Board Composition Canvas



Board Objectives:Board Composition:Timing:What does it need to achieveWhat Board needs to look likeWhen & how often

Company objectives 12-18 months	Current Resource	Personality Types
Company objectives 3-5 years	Future Resource	When?
Key Challenges	Strategic Gaps	Exit Strategy & Criteria

Board Composition Canvas - Example



Board Objectives:

What does it need to achieve

Board Composition:

What Board needs to look like

Timing:

When & how often

Company objectives 12-18 months

- Consolidate growth after recent headcount expansion
- Secure two new long-term framework agreements with key energy clients
- Strengthen internal systems to improve project profitability tracking
- Position the business for B-Corp certification
- Improve board reporting and internal governance without losing agility

Current Resource

- Founding partner group with strong technical and sector expertise
- Part-time financial controller focused on compliance and reporting
- Operations lead managing HR, systems, and delivery coordination
- Non-executive Chair with governance experience but limited sector knowledge
- Ad hoc support from external legal and funding advisors

Personality Types

- Current board leans heavily toward technical, riskaverse profiles
- Strong detail orientation, but limited blue-sky or commercial thinking
- Lacks a "brake" few challenge optimistic delivery assumptions
- Needs more diversity in communication styles and leadership approaches
- Would benefit from a balance of visionary strategist, critical challenger, and people-centric leader

Company objectives 3-5 years

- Expand internationally with permanent presence in two new markets (e.g. North America and Asia-Pacific)
- Diversify revenue streams beyond consultancy (e.g. SaaS tools, training, retained advisory)
- Develop internal succession plan and evolve the partner structure to support sustainable growth
- Prepare for partial exit or transition to employee ownership model (EOT)
- Cement brand leadership in flexible grid, storage, and hydrogen advisory

Future Resource

- Fractional CFO to lead financial strategy, forecasting, and funding readiness
- Commercially focused NED with scale-up and international experience
- Head of People to support team development and succession planning
- Digital lead to drive systems integration and productisation of services
- Broader board diversity to bring external challenge and fresh thinking

When?

- Fractional CFO: Immediate need to support funding conversations and long-term planning
- Commercial NED: Within 6 months to guide internationalisation and client diversification
- Head of People: 6–12 months to professionalise internal development and succession
- Chair review: In 12 months reassess fit as strategic needs evolve
- Tech/Digital Lead: Within 18 months to support productisation and operational efficiency

Key Challenges

- Balancing high growth with maintaining culture and quality
- Limited internal bandwidth to professionalise operations while delivering client work
- Patchy financial data for strategic decision-making (e.g. forecasting, pricing models)
- Over-reliance on a small group of senior partners for sales and leadership
- Unclear succession and ownership pathway for next generation of leaders

Strategic Gaps

- No clear financial strategy for investment, pricing, or margin improvement
- Lack of challenge around partner-led decision making and long-term structure
- Weak succession planning and leadership development beyond partner group
- Missing external perspective on market positioning and competitive threats
- Limited board engagement with long-term equity, funding, or exit planning

Exit Strategy & Criteria

- Preferred route: Transition to Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) within 5 years
- Alternative: Partial trade sale to a values-aligned strategic acquirer
- Key criteria:
- Protect culture and mission-led ethos
- Ensure continuity for staff and clients
- Reward founding partners fairly
- Enable long-term leadership succession
- Board role: Shape roadmap, stress-test options, and ensure readiness across governance, finance, and leadership