16

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU TO BREAK FREE...



WHAT MAKES A MANAGEMENT MODEL VIABLE?

18

WHAT MAKES A MANAGEMENT MODEL VIABLE

At the heart of the Viable Map are four key concepts...

VIABILITY definition:

The ability to live and work successfully...to survive and thrive.

To survive and thrive an organisation needs to have sufficient **flexibility** to **adapt** quickly in response to changes in its environment.

Increased **flexibility** requires an organisation to be able to **self- regulate**.

To be able to **self-regulate** an organisation needs **capable, trustworthy people** to make good decisions, quickly, and without top -down direction.

Capable, trustworthy people want to contribute to the success of the organisation so their worth needs to be acknowledged and talents applied to meaningful ends.



So it involves **OUTSIDE** and **IN**, **PEOPLE** and **PROCESSES**

WHAT MAKES A MANAGEMENT MODEL EFFECTIVE



20

HOW THE VIABLE MAP HELPS

These ideas are baked into the Viable Map... a tool that helps organisations build a Management Model that is right for them. **RECIPE** *definition:* A set of **instructions** for making something. from various ingredients.



It is **NOT** a recipe...

...but it does provide a framework to help you combine the key ingredients in an effective way:

...the Beyond Budgeting Principles, the assumptions made about the nature of the environment and of the capabilities of people, as well as the current strategy, business model(s) and so on **that are unique to a particular business.**



WHAT CAN THE MAP BE USED FOR?

22

THE VIABLE MAP HELPS ANSWER MANY QUESTIONS



FOR EXAMPLE...

...the framework makes it easy to DESCRIBE and DISCUSS the traditional Management Model and DIAGNOSE why many organisational problems can be attributed to it.

> The current position of the process principles reflects traditional 'fixed' annual budgeting, and that of the people principles that of 'top down' leadership based on functional hierarchies.

The good news is that this Management Model is internally coherent – as represented by this dotted line.

The bad news is that there is a misalignment with the volatility of the outside world. Also, employees that can be trusted to make decisions are being managed through compliance.



The gap between the form of the Management Model and its context creates many familiar problems:

- INFLEXIBIITY because the model generates a plan based on predictions that rapidly become out of date
- BUREAUCRACY because every element of the plan is bound tightly together and compliance to the plan is closely monitored
 - DYSFUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOUR because clever, capable people work out ways to subvert the system to provide themselves with the flexibility they need to respond (e.g. by 'sandbagging' budgets) and game the system to maximise personal gain (by negotiating targets that they can easily meet)...which results in closer supervision, more bureaucracy and so on...

Which is why so many businesses recognise the need to CHANGE...and by identifying the future position of the principles the map can be used to help DESIGN a Management Model tailored to the context and aspirations of your organisation.

BUCKS.

...what is the nature of the contextual variables for your

- organisation
- business environment
- people









SOME USEFUL FRAMEWORKS

two key questions:

- 1. **IMPORTANCE**: What are your organisation's Key Success Factors? What aspects of our external environment impact the most important decisions you make?
- 2. NATURE: Where do these key environmental variables sit on the SUSO-VUCA scale?



BUILDING BUILDING

...what assumptions can we make about the people employed by the organisation?







30 PEOPLE

SOME USEFUL FRAMEWORKS

the key question: how to best characterise your people...or your assumptions about them?

Agency Theory

- Michael Jensen et al. -

Agency Theory assumes that people are rationalising, self-interested optimisers and so are extrinsically motivated and that the goal of the firm is to maximise profit.

As a result there is a need to ensure that the interests (rewards) of shareholders (Principals) and managers (Agents) are aligned.

Theory X and **Theory Y**

- Douglas McGregor -

Leaders differ in their assumptions about people, which affects the way they manage. Specifically:

- the level of ambition
- the desire for responsibility
- how self interested they are
- what motivates them ٠ (extrinsic or intrinsic rewards)
- the level of competence ٠

Etc. ٠

Hierarchy of Needs

- Abraham Maslow -

Motivation can be represented as a hierarchy through which people can move.

They can be motivated by a deficiency of:

- money
- security
 - esteem
- or by the desire for growth:
- intellectually
- aesthetically
- as a person (self-actualisation)

Self-Determination Theory

- Edward Deci & Richard Ryan -

Intrinsic motivation derives from the need for:

- autonomy
- belonging
- development

Regulatory **Focus Theory**

- E. Tory Higgins -

People differ in the way they approach goals.

