

PROJECT BUREAU

Governance Desk – Overview

The Strategic Governance Layer by Project Bureau



Why Governance Matters

Organisations invest heavily in portfolios and programmes, yet many struggle to realise the benefits they intend. The cause is rarely effort: it is fragmented decision making, unclear accountability and benefits drift. Effective governance is not bureaucracy—it is the discipline that creates decision clarity and delivery confidence.

- Align investments with strategy and real capacity.
- Make faster, evidence based gate decisions.
- Create clear accountability for benefits and risk.
- Provide reliable line of sight for executives and boards.

What the Governance Desk Does

Governance Desk is a lightweight layer that integrates with your existing controls—Risk, Finance, Audit, Procurement and PMO—so strategy becomes decidable and deliverable without creating a parallel bureaucracy.

Assurance Spine (MAST)

Proportionate reviews at key moments—Concept, Pre-initiation, Delivery Pivot, and Pre-close/Benefits—focused on decision readiness, not templates.

Maturity Accelerator (P3M3)

Quick scan baselines and targeted sprints where they move the needle fastest: prioritisation, benefits ownership, dependency and risk clarity.

Benefits Heartbeat

A repeatable executive rhythm that connects investment to realised and forecast value with concise, trusted reporting.

Strategic Alignment

A transparent portfolio view of priorities, capacity and tradeoffs to right size demand and surface dependencies.

The Business Case for Good Governance

- Reduced time to gate decisions and fewer late surprises.
- Benefits tracked and owned—before, during and after delivery.

- Right sized portfolios: demand aligned with true capacity.
- Consistent maturity uplift across portfolio, programme and project levels.

Why Choose Project Bureau

- Independent, proportionate governance that helps delivery, not hinders it.
- Public sector and complex portfolio experience with a calm, executive tone.
- Built on recognised models (MAST, P3M3) with pragmatic application.
- We integrate with your tools and controls rather than replace them.

Case Study – Establishing Portfolio Governance for a Government Department

Challenge

A government agency was running 70+ concurrent initiatives with unclear prioritisation, inconsistent reporting and slow gate decisions.

Approach

Conducted a portfolio scan and P3M3 quick scan baseline; introduced proportionate MAST reviews at key gates and a Benefits Heartbeat across priority programmes; established a monthly executive governance forum and a concise dashboard.

Outcomes

- Gate decision time reduced by around 35%.
- Benefits forecast accuracy improved by ~28%.
- Maturity uplift observed across Portfolio and Programme dimensions within two quarters.

Next Steps

Book a short conversation to see how a strategic governance layer would work in your context. We will outline a proportionate approach, initial assurance points and a benefits cadence tailored to your portfolio.

Contact

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