

Agile Getting Epic get the big picture right – and ignore the day to day stuff

Onto Stitching together – joining the big picture with the day to day stuff...

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I'm all Epic'd out – how has this helped

- This will not have affected the stories on your day to day Kanban yet - you need to stitch your epics to your stories for this.
- We'll do this via the features in your Epic business case.
- But not yet.
- First you must step back and realise you now have a set of semi-prioritised large chunks of work you must deliver to make your future vision come true. Isn't that a huge step forward?

OMG moment!

- By now you will see there is a lot to do – and its all important – how will you ever get it all done?
- Be realistic – you can only do so much – pick the next 6-8 epics you think are most important and **review**
- Of these. Pick 3-4 to **analyse**, and get writing your Epic business cases

Slowly fill your portfolio backlog

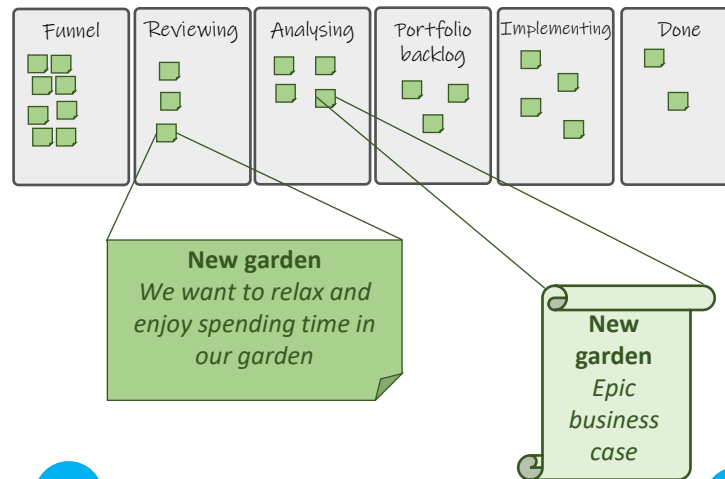
- Writing Epic business cases takes time and forces you to think the next level of detail through the creating the list of **features**
- **The features play an important role later**
- Get your Epic business cases approved and fill your **portfolio backlog**

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The portfolio (epic) Kanban



The basics are working (aren't they?)



Vision Blueprint

We enjoy living, working & relaxing in our new house

We spend time in the garden, growing vegetables, holding parties, having fun & sleeping in the sunshine

We cook healthy meals together as a family and host regular dinner parties.....

More Epics

- Trawl through blueprint and extract more epics to put in the funnel
- Doesn't need to be an exhaustive list as you will revisit every few months

Get it approved
Move epic to
portfolio backlog

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Carry on...

From get the basics working

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Assuming

You have "got the basics working" and are now using a Kanban / Scrum board to prioritise and deliver your day to day stories

Picture the future

- Create an easy to remember, no more than 3 point snapshot of the future you want to get to (your **vision**)
- Create a rich (but short – only a few pages) description of what it feels like to be working in your future (your **blueprint**)
- These take time and must be written collaboratively. Expect 2 days with everyone in a room together, or 3 months with regular ½ day group workshops

My first Epic

- Pick the first few big chunks of change that fall out of your blueprint (take 6-12-18 months to deliver)
- Give each chunk a 5 word title and stick into the **funnel**
- Don't worry if you've not picked the highest priority – just start somewhere
- Ideally pick Epics that your day to day work is obviously contributing to
- Add a 15 word problem statement you want to solve for some of them and move into **reviewing**

My first Epic business case

- Pick the Epic you are most comfortable with and draft the Epic business case including:
- Why you are doing it & how you'll measure the improvement
 - Minimum list of features you need to deliver to be happy
 - Who has the final authority