G-Cloud 14
Service Description

Assurance

methods
AN ALTEN COMPANY

Assurance

Methods' assurance and governance service assesses the design and application of governance across portfolios, programmes and projects. We undertake formal gateway review stages, maturity assessments or bespoke evaluations. We provide challenge on the sustainability of organisational strategies. Our options range from one-off health checks through to a full programme review.

What is the Service

Methods' assurance and governance service assesses the effectiveness of organisational, portfolio, programme and project decision-making and accountability structures to achieve strategic objectives and deliver successful benefit led change. We can help you assure existing P3M interventions or plan an assurance strategy for implementation in the project lifecycle.

Our approach balances proven methodology with an understanding of what is right for your organisation's environment, applying approaches tailored to the scale and scope of the work. Through working collaboratively with the P3M stakeholders, our skilled, and experienced professionals are able to transfer knowledge and skills to build sustainable capabilities in your team.

What can it do for you

Methods' assurance and governance service provides recommendations for people, process, technology and information improvements, as well as addressing cultural and behavioural factors to optimise engagement with fit-for-purpose governance models.

We provide external challenge on the robustness and sustainability of investment objectives, business cases, strategic plans, risks, benefits and budgets.

We engage directly with relevant teams, employing a range of techniques to enhance stakeholder involvement such as anonymous surveys, individual interviews, group discussions and meeting observations, in order to provide a realistic picture of your organisation's governance impact.

We vary the level of assessment to suit the needs of your organisation, tailoring our approach and deploying it proportionately.

We undertake standard assessments (such as CCS Gateway, P3M3®) or modified versions to address specific aspects of interest, guided by our experience and your requirements. We offer a range of service models from one-off rapid assessments through to ongoing critical friend assurance roles to help you achieve positive outcomes and sustain improvements through regular health checks.

Service Features

1. Based on best practice application rationalisation approaches
2. Aligns your application portfolio to your organisational priorities
3. Aligns your application portfolio to your technology principles
4. Accompanying report sets out analysis, findings and recommendations
5. Fully exploits Cloud / Digital platforms and technology
6. Based on experience in carrying out application rationalisation programmes
7. Vendor neutral, completely objective view of your estate
8. We can carry out both rapid and detailed assessments
9. Extensive knowledge of public sector technology and applications
10. A scalable delivery ecosystem: employees, partner firms and associate

Service Benefits

1. Staff are empowered to maintain quality assured standards of work
2. Greater ability for staff to make and sustain good decisions
3. Evidence based and impactful improvements to governance
4. Increased buy-in to change through effective stakeholder engagement
5. Increased visibility of tracking measurable quality and outcome improvements
6. Improved delivery of change through holding people to account
7. Increased resilience to external scrutiny through 'safe' independent challenge
8. Embedding of a pragmatic and proportionate managed approach to risks
9. Improved outcomes through stronger engagement, including user and citizen involvement
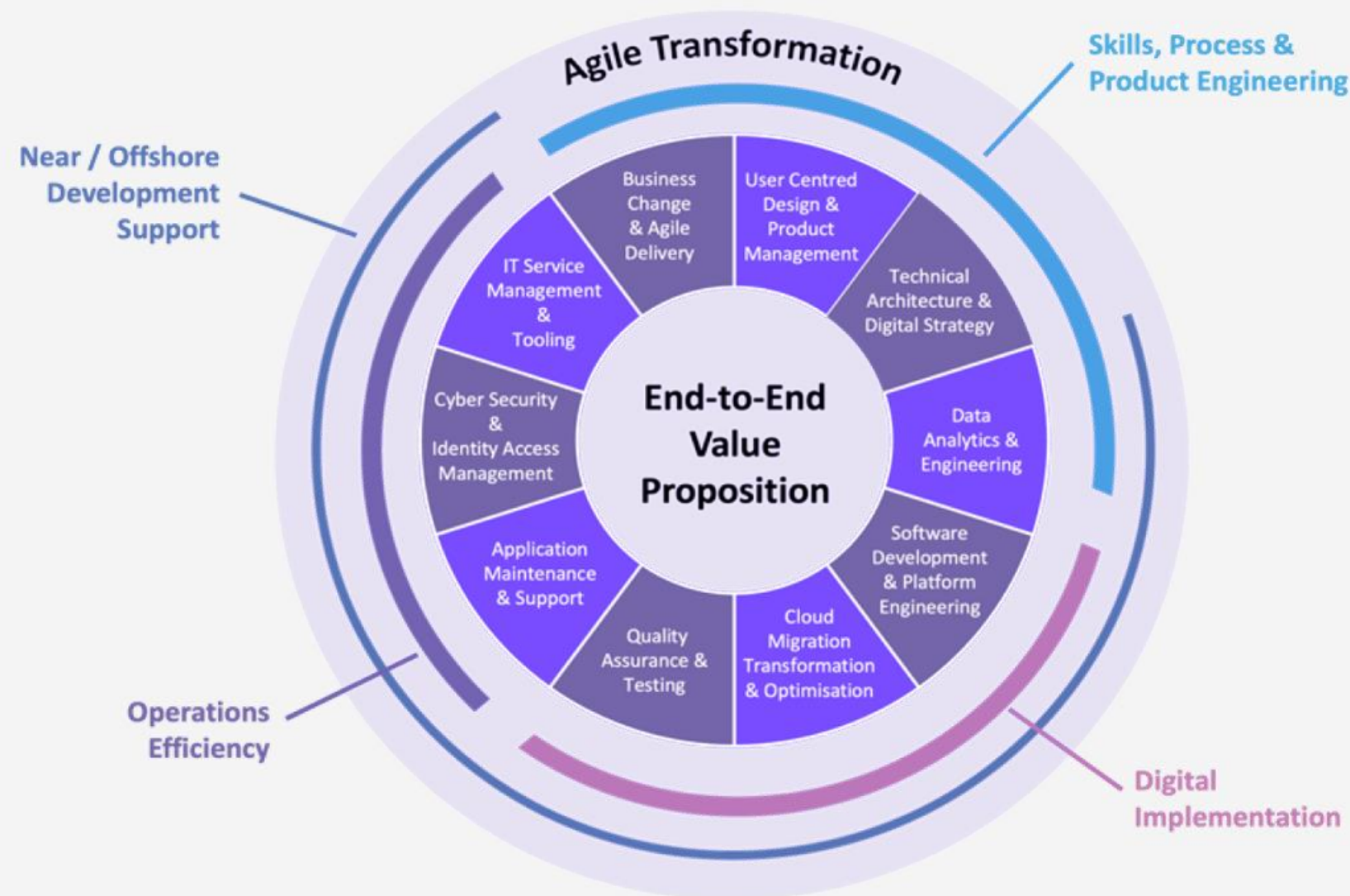10. Increased shared learning from other peer organisations