A prevention focus values:

- obligation and duty
- risk avoidance
- security

A promotion focus value

- ideals and hope
- opportunity seeking
- development

People will be more motivated when processes are aligned with their personal orientations.

Learning Mindset



- Carol Dweck -

Teachers and learners can adopt different mindsets which affect how they respond to challenges

A fixed mindset assumes limited capability for learning

A growth mindset assumes that every one has the potential to learn given perseverance and support.









BUILDING BUCKS

...what are the key steering processes and what purposes do they serve?





MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

34

EXPLANATION

All steering systems have the same basic structure, built on two information loops.

First there is the **SENSE AND RESPOND** loop where we acquire information on the PERFORMANCE of an organisation (or a team or an individual) and EVALUATE it with reference to a GOAL or target. As a result we may choose to take action to get a better outcome which involves ALLOCATING RESOURCES.





But since this loop is often too slow we can use FORECASTS of future outcomes to **PREDICT AND PREPARE**

to take action. Plans to reallocate resources are based on the outcome of this process, but commitments may also be made in anticipation of a need.

Since similar processes take place at many levels and in other business areas and at different levels, additional activity is required to a make sure that different activities in different parts of the organisation are **COORDINATED**. Finally, the nature of the response to steering information is modified by the size and nature of the **REWARDS** available. But while all six processes are part of any steering system, how their individual distinct purposes are fulfilled can be very different, and this affects how ADAPTIVE the system can be.



BULDING BLOCKS

...how do the characteristics of processes need to change to become more adaptive?



Budgeting Traditional



SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Target	A desired level of performance OUT of all or part of an organisation. Targets are ASPIRATIONS and can be defined in many ways; as numerical output values for variables or as outcomes. They can also be expressed as ranges, rates of change and relative to external or internal reference points. 'Goal' and 'objective' are sometimes used as synonyms.
Forecast	An EXPECTATION of the future value of any kind of variable used to inform interventions in the system, based on assumptions derived from a set of planned actions. Forecasts are not predictions since they are always 'wrong' and in the longer term can be invalidated by changes to actions informed by the forecast itself.
Resource Allocation	The process of regulating what goes IN to an organisation – people, costs, cash and so on. It includes constraints placed on the level of costs used by processes (sometimes incorrectly called targets) and discretionary allocation as part of the planning process, which involves prioritising and committing resources (often by explicit authorisation). It is motivated by the INTENT to achieve something (usually a target), and while the intention must be reflected in the forecast, the expected impact may differ. Available resources may not be fully allocated, in order to maintain flexibility.
Performance Evalvation	Performance is the degree to which an organisation has fulfilled its PURPOSE. Performance will include, but not be limited to, measurable financial outcomes. Evaluation requires measures of variables, KPIs and/or assessments of outcomes and a target. It is the process of assessing the overall level of achievement of business units, teams or individuals in order to determine what (if any) action is required. It may involve numerical comparison but also judgement, particularly where multiple variables need to be taken into account.
Rewards	A reward is any kind of action or award valued by individuals that is likely to increase motivation, commitment or influence their behaviour . It may be financial or non-financial, the outcome of applying a set of rules defined in advance (an incentive) or the result of applying judgement or discretion. And it can be applied to individuals or groups at any level of frequency.
Goordination	Coordination is the process of maintaining alignment between different components of the steering system and other parts of the organisation on both the 'horizontal' (e.g. the plans of other functions) and 'vertical' axis (other levels). Ideally it should based on the 'heartbeat' or rhythm of the business, not arbitrary dates such as financial months, quarter of years. Time horizons, levels of detail and the degree and precision of alignment needed should be taken into account as well.

BULDING BLOCKS

...how do processes become more adaptable?



42

THE BIG CHALLENGES



THE BIG (PROCESS) CHANGES

#1 what is **not there** (the constraints that are removed) is more important that what is there (what practices are introduced)



BULDING BLOCKS 6

...what are the key leadership principles and what are their purposes?





Principles of **LEADERSHIP** and their different **ROLES**



46

EXPLANATION

Leadership	Leadership is exercised on at least six different dimensions , but these can be performed in different ways, depending upon the degree to which the organisation is centralised.
Pvrpose Valves	PURPOSE provides a sense of direction, and can take the form of detailed instructions, like a set of directions, or guiding principles, like a compass. VALUES inform behaviour and can be manifest as rules and regulations, or as guidelines.
Organisation Avtonomy	Activity needs to be ORGANISED hierarchically or through a network of teams. The degree of AUTONOMY is determined by whether decision-making rights are centralised or distributed.
Transparency Gvstomers	The level of TRANSPARENCY is determined by how freely information is shared. Attention can be directed toward the needs of internal or external CUSTOMERS .
Self-Regulation	The way leadership is exercised, along with the capabilities of those that work within it, determines the extent to which the organisation is capable of SELF-REGULATION .

