

Vellinge increases cost awareness and achieves greater freedom with QlikView

“ It wasn't enough to have a tool that could analyze each part of the system independently. You can do that with the original subsystem. We needed a tool that could link all the different data sources together and improve our capabilities to make the right decisions. To us, QlikView does exactly that. ”

Kenneth Jönsson, Director of Finance, Vellinge Municipality

Vellinge municipality has among the lowest income tax rates in Sweden. This is and has been a political strategy for many years. The policy is perhaps best summarized in their own slogan: Where the freedom is greater!



Increased cost awareness

Kenneth Jönsson is the Director of Finance at Vellinge municipality. He is the guy responsible for keeping the red figures out of the annual reports. “If you can not raise your income, then you have to lower your costs. It is as simple as that, and Vellinge municipality is not about to raise taxes. In fact, reducing them is more likely.” This means that everybody in the organization must

be able to review all costs associated with every departmental decision. This concerns approximately 10 controllers and 60 managers with budget responsibility sitting in different locations. Before implementing QlikView, they had to compare printouts from different systems manually to compile the information. In many cases, they even had to manage without the necessary information.

Simplicity and reliability

When looking for a tool to more efficiently analyze costs throughout the organization, three criteria were in focus: control, ease-of-use and reliability. Kenneth explained, “Increased cost control was the primary reason for evaluating a tool in the first place. Ease-of-use was also important to make sure that people at all levels actually used the tools.” To Vellinge, reliability meant not only having its system run smoothly and without disturbances, but also being able to reduce maintenance costs. Therefore, they looked for a robust solution that did not require them to hire expensive consultants for every minor change or update.

Independent and in control

QlikView solved their problems. With only a couple of days training, Vellinge

Solution Overview

Vellinge Municipality

A municipality in Skåne County in Sweden

Industry

Government

Function

Finance, HR

Geography

Sweden

Challenges

- Difficulty analyzing information residing in disparate source systems
- Need for stronger controls in order to reduce overall operating costs
- Required solution that is usable by employees lacking formal finance training and background

Solution

Vellinge Municipality deployed QlikView to 100 employees across 2 functional areas. With QlikView pulling data from various back-end systems, Vellinge Municipality analyzes cost and budget information for every department, with a singular focus on reducing operating costs for the organization as a whole. With QlikView Server, Vellinge Municipality employees work from a single version of the truth through a common dashboard.

Benefits

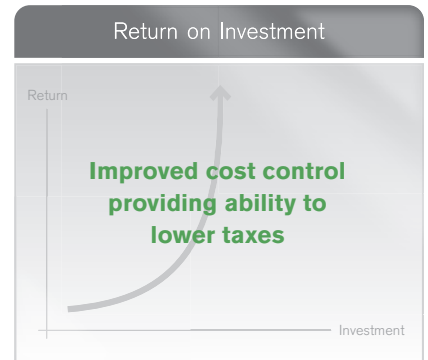
- Reduced operating costs, allowing for lower tax rates
- Increased cost awareness throughout the organization
- Decreased burden and reliance on IT staff for application updates and end-user training
- Created strong financial stewards from end-users without financial background or training



municipality was able to implement all of its applications on its own. Adaptations, updates and internal training were also taken care of by in-house staff. Today, end users can review costs and extract the necessary data for planning with only a couple of quick selections in QlikView. “QlikView has met all expectations for our criteria,” Kenneth continued. “Co-workers who never had anything to do with finance are basically self taught on our

QlikView applications. Often they don’t even get back to me with questions, but rather with suggestions for improvement. Today, end users can have an overview of costs and extract the necessary data for planning with a couple of quick selections in QlikView.”

Vellinge municipality controls its costs better than ever. In fact, in 2004 its performance allowed them to lower the income tax even further.



“ Co-workers who never had anything to do with finance are basically self taught on our QlikView applications. Often they don’t even get back to me with questions, but rather with suggestions for improvement. ”

Kenneth Jönsson, Director of Finance, Vellinge Municipality