



Carnegie UK
Andrew Carnegie House
Pittencrieff Street
Dunfermline
Fife Scotland
KY12 8AW

T 01383 721445
carnegieuk.org

City Intelligence Unit
Greater London Authority
City Hall
London SE1 2AA

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BY EMAIL

Re: Draft London wellbeing and sustainability measure

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft proposals for a measure of wellbeing and sustainability for London. For the past decade, Carnegie UK (working with partners in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England) has become one of the most prominent organisations involved in the development of wellbeing in public policy within the UK. Building on the work of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi commission, we have advocated for the development of more holistic measures of social progress; and for the application of these measures to guide policy and decision making.

We are delighted to see the Greater London Authority develop its own measure for wellbeing and sustainability, and excited about the opportunities this brings to inform decisions taken locally. At Carnegie UK, we believe 'collective wellbeing' happens when everyone has what they need to live a good life, now and in the future. Therefore, we are particularly pleased to see the proposed London measure take into account inequalities in wellbeing and resources for future wellbeing, as well as measures of current wellbeing.

In responding to the invitation to offer feedback, we are not commenting on the indicators themselves, but would like to reflect on the approach taken to date and share some of our learning on application and implementation. In doing so, we are drawing heavily on our recent experience of convening a roundtable to develop a local [wellbeing framework for the North of Tyne Combined Authority](#). We would like to share two areas of learning from this work, and attach a pre-publication evaluation report (not for circulation), which has informed our comments.

1. The process of public engagement

At Carnegie UK, we believe in the importance of locating wellbeing in time and place, to develop a shared view of what matters for wellbeing. We are supportive of both the underpinning principle of asking Londoners to define their priorities, and the approach of combining different methods, including academic literature, expert opinion and targeted community engagement.

In the evaluation of the 'roundtable approach' in the North of Tyne, the blend of different types of knowledge and evidence was highlighted as a key strength, that enabled the

Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

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Sarah Davidson

wellbeing framework to include a wider range of voices than would have been achieved through more traditional policy formation.

Looking ahead, the evaluation also highlighted the importance of sustaining community engagement. And so, we would recommend that the involvement of Londoners in the development of the Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure is not seen as the end product, but rather the beginning of an ongoing conversation about what matters for wellbeing throughout the city.

2. Building support and accountability for implementation

As identified in the Draft Recommendation document, the purpose of creating a measure is to provide a holistic view of wellbeing (and of wellbeing inequalities) that can be used to develop policy and prioritise spending in a way that better responds to local needs. Once the indicators have been agreed and adopted, the critical next step is to support decision makers at all levels to use this information to shape decision making.

In the North of Tyne, when Cabinet formally adopted the wellbeing framework, it gave the responsibility for monitoring progress to its Inclusive Economy Board. Alongside this, the evaluation report identified the potential for roundtable members to act as 'ambassadors' for implementing the wellbeing framework and/or to reconvene the roundtable to review progress on implementation.

In London, it is apparent that there is a role for the Mayor to act as a champion for wellbeing and sustainability. Alongside this, we would encourage Greater London Authority to identify appropriate mechanisms for monitoring progress and ensuring transparency and accountability; and to consider creating and supporting a broader network of 'ambassadors' in public bodies (boroughs, public health, police) who are committed to using the measure to shape decision making and to contribute to improving the city's wellbeing and sustainability.

Finally, colleagues at the North of Tyne Combined Authority are actively engaging with these issues. We would be delighted to make introductions, if you are not already connected, in the interest of sharing learning between the authorities about how to sustain ongoing public engagement on wellbeing, and how to encourage adoption and implementation.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important work, and congratulations on the progress you have made so far. Wellbeing measurement and wellbeing frameworks are a significant area of interest for Carnegie UK, and so we would really like to stay connected: if you wish to discuss any of the points mentioned above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Ben Thurman

Senior Policy & Development Officer
Carnegie UK

ben.thurman@carnegieuk.org