

Policy Portfolio Review

Service definition document

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Meet Lighthouse





Lighthouse is a strategic public design practice that helps governments and complex organisations turn ambition into action.

We bring together policy, strategy, service and product design, research and behavioural insight to tackle complex challenges and deliver outcomes that work in the real world.

We specialise in evidence led, user centred approaches that reduce risk and increase confidence in decision making.

Our teams work closely with clients to design, test and refine solutions, bridging the gap between strategy and delivery while building lasting capability along the way.



Our mission



Amplify diverse voices

Understanding the needs of the people affected

We identify and listen to the people most affected by an issue, going beyond formal consultation to understand lived experience and real world context.

This helps ensure that decisions and services are informed by how things actually work in practice, and are shaped with the people they are intended to support.



Bring balance

Navigating competing needs and perspectives

We bring together a wide range of perspectives, including practitioners, decision makers, subject experts and stakeholders, to support balanced and inclusive decision making.

We recognise that complex challenges involve trade offs, competing priorities and long term considerations, and we help organisations navigate these with clarity and confidence.



Catalyse change

Turning insight into action

We accelerate change through strategic, evidence based design and delivery.

By combining research, iterative testing and systems thinking, we help organisations reduce risk, validate approaches and deliver solutions that are effective, sustainable and able to adapt as contexts evolve.

Who we've helped



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Service definition



Policy Portfolio Review

A Policy Portfolio Review helps policy teams step back and take a strategic view of how their policies work together to address complex challenges. Rather than assessing individual interventions in isolation, we examine the portfolio as a whole to understand how different levers interact, where risk is concentrated, and whether the mix remains fit for purpose as context evolves.

We work with teams to reassess goals, assumptions and evidence, review changes in political, societal and organisational context, and test whether current policy levers are collectively delivering the intended outcomes. This includes identifying strengths to build on, gaps or duplication that weaken impact, and areas where effort and complexity outweigh results.

Drawing on portfolio principles, we explore how policies can better complement one another, balance short and long term objectives, and remain adaptable over time

The review results in clear, prioritised recommendations and a practical roadmap for action. This gives leaders the confidence to refine, rebalance or retire policies, align activity with strategic priorities, and ensure their policy portfolio remains coherent, resilient and capable of delivering sustained impact in changing condition.



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Features



Features

1. Assessment of policy goals, metrics, evidence, performance and delivery context
2. Review of political, societal, and resource changes affecting policy effectiveness
3. Evaluation of policy strengths, weaknesses, gaps, duplication and portfolio coherence
4. Revalidation of problem definitions, assumptions, root causes and intended outcomes
5. Assessment of policy levers, mechanisms, dependencies and implementation complexity risks
6. Prioritisation of actions based on impact, effort, feasibility and risk
7. Recommendations for adjusting existing policies or introducing new levers options
8. Strategic roadmap linking policy improvements to organisational objectives and delivery
9. Clear documentation supporting decision making, governance and future evaluation activity
10. Facilitated engagement with stakeholders to validate findings and recommendations collaboratively



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Benefits



Benefits

1. Improves understanding of overall policy landscape and strategic priorities alignment
2. Enables evidence based decisions about policies to strengthen or stop
3. Identifies risks, gaps and duplication reducing wasted effort and complexity
4. Aligns policy activity with changing political, societal and organisational contexts
5. Strengthens policy impact by focusing resources on most effective levers
6. Supports more coherent, joined up and manageable policy portfolios organisation
7. Reduces delivery risk by clarifying dependencies, constraints and implementation challenges
8. Provides clear, prioritised actions leaders can confidently approve and sponsor
9. Improves accountability through clearer goals, measures and ownership across organisations
10. Creates foundations for adaptive policies that remain relevant over time



A photograph of a lecture hall with a speaker at a podium and an audience. The room is dimly lit with warm, orange-toned lights along the walls and ceiling. The audience is seen from behind, seated in rows. The speaker is standing at a podium on the right side of the stage. The logo 'Lighthouse' is overlaid in the center of the image.

Lighthouse

