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## Anchor delivers its budgeting and reporting Cloud strategy with help from Brovanture

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Brovanture was key to showing us the right way to go with these solutions. We trusted them to focus on what we really needed and to have the knowledge to help us make it work successfully. We also knew with their help it would get done on-time and on budget!

Michael Stewart, IT Systems Development Manager, Anchor

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### Brovanture works with not-for-profit Anchor to move finance to the Cloud with Oracle and NetSuite solutions

Anchor is the largest not-for-profit provider of housing and care for older people in England, managing over 35,500 socially rented units, over 12,500 leasehold units, and 114 care homes with 5,860 rooms.

Anchor had been long term users of on-premises Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE), Oracle Essbase and Oracle Hyperion Planning when in 2017, after a previous systems review by Brovanture, they commissioned Brovanture to upgrade these applications to the latest releases. Having successfully completed this work Brovanture were awarded a support contract to maintain the stability of the environment and the applications and help troubleshoot and solve any issues that arose.

With their applications infrastructure hosting contract running out in 2019 Anchor looked to Brovanture for help to deliver their strategy to migrate to the Cloud. Following detailed discussions, the approach agreed was for Brovanture to work with them to move their OBIEE and Oracle Essbase applications to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), and then to move Oracle Hyperion Planning to Brovanture's own hosting solution. For their final move to totally Cloud solutions for budgeting and reporting, in 2021 Anchor, again partnering with Brovanture, implemented NetSuite Planning and Budgeting.



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## challenges

- Maintaining and upgrading old Hyperion and Oracle on-premises applications was expensive and very time consuming
- Use of Hyperion and Oracle on-premises applications was limited by the licencing structure and resulting cost
- Strategy was to move to the Cloud but they needed a clear plan and a partner to help them make the move
- Budgeting and reporting were slow due to the design of the application and the many offline processes required to minimise the number of expensive user licences
- The original application infrastructure provider did not understand the special requirements of their applications which caused availability and performance issues

## results

Over a period of 4 years Anchor, partnering with the Brovanture team, have moved their entire EPM and BI applications estate from legacy on-premises solutions to the latest Cloud applications. Together they have achieved this without disruption to the service they provide to their many users plus they have enhanced the functionality and the service they receive.

By moving both BI and EPM planning to the Cloud Anchor have made significant savings in both licence and running costs whilst adding to the total number of users who benefit from these applications. They now have 170 users of the EPM planning application.

Moving to NetSuite Planning and Budgeting they have:

- Implemented all new process controls for the budgeting process
- Employed Oracle Integration Agent to automate all data transfers
- Enabled user interfaces that are specifically tailored for each user
- Implemented single sign-on

- Provided user personalised navigation flows
- Enabled users with minimum training and support

Budget input and discussions with the budget managers at their 1500 locations have been enhanced by removing spreadsheets and replacing these with on-line discussions based on the budgeting application. Location managers, area managers and finance staff can easily share the latest information and make the right decisions easily and quickly. Their budget process is complicated by the budget driving location service fees. These have to be discussed and agreed, and potentially revised, with residents before the budget can be finalised.

Anchor has recently merged with Hanover. They attribute the relative ease in which they managed the financial process changes to the EPM and OCI Analytics Cloud solutions they have implemented.

They are operating finance with the same number of staff as before even though they have doubled the size of the business.

## execution

Brovanture have been alongside Anchor throughout their journey to Cloud based solutions. With a detailed understanding of Anchor's business and what the solutions can do Brovanture have played an important role in showing Anchor the options and benefits that these solutions offer.

Whilst Anchor have done much of the work themselves Brovanture have specifically worked on a number of aspects of the project:

- Given expert advice on what was possible and desirable to do in the Cloud
- Provided assistance in defining and developing the many integrations with source systems that were required



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- Advised and helped develop the navigation flows for the budgeting processes
- Given user training in how the Cloud solutions operate
- Provided ongoing support

Brovanture continue to support Anchor and together they are looking at continuing to enhance the way Anchor use these solutions.



I cannot overstate the quality of Brovanture support. The depth of knowledge Brovanture’s staff have and the speed of their response is so much better than we have ever had before.

Michael Stewart, IT Systems Development Manager, Anchor

## about Anchor

We are the largest not-for-profit provider of housing and care for older people in England, managing over 35,500 socially rented units, over 12,500 leasehold units, and 114 care homes (5,860 rooms). Our ambition is to transform housing and care so people can have a home where they love living in later life. This means thinking differently, so we can lead the

way to create choice and opportunity. Our customers are at the heart of everything we do. We believe they should be able to choose how they live in later life. This means listening carefully so we can shape our homes and services around their changing needs and concerns. Listening to customers helps us understand how we can transform the market to secure

the best services and create more choice for them, now and in the future. Together we'll be a bigger, stronger and more resilient organisation, able to invest in new services and innovate to meet future needs.

[anchor.org.uk](http://anchor.org.uk)

## About Brovanture

Brovanture Ltd, established in 2005, is a specialist provider of Oracle and NetSuite Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions across all sectors and organisations, irrespective of size or budget. Initially, a Hyperion Partner, Brovanture became an Oracle Partner, following Oracle's takeover of Hyperion, and is also a NetSuite

Solution Provider. Brovanture is an 'Oracle Certified Expert Partner' for Oracle Cloud EPM and Oracle Hyperion solutions, is an accredited supplier with G-Cloud and the Crown Commercial Service and has Cyber Essentials, ISO9001 and ISO27001 accreditations. The Brovanture team of highly skilled professionals deliver excellence, ensure success, and are

experienced in providing services to a wide range of organisations including Edrington UK, Department of Health and Social Care, Mount Street Group, discoverIE, Arqiva, Reading Borough Council and Channel 4 Television.

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