

Case Study

Local Government Corporate

Reporting – Data Model and Power BI

Template Design

Delivery of a cloud based data model and standardised report templates, helping to streamline corporate and management reporting with a standard look and feel



# Case Study

# **Local Government Corporate Reporting – Data Model and Power BI Template Design**

Helping to standardise the look and feel of corporate and management level reporting, while providing business users access to core system data at the click of a mouse and a fraction of the time.

#### Problem.

This local government office is required to produce their corporate reports for their elected members biannually, as well as develop, maintain and support a number of operational management reports accessible by council staff on a regular basis. Data is sourced from various corporate systems, manual datasets and third party vendors to produce a number of charts, tables and KPIs that do not follow a standard corporate theme or style and are hard to maintain.

Report logic is duplicated across many reports and business rules are not consistently applied. Producing the corporate reports is time consuming, extremely manual and often contains data quality issues and inaccuracies that go undetected. Business users are early in their upskilling and adoption of the new BI reporting toolset and cloud technologies (e.g. Power BI and O365) and the IT department would benefit from a self-service reporting capability existing within the business.

## Solved.

To provide a scalable solution that could be continually improved and expanded upon, Exposé created an Azure Analysis Services (AAS) model, integrating data from its core business system, providing faster access to critical data with a wide range of analytical and statistical options. The model also included new date dimensions, enabling the date intelligence capability of Power BI.

A number of key existing reports were re-created in Power BI utilising the new data model, demonstrating the full capability of leveraging report development off a centrally managed data model. These new reports formed a series of templates incorporating a custom corporate colour theme that can be easily adopted across the business. A number of Power BI's newer features were showcased including the new filter pane experience, use of bookmarks for on screen help and page navigation, and Power BI Apps to create read only versions for distribution purposes.

## **Business Benefits.**

The work which Exposé has undertaken allows the client to significantly reduce the time, effort and errors associated with producing and maintaining critical business reports used in their corporate and management reporting suite.

The establishment of a corporate report style and data model framework will greatly assist business report designers build their operational reports in a more streamlined fashion with greater consistency, and provide the IT team a foundation to expand on. IT staff are able to focus on business critical tasks and improving user adoption of their cloud first strategy, while building the business capability of self-service reporting.

The creation of a centralised data model further enables staff to build data quality reports more readily and easily, helping to cast attention to areas of improvement and ultimately improve service delivery across all areas of the organisation.