End-to-end transformation and innovation experts

Applying our skills in innovation and collaboration from across the Methods Group, to deliver end-to-end business and technical solutions that are people-centred, safe, and designed for the future.
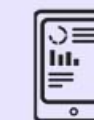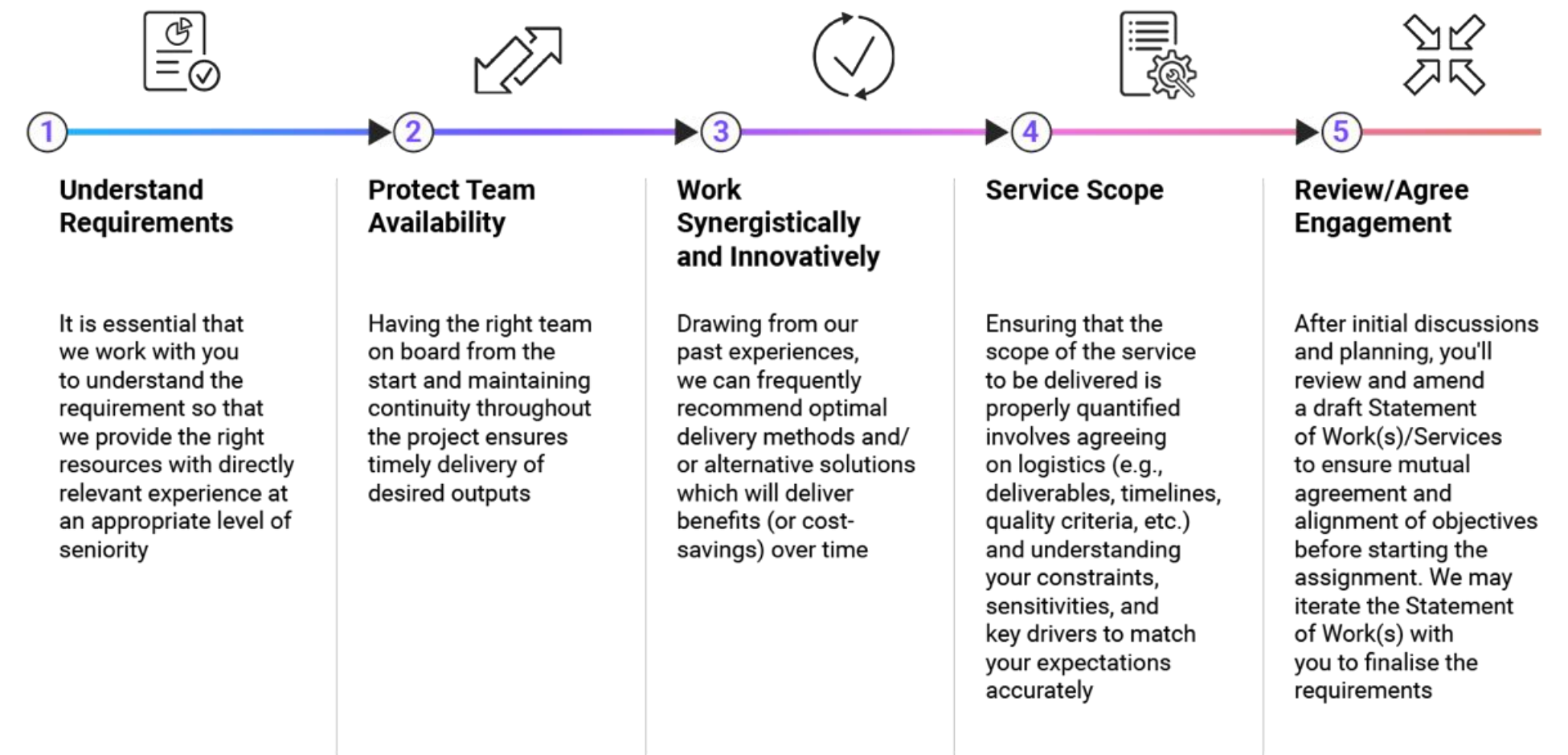
Methods provide collaborative and innovative solutions to help Central Government adapt to the changing landscape and deliver better outcomes for citizens.