Crucially, there are many important links between the performance culture (as defined by the leadership principles) and processes. The patterns of behaviour that you want should inform how processes are designed and operated. And people's experience of how processes work in practice reinforce (or undermine) what is said about the performance culture. Control

and

Command

X MORE CAPABLE OF S ELF-REGULATION TRAITS TRAITS Engage and inspire around PURPOSE Meeting short-term financial bold and noble causes targets Compliance to rules and Govern through shared values VALUES regulations and sound judgement Transparent, in support of TRANSPARENCY Based on 'need to know' self-regulation, innovation, learning and control AUTONOMY Decision-making rights based on Freedom to act based on trust seniority ORGANISATION Sense of belonging based on Functional hierarchy accountable teams Needs of internal customers Connect with external CUSTOMER take primacy customer needs

48

SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

T

Pvrpose	The assumed reason for the existence of the organisation, what it is intended for it to achieve. The purpose defines what constitutes performance and so helps guide decision-making (what things are done) . This will include, but usually not be limited to, financial viability. There may be a difference between what is said to be the purpose (espoused) and what is seen to be done (enacted). Where they do not align, it is the enacted rather than espoused purpose that tends to influence action.
Valves	The norms, customs and traditions that guide behaviour (how things are done) . They may be written down or culturally transmitted, detailed and prescriptive ('do this'), or based on principles and proscriptive ('avoid that'). But in practice values are shaped by what behaviour is seen to be rewarded or punished.
Transparency	The degree to which potentially useful information is shared . High levels of transparency are a prerequisite for distributed decision-making.
Avtonomy	The degree to which decision-making authority is distributed . To survive and prosper organisations need to strike the right balance between autonomy and cohesion . The former increases responsiveness and exploits the knowledge and experience of a wider group of people while the latter helps to align actions and exploits specialised knowledge and privileged information. The 'right' balance will differ between and within organisations and may change over time.
Organisation	The way in which activities are structured in practice , which may or may not be reflected in the organisation chart. Structures could be networked or hierarchical, organised around projects or processes, skills or value streams, jobs or activities, formal or informal.
Cvstomer	The degree to which external stimuli inform actions and behaviour compared to those from within the organisation. Organisations that are more externally focussed are usually able to adapt quicker.

BUCKS.

...what is required to make an organisation more capable of self-regulation?





THE BIG CHALLENGE

trusting people to do the right thing

Centralised

Hierarchically organised with strong centralised planning supported by checks and controls.



Distributed

Characterised by a largely selforganised network of teams accountable for outcomes, supported by coaching and coordination mechanisms.

Comment

The capability to self-regulate, as described by the leadership principles, exists on a continuum, unlike the process principles where there is a clearly defined sequence of steps. And identifying where an organisation 'sits' on this continuum is also more challenging because some principles deal with intangible properties (e.g. Values) and for others the observed reality may be very different to that claimed in formal communications. (e.g. Purpose).

Note, however, that the capability to self-regulate doesn't mean that central intervention or direction is not required, hence the description 'distributed'.

For example, in an emergency, speedy decisive action is required. And steps will need to be taken to deal with abuses of trust. And what senior management say, and are seen to do, shapes the purpose and values of the entire organisation.

THE BIG (LEADERSHIP) CHANGES

CENTRALISED	Informal (social) controls displace formal (procedural) controls.
Pvrpose	Direction and intrinsic motivation is provided by high-level purpose more than by explicit, quantified targets and financial rewards.
Valves	Values provide boundaries that constrain and inform actions replace constraints on the allocation of resources (explicit approvals and limits).
Transparency	Actions are guided and coordinated by the awareness of the actions of others rather than by procedures. Peer group pressures displace rules and regulations.
Avtonomy	Trust in people to do the right thing at the right time replaces authorisation and planning processes. Autonomy is a source of intrinsic motivation.
Organisation	Self-managed cross-functional teams with accountability for results replace hierarchical coordination and provide scope for personal development – a source of intrinsic motivation.
Cvstomer	Signals from the external environment replace commands and instructions from those in authority.

