



# Agile Governance:

Is this a contradiction or  
does it allow agile to thrive?

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## Presentation Structure

- Introductions
- What is governance?
- What is agile?
- Do we need to combine these two?
- What does it look like?
- How is it done?
- Three things to take away today that will make a difference
- Further information
- Close and questions.



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## Introductions

- agileKRC is a pioneering company at the forefront of agile thinking
- Specialising in all things agile (Scrum, DSDM, AgilePM, everything!)
- Consultancy, training, coaching and mentoring
- Focusing on improving Agile capability at any scale
- 20 years of experience
- Detailed knowledge of combining PRINCE2 with agile
- IAF Accredited / APMG Certified Facilitator
- Author of 'Agile Project Management' (TSO)
- Voted 'Most Valuable Agile Player' UK Agile Awards.



Let's start with a puzzle!





## “Governance” - what is it?

Helps with:

- Looking after your investment
- Will it be worthwhile?
- Is it going ok?
- Am I being told the truth?

Ownership

Responsibilities

Reporting

Decision making





## “Agile” - what is it?

- Very broad term
  - Surrounded with hype
  - Poorly understood?
  - Poorly defined
- 
- ...but it is here to stay
  - ...and everyone has to change!

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## Agile - hard to define?

- Methods?
  - e.g. Scrum, DSDM, Lean, SAFe, XP
- Techniques?
  - e.g. User Stories, Stand-up meetings, Timeboxes and Sprints
- Behaviours?
  - e.g. Collaboration, Self-organising, Minimalism
- Context?
  - e.g. BAU, Projects, IT only, Non-I.T., Programme, Organisation.





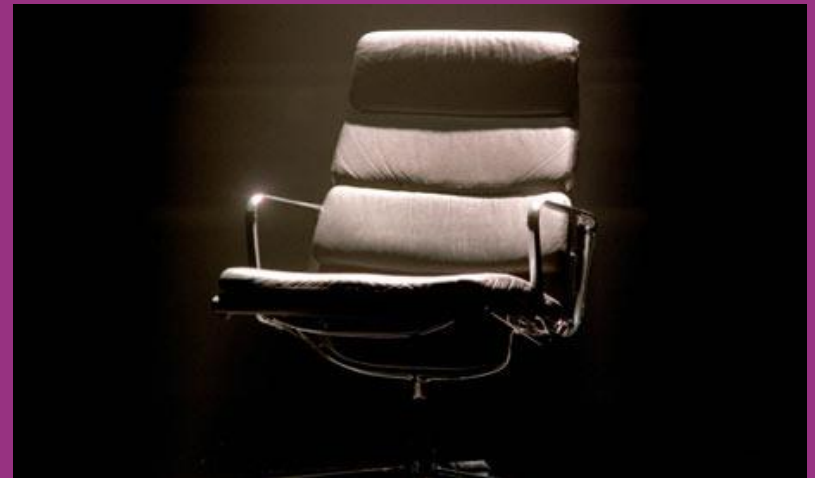
## Are you agile?

- Is there autonomy and empowerment?
- Will people collaborate?
- Will communication be good?
- Is there flexibility with the scope?
- Can you build iteratively and incrementally?
- Do you have a productive environment?
- Is the agile philosophy accepted?

...if the prevailing feeling is 'yes'...

...then you are agile

...well, at least agilish!







## Why everyone has to change!

- Life has moved on!
- The world is a different place
- We need to be quick (or timely?)
- Quality needs to be high
- We need to be responsive
- We need to understand opportunity cost.





So do we need good governance for this?



Stable



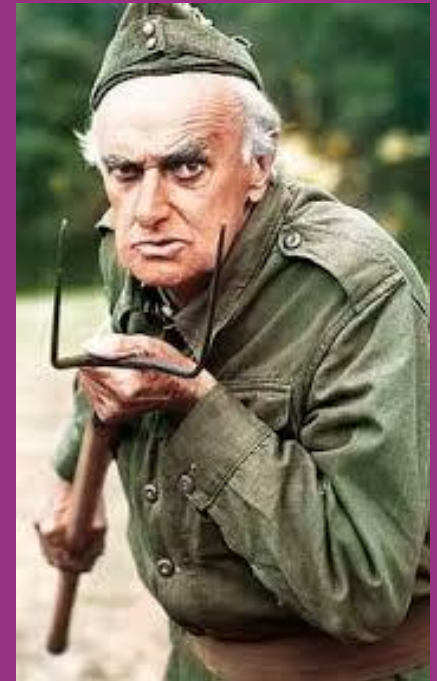
Agile

100% YES!



## What does 'Agile Governance' look like?

- Looking after a flexible business case
- Accepting that not everything will be delivered
- Different funding mechanisms (e.g. drip feed)
  - Is procurement an energiser or an energy-sapper?
- Timely decision making
- 'The honest protection of the quality level'
  - Well tested, well documented and well designed
- Checking (even auditing) the behaviours
- A clued-up and switched on sponsor or 'exec'
  - ...and a clued-up and switched on assurance function.





