Spine Model
C A N V A S
www.spinemodel.info

System Boundary

1

Time-scale: **2**

☐ Now (snapshot)
☐ Future (Period: _____)
☐ Past (historical record)

Need Perspectives:

[I] Inside the system boundary
[O] Outside the system boundary
[P] Personal

3

4
↓

Needs

Depends on the *Perspective* of the spine.

Answers the question: *From this perspective, the system exists in order that _____.*

Values

The qualities that, when optimised for, would create an environment in which the Needs are more likely to be met.

Answers the question: *We optimise the system for _____.*

Principles

The abstract rules governing how things behave or interrelate within this system boundary.

Answers the question: *We leverage _____ to maintain or change the system.*

Practices

The structures used and things done in order to achieve or measure progress.

Answers the question: *We do _____ to create or increase value.*

Tools

The things we use to do a Practice, or to automate away the menial, error prone or repetitive parts.

Answers the question: *We use _____ to get things done more efficiently.*

Steps:
1. Define the boundaries of the system you would like to map
2. Agree on a time scale
3. Agree on the Needs the system exists for, from multiple perspectives (mark each with [I], [O] or [P])
4. Walk up and down the spine adding items, always making sure they connect up to one or more Needs.

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