BUILDING BLOCKS®

...how do the building blocks fit together? And how do they help us assess viability?



THE MAP

The **EXISTING** and **DESIRED FUTURE** we states of the Management Model can be represented by their position on the map grid.

Positions to the left represent a Management Model based on **TRADITIONAL BUDGETING** and **COMMAND AND CONTROL** based on THEORY X style leadership ...

...and anywhere to the right is – by definition – **BEYOND BUDGETING**² based more on THEORY Y leadership practices...





A Management Model is **VIABLE** if there is **COHERENCE**... represented by (rough) vertical alignment of the positions for process and leadership principles as well as with environmental and people conditions...

NOTE:

It is not necessarily always better to be further to the right. What is important is the degree of coherence...how well your Management Model fits to its context.

56

INTERNAL COHERENCE

PRINCIPLES LEADERSHIP PROCESS



THE PROBLEM... AND THE OPPORTUNITY

58

The self-reinforcing nature of the people and process principles presents a PROBLEM if the way you manage processes is not aligned with the way you would like people to behave. Because **when there is inconsistency, DO always beats SAY**. So there will be coherence but not the way you want.

But it also represents an OPPORTUNITY because you can shape the (intangible) performance culture by **changing the way that (tangible) processes are designed and run** to create the right sort of coherence.



PROCESSES: FUNCTION... NOT FORM

Don't confuse the FORM of a process with the FUNCTION it serves.

Processes and procedures are just tools – like a knife they can be used in multiple ways... **WHAT** form they take is less important than **HOW** they are used.

For example...



FROM CONCEPTS TO CONTENT

The first half of this book outlined the concepts behind the Viable Map.

The second half goes into more detail – helping you to assess your existing Management Model and define the one that you want.

You will also find practical advice and examples to help you on your way.

DETAILS PROCESS STEPS

...what are the typical features of processes at each stage of their evolution?





TARGET-SETTING

The Big Challenges



Comment

As targets become less tightly defined, more aspirational and responsive to external conditions the less we should expect forecasts and actual performance to be in line with them. It is the existence of gaps that provides impetus to change and flex in the system.

Gaps are 'good'.

TARGET-SETTING - TYPICAL PRACTICES

REMEMBER:

HOW is more important than WHAT.

FIXED

- Single point targets
- **Fixed** for financial year
- Covers all elements of P&L
- Very detailed
- **Phased** by month
- Arrived at by **negotiation**
- Used for variance analysis
- Taken to be a forecast
- Tied to cost budgets
- Tied to rewards

DECOUPLED

- Limited to financial year
- May be a **range** (e.g, minimum, aspirational)
- **Includes** non financial **KPIs**
- Changed to reflect threats or opportunities
- Less detailed, teambased
- Scope for teams to set own (aspirational) targets
- Not phased
- **Gaps** to forecast expected
- Not mechanistically tied to rewards

Continuous

As decoupled, plus:

- Set for a rolling horizon
- Expressed as rate of **change**
- **'Evergreen'** only changed when needed

RELATIVE

As decoupled and continuous, plus:

- Internal **peer group league tables** used to stimulate **learning** and **improvement**
- Use of **external benchmarks** where available (e.g., market share)



TARGETS - LEARNINGS

Targets are an ASPIRATION not an EXPECTATION.

Targets are an expression of PURPOSE...

...and so should include non-financial variables

Fewer, 'looser' targets are needed for ADAPTABLE and SELF -REGULATING Management Models.

It is usually impossible to hit every target...

...so be clear about which is most important.

There is no way of knowing <u>in advance</u> what the 'right' target level is...

...all targets will be too stretching or too lax to some degree.

Targets can be set in many ways.

Once a year... or changed only when needed.

Single number at a point in time, a range over a period of time...

An absolute value, a rate of change, relative to...

Precise and quantified to 'fuzzy' – 'more', 'less'. How targets are acted upon is as important as how they are expressed.

Are they treated as firm commitments or loose guidelines?

Whether and how they are linked to rewards is an important factor.





PERFORMANCE: Own Peers Competitor



FORECASTING



Comment

The only reason for forecasting is to help make decisions when data on actual performance is not available or useful. Don't expect forecasts to ever be 'right', particularly as they are used to change the future. They only need to be unbiased and accurate enough for the decisions that need to be taken.

More responsive decision-making and quicker execution is preferable to better forecasts.