

Governance Design Canvas

A one-page tool for turning a governance problem into an explicit outcome, clear accountability, operable decisions, proportionate controls and measurable learning.



01

Governed Outcome

What should consistently be true when governance works?
What failure, ambiguity or risk are we trying to resolve?

02

Governance Intensity

Impact · risk · reversibility · regulation · complexity · frequency
Light · Standard · Enhanced · Critical / Emergency

03

Accountability Locus

Where does ultimate accountability for the outcome reside?
Individual role · function · governing body · joint arrangement

04

Decision Architecture

List the material decisions that shape the outcome. For each: decision authority, decision-relevant knowledge, recommendation rights, challenge rights, discretion, exception authority and escalation conditions.

DECISION	AUTHORITY & RIGHTS	REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE	DISCRETION & GUARDRAILS	EXCEPTION & ESCALATION

05

Interfaces & Boundaries

What must each party provide or receive?
What defines a complete hand-off? What may be decided here, and what must escalate?

06

Controls & Operating Mechanisms

Which policy, procedure, SLA, approval gate, system rule or evidence requirement addresses a defined failure or risk?

07

Measures & Management Triggers

Measure · target · threshold · trigger · required action · owner
Which outcome and governance measures are worth monitoring?

Evidence & Learning Rail

Issue · Evidence · Decision · Action · Outcome · Learning · Adapt

Design evidence into normal operations rather than as a separate burden.

Assurance

Use assurance to test whether the governance and evidence can be relied upon in operation and improvement.