With a focus on driving interoperability and innovation in UK Central Government, we have helped multiple organisations in the sector modernise their IT architecture, systems, strategy, and operating models to improve organisational resilience and service delivery.

Methods deliver wide-ranging services and thought leadership to support delivery including:

Onboarding and offboarding process

1 Understand Requirements

It is essential that we work with you to understand the requirement so that we provide the right resources with directly relevant experience at an appropriate level of seniority

2 Protect Team Availability

Having the right team on board from the start and maintaining continuity throughout the project ensures timely delivery of desired outputs

3 Work Synergistically and Innovatively

Drawing from our past experiences, we can frequently recommend optimal delivery methods and/ or alternative solutions which will deliver benefits (or cost-savings) over time

4 Service Scope

Ensuring that the scope of the service to be delivered is properly quantified involves agreeing on logistics (e.g., deliverables, timelines, quality criteria, etc.) and understanding your constraints, sensitivities, and key drivers to match your expectations accurately

5 Review/Agree Engagement

After initial discussions and planning, you'll review and amend a draft Statement of Work(s)/Services to ensure mutual agreement and alignment of objectives before starting the assignment. We may iterate the Statement of Work(s) with you to finalise the requirements

Ordering and Invoicing

Once we have agreed a Statement of Work(s) we will sign the appropriate agreement and complete a Call Off contract with an attached Statement of Work(s), and submission of a Purchase Order. We will then set up a mutually acceptable start date and commence work.

Payment terms are 30 days or less as may be agreed.

Please note - we are unable to accept Government Procurement Card (GPC) payments.

Customer Responsibilities

For any given requirement, we will identify any dependencies on the customer (e.g. access to key stakeholders, facilities, documentation, etc.) and agree these at the start of the work.

Making a difference

The work we do each day is focused on delivering a positive difference for the public sector for the benefit of society as a whole.

Environment
We use the 'recycle, reuse, repair, refuse' approach to waste reduction to minimise landfill waste, support climate initiatives, and enhance biodiversity, creating a sustainable environment for our colleagues and community

Volunteering
We continue to support charitable causes that align with and support our values including our charity partner and VCSE initiatives

Investment in Talent
We cultivate young talent through our GRAVITATE programme, championing vibrant apprenticeship and graduate schemes while aiding tech career exploration for individuals aged 14-24

Diversifying our Supply Chains
We diversify our local supply chains, promoting small business enterprise and engaging local people, SME, and micro-business suppliers

Staff Wellbeing
We offer career paths and continue to enhance our PDP processes, and maintain our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. Moreover, we continue to support our colleagues holistically, considering them as complete individuals at every career stage with Methods

Safeguarding Services
We continue to provide insightful thought leadership on leveraging modern technology to secure our public services for future generations. This involves speaking at industry events, educating youth on tech career paths, and offering pro-bono advice to senior policymakers

Customer stories

Stopped a Central Goverment high-severity Cyber threat in its tracks with a Threat Management solution that continuously monitors the security posture and responds to active cyber security incidents and vulnerabilities fast

Simplified 230+ service offerings with no disruption to live service to deliver service management maturity that was standardised to be more efficient, and optimised to reduce cost at a critical time for HMCTS

Put nature at the heart of government decision-making using digital and AI innovation to explore 21 natural capital ecosystem assessments with Defra

Reduced service costs by 60% through the design and transition of Robotic Process Automation of 1.2M service billing transactions per month at NOS Telecoms Cabinet Office

Enabled the delivery of 4.7M care and food supplies to people who were at the highest risk from COVID-19 through the development, delivery, and maintenance of the Shielding Vulnerable People service at the Cabinet Office

Increased speed and traceability of annual education funding allocations by transforming the Funding Service at ESFA in the DFE