



Strategic Futures Planning Suggestions for Success

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CATEGORY

Introduction to futures
Scoping the work

Adding Value

Analysis

Review and development

Producing final report

Developing action plan

Communication



Developing an action plan

Suggestions for success

- Agree who will own any resulting action plan and the process for monitoring and maintenance. Make sure that your involvement is timelimited
- Build in a mechanism to transfer knowledge to whoever is taking on responsibility for the action plan, but realise that it takes time to disengage effectively. The challenge is to optimise the time you commit; typically the tail of activity will last 6 months
- Agree whether the plan will be published. Ideally it should be so that there is a strong reason for the new owner to press for action where it has been agreed
- **Use face-to-face meetings** to discuss with stakeholders how they might respond. Make sure that you provide them with sufficient time to consider the implications of the findings. This means you may need to build in two meetings, one to present the findings and another to discuss reaction
- Build flexibility into your plan. It is entirely reasonable to have an action that stakeholders will consider the implications for their organisation, so you need freedom to build follow-on activity into the process
- Have a mechanism in place to capture any resulting action
- Include seed-corn funding. A small amount of the budget can lever significant activity