

Key stakeholder consultation: feedback and discussion

24 January 2023, City Hall, 15:00-16:30

Speakers and panellists present: **Shirley Rodrigues** (Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, GLA), **Rachel Williamson** (interim Mayoral Head of Economic and Business Policy, GLA), **Catherine Barber** (Assistant Director of Good Growth, GLA), **Dan Barrett** (Director, Thrive LDN), **Michal Shinwell** (Strategic Led at Camden Council), **Grant Waters** (Director and CEO, Tranquil City), and **Vivienne Avery** (Senior Manager, City Intelligence, GLA).

We hosted a key stakeholder consultation which formed the final round of consultation before the measure was finalised. This included stakeholders from London boroughs, London Councils, the London Sustainable Development Commission, and within the GLA and Mayor's Office.

We began with an opening note from the Chair, the interim Mayoral Head of Economic and Business Policy, followed by the keynote speech by the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, an overview presentation on the measure by our City Intelligence Unit, a panel discussion with various experts across the wellbeing sector, and a dedicated open feedback discussion session which lasted 45 minutes. Here we wanted to give the opportunity for anyone to raise any issues, concerns and comments on the measure itself, how we have produced it, and our next steps for implementing this framework.

Below is a list of the main issues that were raised in the consultation and the action we have taken, or will be taking, following this.

1. There was some concern raised around the lack of clarity over how the measure will be used. We said that we hope it will become a user guide for policymakers to make the case for investment, particularly considering the relationships between domains. From this, we agreed to publish case studies on our website illustrating the co-benefits of considering holistic investment.
2. Challenges in communicating the wellbeing measure were raised with regards to what matters individually versus collectively, and there was recognition that what might matter to London's overall wellbeing – including, for example, soil health – may not matter to individual wellbeing, so there is an important perspective to take here. We recognise this and will communicate this in our published report in Spring 2023 and in the publication of our overall natural capital measurement of London.
3. We recognised that some boroughs have developed or are currently developing their own measures around their local priorities and we are happy to work with them to support these and see how our frameworks can complement each other.
4. There were questions around the timeline of publications and the stages we have already completed and we are due to complete, and we said we're happy to put together a detailed timeframe of deliverables for our stakeholders to better understand and anticipate the release of following iterations.
5. It was mentioned that the engagement of young people is important, and the provision of accessible and relatable information is needed for young people to understand what's important for their own wellbeing and to advocate for better wellbeing.
6. There was the recognition that whilst singular metrics like GDP are problematic they're also very useful, and there were some concerns that the wellbeing framework we've developed is too complex, conceptual or just 'high-level'. But there was also recognition from the panel

that good politicians are already thinking in this way, and that overall it can be used in both ways – in that the conceptual high level and the more practical sides can both be conveyed.

7. There was discussion of how this could be used to inform GLA decision-making and drew parallel with the GLA Environment Strategy needing to be refreshed and the potential for our indicators to be weaved into this. The New Zealand Living Standards Framework was pointed to as the most well-known example, as a budget tool has been developed to guide decision-making. This point will form part of our ongoing discussions as to the use of the wellbeing measure, with GLA staff, the Mayor's Office and external stakeholders.
8. The need for a rigorous communications plan was made clear. The way that the measure will get socialised is important and there is a lot to think about here in terms of who it's for and how we communicate its usage. This will form part of our ongoing thoughts and discussions around how we will disseminate the measure and encourage its usage, and we will be creating an in-depth communications plan ahead of the hard launch in Spring 2023.

Our next stage is collating the data underlying these indicators and producing an interactive tool for policymakers and all Londoners to use by Spring 2023. We will continue to improve the tool and the website following this release.