



# 10-POINT PROJECT HEALTH CHECK

To get a true picture of the health of your initiative and plot a better path forward, start with these 10 critical areas:

## Planning

A comprehensive plan is essential to ensure your project is both set up for success and stays on track. Make sure your plan is:

- Realistic in relation to business constraints
- Broken into manageable chunks
- Aligned with requirements
- Mindful of key risks
- Approved by stakeholders.

**33%** of delivery practitioners identify 'poor upfront planning' as a leading cause of project failure.

Source: **PMI 2021 Pulse of the Profession® Report**

## Communication

Is communication honest and productive? Are relationships being managed properly? Are communication events planned or reactive?

## Business case

Even well-planned projects can go off the rails if not aligned to a solid business case. It's also important to check whether this is still current: Have sponsor goals changed? Has there been any shift in strategy?

## Critical context

Are you reacting to situations or getting ahead of them? If an initiative is way off track, be prepared to go back to the beginning and ask: 'Did circumstances change or was it flawed from the start?'

## Accountability

Do all parties understand what success looks like and their role in it? Proper accountability is about having a clear structure and honest conversations, including what's going well and what isn't.

## Resourcing

Do you have the right people to get the job done? If necessary, map out the skill sets required (tap into PM-Partners' Capability Hub to help you pinpoint and address gaps). What about equipment and software - are resources being prioritised properly at the organisational level?

**20%** of delivery practitioners cite 'limited/taxed resources' as a primary reason for project failure.

Source: **PMI 2021 Pulse of the Profession® Report**

## Active governance

This should support corporate controls, harness executive backing, steer the project, remove obstacles and remediate project or benefit-realisation shortfalls.

## Control

To keep tasks on track, ensure project control parameters encompass:

- an efficient method for escalating problems
- effective change and risk management strategies
- mitigation of key risks
- a focus on reducing complexity.

## Impact & benefits

Is it clear how the organisation will accommodate changes that result from the project, how benefits will be measured and how the executive team will manage any significant resistance?

## Executive view

Is there a high-level map of all major initiatives, how they benefit the organisation and impact each other? Are the organisation's project and programme skills evolving into a mature core capability?

Given the dynamic nature of most delivery environments, a project health check is good practice to stay ahead of issues and identify better ways forward. Better still, consider conducting assurance activities throughout the lifecycle of your initiatives via PM-Partners' Continuous Assurance service - this approach not only identifies problems earlier on but helps to address the underlying cause and deliver ongoing performance improvements.

**To learn more about PM-Partners' best practice assurance methods, including how our Continuous Assurance approach promotes ongoing delivery improvements, contact our expert team or call us on 1300 70 13 14 today.**

This infographic is based on an earlier blog post: 10-step project health check.

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