Benefits Dependency Network Diagram Guidance

A benefits dependency network diagram is a one-page depiction of a project's desired outcomes (investment objectives and benefits), and related drivers and dependencies. Benefits dependency networks are usually constructed from right to left, detailing objectives and what is to be achieved on the right, then at the left outcomes required to cause these objectives to happen.

The *benefits dependency network* has five types of objects within maps.

Investment Objectives

- Statements that define the focus of the project and how it links to investment drivers.

Benefits

- Advantages to specific individuals or groups.

Business Changes

- Changes required in the business in order to achieve the benefits.

Enabling Changes

- Changes required that allow the Business Changes to happen.

IS/IT enablers

- Information systems and technology required to support the realization of identified benefits.

A **benefits dependency network diagram** helps identify investment outcomes in a pictorial view, showing desired outcomes, dependencies and relationships on a single page. Brainstorming activities associated with creating a benefits dependency network help project team members and stakeholders identify other aspects within the organization that need to change for the project to successfully achieve its outcomes.

The benefits, as displayed on a single page with associated drivers and dependencies, can be agreed upon and communicated clearly. This practice aims to ensure alignment between project outcomes and business strategies and has been shown to increase project success.