

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2009. We hope you all had a great break and are ready for the unique challenges facing all of us in 2009.

Aspire Europe's January 2009 newsletter and many thanks for the positive comments we received for our previous edition.

Best Wishes and Happy New Year,

Rod Sowden  
Aspire Europe Ltd

*Keeping you updated on developments in the world of programme & change management*



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- **Contact us**

**Next month – MSP Clinic – a monthly slot where we will clarify some of the areas of MSP which vex clients at home and abroad**

**Portfolio Management – the latest OGC guidance**

Portfolio Management has been an enigmatic term in the world of programme and project management for some time. It's original use was within MSP™ as the term to describe the projects that would deliver the Blueprint.

Over the last 3 or 4 years it's traditional reference from the banking sector has re-emerged, and the management of a portfolio of investments gave it a different perspective and hence it has evolved to the point where portfolio management defines the entirety of an organisations investment.

Portfolio Management recognises the existence of two cycles within an organisation, one drives the need for business performance and sustainability, the other is driving the need for change. Both require investment and recognises there is only one pot of money, organisations deploy that investment in many ways, but if the balance between change and sustainable performance is lost, then the organisation will lose it's performance edge as a result of under or over

investment in key areas.

Aspire Europe were part of the review team for the new publication developed by Craig Kilford for the OGC. For a copy of the new OGC publication on Portfolio Management, follow this link [http://www.ogc.gov.uk/delivery\\_lifecycle\\_portfolio\\_management.asp](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/delivery_lifecycle_portfolio_management.asp).

### **P3M3 reviews – a common theme**

Having now delivered a large number of Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Maturity Model (P3M3) reviews in the last 9 months, there is a common theme coming through strongly. Just about every organisation we have reviewed is at Maturity Level 3 for Finance Management, which is impressive. But those exact same organisations are coming out at Level 1 for all the other aspects of maturity! Hardly surprising 85% of projects and programmes fail to deliver their benefits.

If you think P3M3 is a little robot from Star Wars, have a quick look at our [website](#) for more information on this OGC toolkit that helps you measure your capability to deliver change

### **In the hot seat with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)**

During December we manned the “Hot Seat” for a discussion on Maturity Models within the “Project and Programme Management Community of Practice” for London local authorities.

One of the issues that came out was how to measure maturity in diverse organisation’s, for example, Councils, where there will always be areas that are more advanced than others. Our recommendation was to have facilitated reviews of both an advanced and a less advanced area. This would give an idea of the maturity gap and confirm whether the perceptions are realistic. Organisations then need to focus on raising the game of the areas with the lowest maturity levels.

For a full read of the Hot Seat discussion visit the [IDeA website](#) and sign in for this Community of Practice. Personally, I have been very impressed with the numbers of people involved in public sector transformation who are actively using the forums and developing good practice. The website has made the final of the 2008 National e-Government Awards.

### **MSP training for local authorities in the South West and West Midlands**

Pioneering work by two Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership in the South West and West Midlands has enable innovative and cost effective training solutions for local authority and other public sector staff in these regions. Click these links if you work for a local authority in the [South West](#) or [West Midlands](#).

### **Quarter 1 2009 course schedule**

Courses in January to April include:-

Managing Successful Programmes (Foundation and Practitioner):

- 16-19 February, Bath (fully subscribed)
- 16-19 March, Bristol
- 20-23 April, Bath

Business Change Manager:

- 24-25 January, Bristol
- 2-3 March, Bristol

Benefits Realisation:

- 11 February, Bristol

Principles of Change Management:

- 14-16 January, Bristol
- 15-17 April, Bristol

**Contact us**

Public courses can be booked at [www.aspireeurope.com](http://www.aspireeurope.com).

For all other enquiries please phone the office on 01275 848 099 or email [kath.merryweather@aspireeurope.com](mailto:kath.merryweather@aspireeurope.com).

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