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10 Questions Before You Set Up Project Controls

Controls decisions made in the first months of a programme shape everything that follows. These questions frame the set-up.

01 **What decisions must controls support, and for whom?**
Start from the questions leadership will need answered, then design the reporting to answer them.

02 **Is there one agreed work breakdown and coding structure?**
A common structure is what allows packages, cost and time to be integrated and compared.

03 **What are the programme standards and specifications?**
Clear scheduling, update and reporting requirements make contractor submissions reviewable and comparable.

04 **How will baselines be reviewed and accepted?**
A defined review process protects the reference point that all later measurement depends on.

05 **How will progress be measured?**
Agree measurement rules early so progress is consistent across packages and periods.

06 **How will change and delay events be captured?**
Registers and notice tracking set up on day one avoid reconstructing the record later.

07 **Who owns what — and is the team sized for it?**
Roles, responsibilities and review capacity should match the number and complexity of packages.

08 **Which tools and data flows will be used?**
Systems should be chosen for integration and reliability, not only familiarity.

09 **How will governance and escalation work?**
Reporting cycles, review forums and escalation thresholds turn information into decisions.

10 **How will the controls themselves be checked?**
Periodic assurance of schedule and data quality keeps the system honest as the programme grows.

Go further: run the free in-browser **Project Controls Setup Check** at rishijaveri.com/setup-check — nothing is sent, nothing is stored.

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