## We need to handle the contrast?

- It may look like we are trying to mix oil and water?  
...but in truth we aren't!
- Instead, we need to look for the synergies?





## Traditional Project Management/Waterfall World

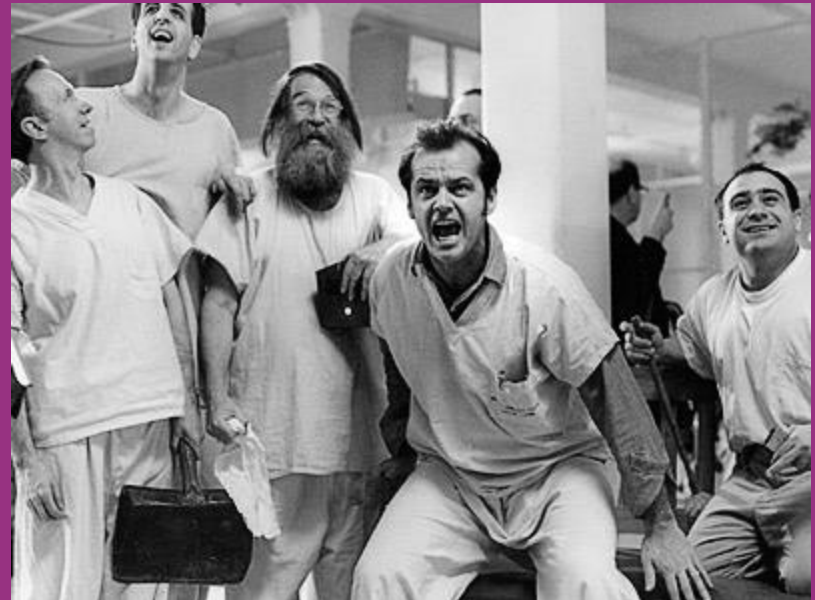
- Lighten up a bit!
  - Move away from:
    - Fixed and detailed requirements
    - Fixed and detailed estimates
    - Inflexible ‘contractuals’
    - Command and control
  - Keep going with:
    - Business case driven
    - Stages
    - Manage by Exception
    - ‘good old project management’
- .....and Project Managers!





## The Agile World

- Don't go crazy!
- Do this:
  - MoSCoW prioritisation
  - Timebox and feel the pain!
  - Visualisation
  - Self-organise
  - Enjoy!
- But go careful with:
  - 'The Product Owner'
  - Starting with a backlog/Scrum
  - 'Happy clappy'
  - 'Techie led'.





## You need to be organised to make this a reality

- Where are you and where do you want to be?
- What is realistic?
- What is the role of agile at your organisation?
- This is a journey
- How are you set up?
- How do you want to be set up?
- Do you have a plan?





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## Three things to start doing now (or someone else will!)

1. Put flexing the scope centre stage
2. Timebox for real, fail fast!
3. ...and if you really want to deliver more...  
...deliver less!

But without good governance,  
this may well be too risky.

The Monty Hall Problem

- counter-intuitive but true!







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## Further Information / Next Steps

- agileKRC offers accredited public courses, in-house training and coaching.
- Would you like an agile assessment or a project health check?
- Email us at [info@agileKRC.com](mailto:info@agileKRC.com) to find out how we can help you on your agile journey.



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Thank you!

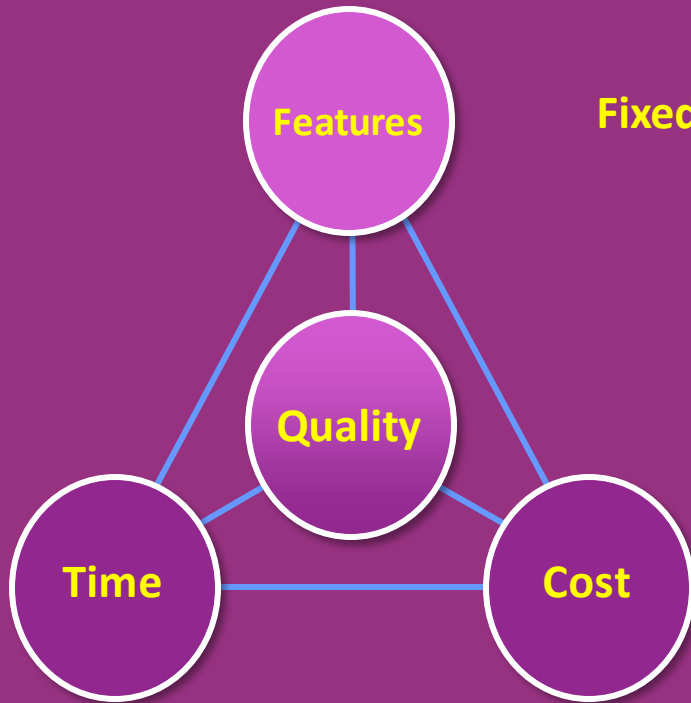
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# Bonus Slide: This is different; very different!

Traditional Approach



DSDM Approach

