</sup>.
- The Council were looking to automate their administrative processes in a drive to make efficiencies which was accelerated by the recent pandemic and the necessity to complete transactions remotely.
- The process of executing legal documents that needed multiple sign-offs before being stamped with the Authority's corporate seal was time consuming and inefficient, as the documents were being posted from signer to signer before final approval and cross referenced by hand onto ledgers before being physically archived.
- Bury needed a compliant and secure system that could be easily integrated into their practices and which would represent not only a greener approach but one that could enable colleagues to collaborate whilst physically working apart.



### SOLUTION

VirtualSignature was selected as Bury MBC's cloud-based technology partner to implement its unique **SmartSign** application which provided a wide range of solutions allowing Councillors and their teams to automate documents, customise the order in which they are authorised and electronically signed, apply Bury corporate seals, issue full audit trails with document exchange and facilitate cloud archiving, all within the regulations of the Council's constitution.

### RESULTS

With the ability to quickly integrate and deploy VirtualSignature's **SmartSign** technology, Bury MBC can upload multiple branded seals to the platform, and configure the system to accommodate up to 10 signers

Colleagues can complete transactions from any desktop PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device which means they can safely work from any location and avoid interruption to vital Council business.

“With over 1000 legal documents needing to be signed, sealed and executed annually SmartSign has proved invaluable to Bury MBC in securely speeding up processes whilst allowing the Authority to remain compliant.

The team at VirtualSignature worked closely with us to rapidly develop a system tailored to our requirements and which we have found works very efficiently and is easy to use”

**Andy Carlile**  
Legal Practice  
Manager  
Bury MBC