Setting up Agile projects for success
Getting internal project factors right

With Agile becoming increasingly adopted as a key approach to deliver the right solution more quickly you may be thinking seriously about starting your first Agile project.
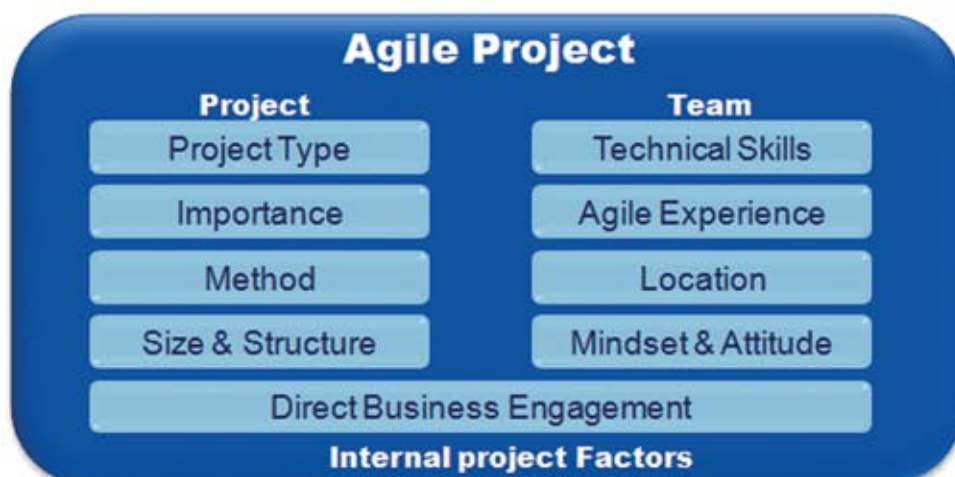
You may have already chosen your preferred Agile method and are keen to get started on reaping the benefits Agile has to offer. However, how can you ensure your project is going to be as successful as you think?

When setting up an individual Agile project there are many more factors to consider than simply deciding that you are going to deliver using an Agile method. While there are great benefits to going Agile many initial attempts fail to reap the benefits others are gaining.

What do you need to ensure that your Agile project is a success?

You can maximise the benefits gained from Agile by getting key internal project factors right from the outset

The key internal factors cover the project, project team and the way you engage with your business or customer.

Agile Project

Project	Team
Project Type	Technical Skills
Importance	Agile Experience
Method	Location
Size & Structure	Mindset & Attitude

Direct Business Engagement

Internal project Factors

Key internal project factors to consider when implementing Agile:

Project Type. Choosing the right project for Agile is key – especially for your first projects. Some projects are more suitable than others. Early projects should be those with a lot of visible functionality.

Importance. Projects need to have strong business buy-in to support the new way of working and to drive the prioritisation of requirements critical to the success of agility.

Method. With a number of methods available there are many ways to be Agile on your project. Some will suit your project, team and culture more than others.

Size & Structure. Using a small team with a flat structure reduces communication overhead and increases team effectiveness.

Technical Skills. It is important that the team understand what the technology is capable of delivering to enable them to engage with the business and generate solution ideas.

Agile Experience. A number of the team will need to be experienced Agile practitioners – without this it is easy to slip away from the Agile techniques and return to old habits when the team is under pressure.

Location. Co-location with the business is critical as you need to remember the approach is new to the business as well as the project team. Reducing communication overhead with the business is critical to agility.

Mindset & Attitude of the technical and business team will help your project succeed. A willingness to change, embracing new ideas and working together are all key factors to Agile project success.

Above all **Direct Business Engagement** throughout the project must underpin any Agile approach you take. If you are implementing Agile you must ask yourself "have I got the business on my side and how can I keep them engaged throughout the process?"

You can setup individual Agile projects for success by focusing on these internal project factors

If you are starting an Agile initiative why not talk to Wisereach about getting your internal project factors right? Our experienced team can help you from advice on setting up your own team, supplementing your team with Agile practitioners through to delivering complete solutions using Agile techniques.