Northumbria University identified the need for a University-wide **data governance framework** to support the data lifecycle of all data, enhance the monitoring and control of data quality and ensure that information governance and data risk management meet regulatory and University objectives. The framework needed to support key transformational projects where 'joined up' data is identified as a key enabler as well as supporting the identification of core data assets and understanding how they can be better protected in light of the increasing regulation, cyber threat and compliance environment.

The approach

Kellerton's approach involved engagement across the University's professional service function's including Marketing, Research, HR, Finance, Student services etc. They met with Directors and Assistant Directors as well as key data managers and owners to gain a complete picture of the *value and reliance on data to meet strategic objectives*, current data management processes and the effectiveness of current information and data governance in *mitigating key data risks*. Detailed conversations were then had with the DPO and governance teams, the data team within strategic planning and key people in the IT function covering architecture, security and business system management.

Kellerton then provided Northumbria with a full data governance framework based on their comprehensive template and prioritised according to Northumbria's specific needs. It included a detailed assessment of their maturity against 20 elements of *data ownership, data management, dat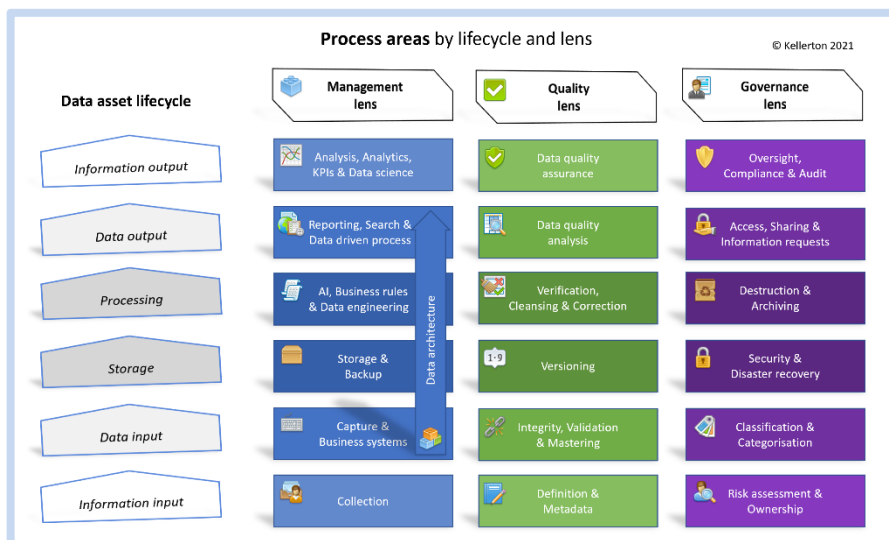a quality and governance* as well as a roadmap of activities including new and amended roles, policies, procedures, processes, tools and data documentation.

"Kellerton's thorough and detailed engagement with key stakeholders across the university was key to them truly understanding what our core data issues and opportunities were which then enabled them to produce a high quality, tailored data governance framework which we can now look to implement"

John McKenna
Head of Strategic Planning, Northumbria University

Process areas by lifecycle and lens   © Kellerton 2021

The result

Kellerton were able to use the time with senior managers and data professionals to increase data literacy, invoking a warm and *collaborative* response and a willingness to align what would have been a number of siloed activities into the University-wide framework. The framework now forms a key pillar of the new 2022 *data strategy* which Kellerton also contributed to.

"The work undertaken by Kellerton has enabled us to raise the profile of data and firmly put the importance of it on the radar of all senior colleagues across the University. This will allow us to make great strides in becoming a truly data enabled institution"

Dan Monnery
Director of Strategic Planning & University Executive member, Northumbria University

Want to know more?

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