DATA GOVERNANCE AS AN ENABLER

Data Governance has traditionally been thought of as a non-value add activity and was previously focused instead on reducing risk or imposing control over the data lifecycle.

However, we increasingly see this as a foundational enabler, unlocking data capabilities that deliver business value and outcomes.

Organisations are changing how they see and value their data, they are looking to increase the amount of value they can extract from their data, evolving their data strategies from simply managing data as a by-product towards truly managing data as an asset. The journey towards managing data as an asset requires foundational steps to be taken, including how to establish and embed a data driven culture through data governance.

In addition to leveraging more value from data, organisations are ensuring they can be more responsive to changes in regulatory requirements, moving away from reactive project-based approaches towards a more agile based response through data change control processes. A curated dataset through actively maintained business glossaries, data dictionaries and data lineage will democratise your data and enable accelerated delivery of data products.

Establishing data governance within an organisation presents many challenges across key dimensions:

1. **PEOPLE:** Need to bring the organisation on the journey and gain buy in from individuals and business and technology stakeholders

2. **PROCESS:** Required to updated, defining the ways of working, structures,and standards to provide guardrails to embed best practice through the organisation

3. **TECHNOLOGY:** Has to make collective decisions and choices to pick the tools and technology that best work for the organisation

To establish data governance, it is no surprise that a structured framework is needed to bring together all of the key aspects including:

DATA STRATEGY – detailing your north star that gives everyone focus

PRINCIPLES, POLICIES, STANDARDS AND PROCESSES – to provide the guardrails for the data lifecycle

COMMITTEE STRUCTURES – with agreed TOR, cadence and decision-making flow / escalation

DEFINED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – for your data roles including owners and stewards

KPIs & METRICS – enabling visibility of what's working and crucially what isn't

DATA DOMAINS – an understanding of how your data is structured

Defining the data governance framework is only part of the puzzle, you also need to understand your organisations data maturity and have a good understanding of the challenges and pain points you are facing at a domain and enterprise level. This will then enable you to tailor your data governance framework and implement a targeted approach to data governance incrementally, delivering continuous value whilst increasing your overall data maturity.

Through our experience of delivering multiple data transformation change programmes across FTSE100 clients and Government sectors, we have developed a number of frameworks and accelerators to enable organisations to take a surgical approach to establish data governance initiatives, increase data maturity and democratise data.

Our data capability model and data maturity assessments provide the building blocks to tailor your data governance framework to deliver your data governance initiative. It could be that you are establishing data governance to make data accessible and easy to use; enable and accelerate data analytics and data science; support regulatory compliance and minimise risks or to cut operating costs across your organisation. Our approach enables you to deliver against all of these and more.