How to assess the content of a government department strategy (GDS) document

The *2025 GDS Index* Transparency Scorecard

1 Opportunities and Threats

1.1
Does it **identify potential opportunities** going forward?
4 POINTS

1.2
Does it **identify potential threats** going forward?
4 POINTS

1.3
Does it **contain a clear statement describing the problem** that the strategy is trying to solve?
8 POINTS

2 Capabilities and Resources

2.1
Does it **identify current and future capabilities?**
4 POINTS

2.2
Does it **identify what capabilities it does not have and/or needs** to acquire or work around?
4 POINTS

2.3
Does it **identify current and future** resources?
4 POINTS

2.4
Does it **identify current and future** resources?
4 POINTS

3 Vision and Benefits (Purpose)

3.1
Does it **provide a clear aspirational statement as to what success would look like?**
8 POINTS

3.2
Does it **identify who the beneficiaries are** and how they will benefit?
4 POINTS

3.3
Does it **describe how success will be measured** and over what time frame?
4 POINTS

4 Approach and Focus (Strategy)

4.1
Does it **break down the purpose into a number of strategic goals/objectives** that are tangible, specific and different from each other?
4 POINTS

4.2
Does it **identify a range of strategic options** to solve the problem?
4 POINTS

4.3
Does it **clearly describe the chosen approach,** outlining what it will and will not do?
4 POINTS

4.4
Does it **highlight the risks, costs and benefits** of the chosen pathway/approach?
4 POINTS

5 Implementation and Accountability (Execution)

5.1
Does it **identify who is responsible for implementing** the GDS?
4 POINTS

5.2
Does it **identify who will report on its progress?**
4 POINTS

5.3
Does it **explain how progress will be reported** and over what time frames?
4 POINTS

5.4
Does it **discuss whether the GDS will undergo a review** while it is active or once it is completed?
4 POINTS

6 Alignment and Authority

6.1
Does it **discuss predecessors to the strategy and identify any lessons learnt** from these?
4 POINTS

6.2
Does it **align with its department's SOI?**
4 POINTS

6.3
Does it **align with its department's annual report?**
4 POINTS