

You will need
Blue, White & Red Index cards, pens and, maybe, planning poker cards.

How long?
This sheet will take from 1 to 4 hours depending on how much work there is to do, and how big the team is. Don't worry, it takes longer.
If so you are done. Spend a few minutes talking about this exercise. Could it be better next time?

14. Done
Happy with the work scheduled?
If the Product Owner would like estimates for new blues then quickly put ball-park estimates on - use Planning Poker again.

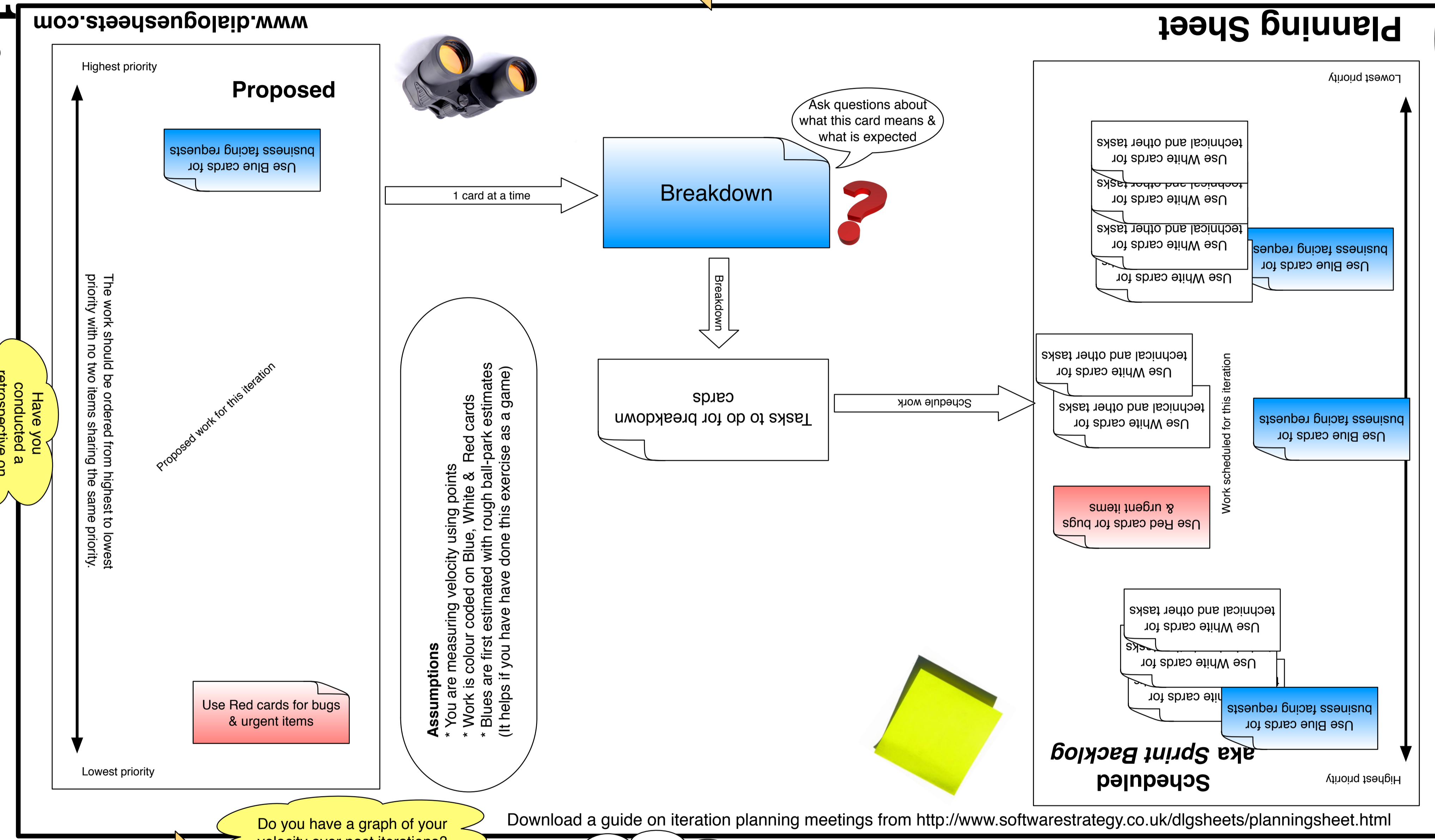
13. New Blues?
Review the work in order you will work in & ensure everyone thinks it is doable

12. Review
Whites from Breakdown to Whites from Blue & associated Scheduled.
Reorder the box if need be.
Sum up the total points Scheduled.
If this is below your forecast velocity then go to step 8 & repeat.

11. More?
Move the Blue & associated Whites from Breakdown to Scheduled.
Whites from Breakdown to Scheduled.
Sum up the total points Scheduled.
When all the Whites are estimated sum up the estimates and write the total on the Blue. (This supersedes any previous estimate)

10. Estimation
Estimate each White Task card.
Whites from Breakdown to Whites from Blue & associated Scheduled.
Sum up the total points Scheduled.
If this is below your forecast velocity then go to step 8 & repeat.

"Business loves agile until you tell them to stop asking for things they aren't going to get." Allan Kelly & Chris Matts
"The maxim 'Nothing awaits but perfection' may be spelt shorter: 'Paralysis'" Winston Churchill
"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity" Albert Einstein
"We need to be the change we wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi
"Real artists ship." Steve Jobs
"Please tell us about your experience using this sheet. Send feedback to: feedback@softwarestrategy.co.uk"



Planning poker
Some teams like use Planning Poker to make their estimates.
What is 1? - If you have played planning poker before you know what 1 unit of work is. If not, then select a white task which is likely to be the least effort & write 1 on it.
This is 1 unit of effort.



Task breakdown is about design, it helps with requirements elicitation & with estimation.

Use White cards for technical and other tasks

Tasks should be generally no smaller than half a day's work. Use a white board to sketch designs if it helps

Take a few minutes to read the quotes along the edge of the sheet. You might, or might not agree with the quotes. They are intended to stimulate thinking.

"Stable requirements are the holy grail of software development" Steve McConnell

"It is better to be roughly right than precisely wrong." John Maynard Keynes

"A target is what we want to happen. A forecast is what we think will happen. Never combine the two in one number, like a budget does." Bjarte Bogsnes