

The 4 Steps to Smarter Budgeting & Forecasting

Move to an Integrated Finance Planning approach to transform planning, budgeting and forecasting (PBF) into a valuable tool for ongoing business success.

ROADBLOCKS



STAGE



SOLUTIONS

Dependence on MS Excel:

- Slow, manually intensive & error prone
- Multiple versions of the truth
- Difficult to make adjustments
- Complex & confusing for budget holders
- Dispersed & insular data

01



STANDARDIZE

Automate data collection & capture

Smarter, central, integrated solution:

- A single, shared version of the truth
- No multiple copies or versions
- No need to recombine data
- Adjustments made centrally – instantly & shared with all involved

- Budget cycles are too long & “time hungry”
- Lack of process visibility & control
- Lack of historical comparative data
- Individual spreadsheets create barriers to consistency & collaboration

02



OPTIMIZE

Streamline processes and aid collaboration

- Easy access via MS Outlook to intuitive web-based tools & background information
- Workflow & completion rules to ensure fast, accurate, consistent data collection
- Single, shared system aids understanding, collaboration & agreement

- Out-of-date budgets based on assumptions that no longer apply
- Data trapped in spreadsheets, which only provides a “rear-view mirror” perspective on the business
- Lack of tools to test new business scenarios

03



PREDICT

Forecast progress & explore new opportunities

- Use Integrated Finance Planning for a wide-angle, forward-looking perspective
- Continuously refreshed picture of where the business is heading
- Powerful analysis tools to run & assess business simulations

- No time for consolidation, analysis & commentary by finance experts
- Inaccurate budgets are resented as a false measure of performance
- Lack of tools to effectively present & share end data with stakeholders

04



DRIVE

Engage participants and add strategic value

- Streamline PBF so Finance teams can add more value as business partners
- Deliver the transparency & credibility for sound performance measurement
- Tailored & visual outputs for more informed decision-making

For more on how to reap the benefits of **Integrated Finance Planning**, visit unit4.com/advanced-planning