Cambridge Housing Authority

Thinking, Fast and Slow – Strategic Thinking Checklist

Use this checklist to apply Daniel Kahneman's Thinking, Fast and Slow principles to your strategic decisions. This tool helps you pause, question assumptions, and ensure you're engaging deeper analysis (System 2) when it matters most.

Check for Fast Thinking (System 1)

☐ Am I making this decision on autopilot or intuition?

☐ Have I jumped to a conclusion without reviewing all the facts?

☐ Is my confidence level based on habit or emotional reaction?

☐ Have I mistaken a quick answer for a correct one?

Slow Down and Engage System 2

☐ Have I gathered all relevant data before deciding?

☐ Did I question my first instinct or gut feeling?

☐ Have I asked others for perspectives to challenge my assumptions?

☐ Am I analyzing the broader context—not just the immediate issue?

After the Decision – Debrief

☐ Did System 1 thinking lead to any blind spots or shortcuts?

☐ What evidence do I have that this decision worked well?

☐ What would I do differently if I slowed down more next time?

☐ What bias might have shown up during the decision process?