

## Business Situation

Scotmid Co-operative is Scotland's largest independent co-operative and include Scotmid and Lakes & Dales Co-operatives, Semichem, Funeral Directors & Post Offices, employing 5,000 people in the UK across nearly 350 retail outlets.

Scotmid Co-operative had a desire to move its core business intelligence solution to Azure. It was essential that their cloud platform was secure, properly governed and had financial controls in place to allow this replacement of a mature on-premise BI solution with a new data cloud platform, for mobile reporting and improved data management capabilities to be successful.

## Solution

The proposed solution was reviewed by Servent and several recommendations made with a focus on security, governance, cost management and scalability. We then designed and built them a new Azure environment that allowed them to productionise their business intelligence solution. We provided consultation on the architectural redesign of the data platform, helping their team up skill in the latest BI data processing through use of Azure Data Factory, Azure Rest API and DevOps pipelines.

## Benefits

Using our **Azure Foundation** offering all the necessary security, governance and cost management controls were implemented to industry standard best practice and recommendations. The data platform solution helped to expedite data updates to Power BI for daily sales report which ultimately helps drive better decision making within the business.



## Background

The **Journey to a Modern Enterprise** is our proven approach to moving customers to Azure. **Azure Foundation** is an offering which is part of this approach, built from many years' experience of moving customers to the cloud.

Modernising workloads to the cloud and utilising the extensive array of **Azure Data Platform** services is a massive attraction for many organisations, primarily due to the favourable economics which the cloud offers, the ease of deployment, and the flexibility and scale that the cloud provides.

With **Azure Foundation** at Scotmid Co-operative we identified several areas which they hadn't taken into consideration with respect to their cloud journey. These areas fell into three broad categories: **security, governance** and **cost management**.

We helped them optimise where they were spending, how they were spending, and where they could cost optimise their spending, to help get more for less from the Azure cloud platform. **Knowledge transfer** being considered a key goal for the engagement.

In addition, allowing them to take full advantage of **Azure Data Platform** services like Azure Analysis Services, with appropriate cost controls in place. The data solution avoided unnecessary costs by autoscaling the resources daily, as required. We also introduced to their BI team a DevOps way of working with fully automating the Azure Data Platform solution and implementing an Azure DevOps pipeline for deployment.



### What is Azure Foundation?

**Azure Foundation** was core for Scotmid Co-operative when it came to understand how to best use Azure. Our Azure Foundation offering can be broken into the three pillars explained below.

#### Azure Security

Security was at the heart of Azure for Scotmid Co-operative. With **Azure Security**, we introduced the following:

- Identity management
- Threat detection
- Role-Based access controls
- Monitoring and alerting

#### Azure Governance

Scotmid Co-operative wanted to ensure that there were appropriate governance controls in place for Azure. With **Azure Governance**, we implemented the following:

- Repeatable, reusable methods for deployment of resources to subscriptions.
- Fine grained control over permissions, policies and rights for Scotmid Co-operative BI & Ops teams using the platform.

#### Azure Cost Management

At Scotmid Co-operative there was a desire to control cloud spending across the organisation and with particular regard to migrating their Business Intelligence platform.

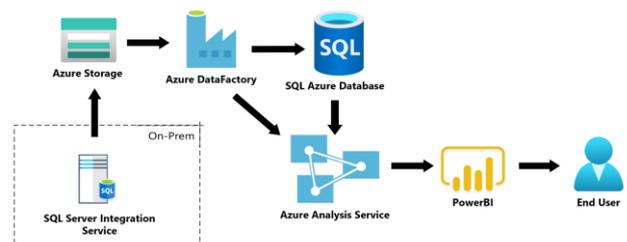
### Azure Data Platform

The **Azure Data Platform** is made of several key technologies and offerings and we introduced some of these offerings to enhance and optimise the Scotmid Co-operative BI solution.

Data Platform products used in the solution deployed consisted of:

- Azure Storage
- Azure Data Factory
- Azure Analysis Services
- Power BI
- Azure DevOps

The following diagram outlines the high-level solution and how each of the **Azure Data Platform** products are used.



### Get in touch!

If you would like to hear more about our **Azure Foundation** or **Azure Data Platform** offerings, then please get in touch. We would be delighted to help you understand how we can help you in your own cloud journey.

