



THRIVING PLACES INDEX

REPORT SUMMARY 2019

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**HAPPY
CITY**

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The full Thriving Places Report is available to read and download at www.thrivingplacesindex.org where you'll also find a range of interactive ways to explore the data from across England.



Liz Zeidler
Happy City Chief Executive

Welcome to the Thriving Places Index (TPI) report 2019. This report, now in its second year, with an immense body of data and analysis behind it¹, is designed to put the wellbeing of people, place and planet at the heart of decision-making across the UK.

It is said that 'if we measure the wrong things, we strive for the wrong things'². For too long our economic model has defined the purpose of politics, business and society in terms of measuring and striving for more and more consumption, to drive 'growth' and in turn to drive 'progress'.

This logic is like saying that the purpose of a train is to use ever more fuel. A train may require fuel and many working parts, but we measure its success not on its capacity to consume fuel, but on whether it gets us to where we need to be.

So it is with the purpose of government, business and all of human endeavour, which is not to consume more stuff and grow wealth, but to grow our capacity to thrive. Until we focus on that goal and measure our progress against that, we will continue to strive for, and deliver the wrong outcomes – including ever-rising levels of inequality and injustice, and the increasingly visible and devastating consequences of climate change.

The TPI is designed to provide practical support to help local decision-makers act towards this greater goal. It answers the fundamental question:

Are we doing what we can to grow the CONDITIONS for people to thrive – in a fair and sustainable way?

What would be different if our urban planners and policymakers assessed all their decisions based on the capacity to support community connection and belonging, clean air and biodiversity, and equitable access to education, health and housing for all?

What would be different if big businesses competed with each other on growing their social impact, cutting their carbon footprint and delivering meaningful, respectful and fairly paid jobs?

What would be different if more citizens judged their leaders on whether they were growing equality of opportunity, social trust and intergenerational wellbeing – and the media supported them in scrutinising that?

How would each of us as citizens act if we could quickly see the answers to these questions for ourselves in the places we live and work?

¹ See the full report here www.thrivingplacesindex.org

² Joseph Stiglitz, ex chief economist at the World Bank. 2008

Now we can see just that. Right now, on thrivingplacesindex.org you can explore the results for your area (and all others in England and Wales) against a range of criteria that combine to show whether the conditions are in place for people to thrive – in a fair and sustainable way that supports current and future generations.

For the past decade the amazing team here at Happy City and our exceptional band of associates, partners and funders, have worked with leading academics, global experts, local policymakers and thousands of citizens to make it easy for you to use the TPI today to help us all push for real change.

Explore it. Share it. Debate it. Use it. And get in touch to discuss ways we can work together to shift the compass, place by place, towards the wellbeing of people and planet.

We can change the course of our own actions, and in doing so, the course of society. We hope this report and the Thriving Places Index itself, will help you on that journey.

Liz Zeidler

Happy City Chief Executive

Happy City's Thriving Places Index is a brilliant tool for debating what we think matters most in our lives, exploring just how different parts of the UK are doing, and asking why there are such vast differences between them.

This is just the kind of metric needed to steer us wisely through the 21st century.

Kate Raworth
Economist and author of *Doughnut Economics*

WHY THIS INDEX IS NEEDED

The Thriving Places Index (TPI) helps make what matters count.

It is a framework that radically challenges the current paradigm that defines progress in purely economic and financial terms and points to a new direction that puts the wellbeing of people, place and planet above profit.

The TPI is a new approach to understanding the places where we live. It helps citizens and decision-makers see more clearly what is working well and what has fallen behind in terms of what is needed for fair and sustainable wellbeing. It helps focus attention on what might need to happen to make meaningful and lasting change, for everyone.

It's clear that we need a new economic system, and urgently, but it's not always clear what that new economic model would look like or how it would shape the places we live in. The TPI aims to show that clearly and comprehensively, setting out an accessible vision of what a truly thriving place looks like.

It helps us start where we are, giving us greater insight and understanding of how the places we live in affect our wellbeing presently, and how they will affect the wellbeing of future generations. This clarity is an essential first step to creating a better, fairer, healthier economy that works for the people who create and populate it – all of us.

It is a radically new lens through which to measure progress.

Happy City's measurement tools deliver a practical and achievable way to 'measure what matters' at a local scale.

Their work is unique in providing both a clear vision for focusing on the wellbeing of people and planet and the tools to enable local leaders to measure their progress towards achieving it.

Dawn Snape
Assistant Director, Office for National Statistics

The Thriving Places Index is a dynamic project to get people and their politicians to focus on the things that really matter, for us today and for future generations.

Jonathon Porritt
Founder Director, Forum for the Future

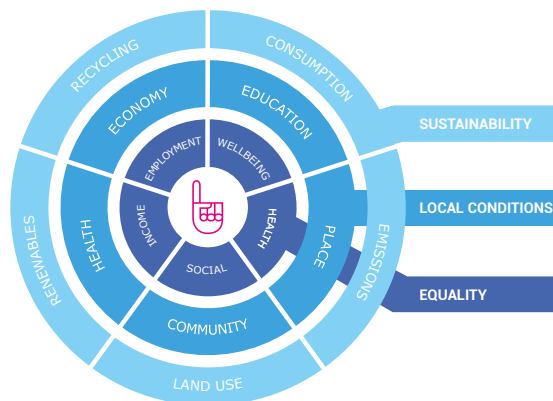
WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?

The TPI framework measures the local conditions for wellbeing, and whether those conditions are being delivered fairly and sustainably. It consists of a broad set of indicators grouped into these three headline domains, from datasets produced by established national data agencies such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Public Health England (PHE) and the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). By using national data available at local authority level, the TPI provides a framework that can be consistently applied across the country, painting a clear picture of the local conditions for wellbeing in 373 local authority areas of England and Wales, and showing whether those conditions are being delivered equitably and sustainably. We focus on the topics that local areas can influence through local policy and action.

This year, we have significantly enhanced the TPI. In particular, we have strengthened the sustainability and equality domains to underline the vital importance of delivering the conditions for wellbeing in a way that challenges current power imbalances and recognises the rights of future generations.

In addition the TPI is now available for all upper and second tier local authorities in England AND Wales – a growth of 217% coverage from 2018 (172 to 373 LA areas) – painting a more detailed picture of how the UK is growing places for citizens to thrive.

THIS IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO LOCAL WELLBEING ECONOMICS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE AND THE FIRST CONSISTENT FRAMEWORK THAT USES LOCAL INDICATORS TO MEASURE PROGRESS ON SUPPORTING THE WELLBEING OF ALL CITIZENS, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.



The TPI is arranged into three headline elements:

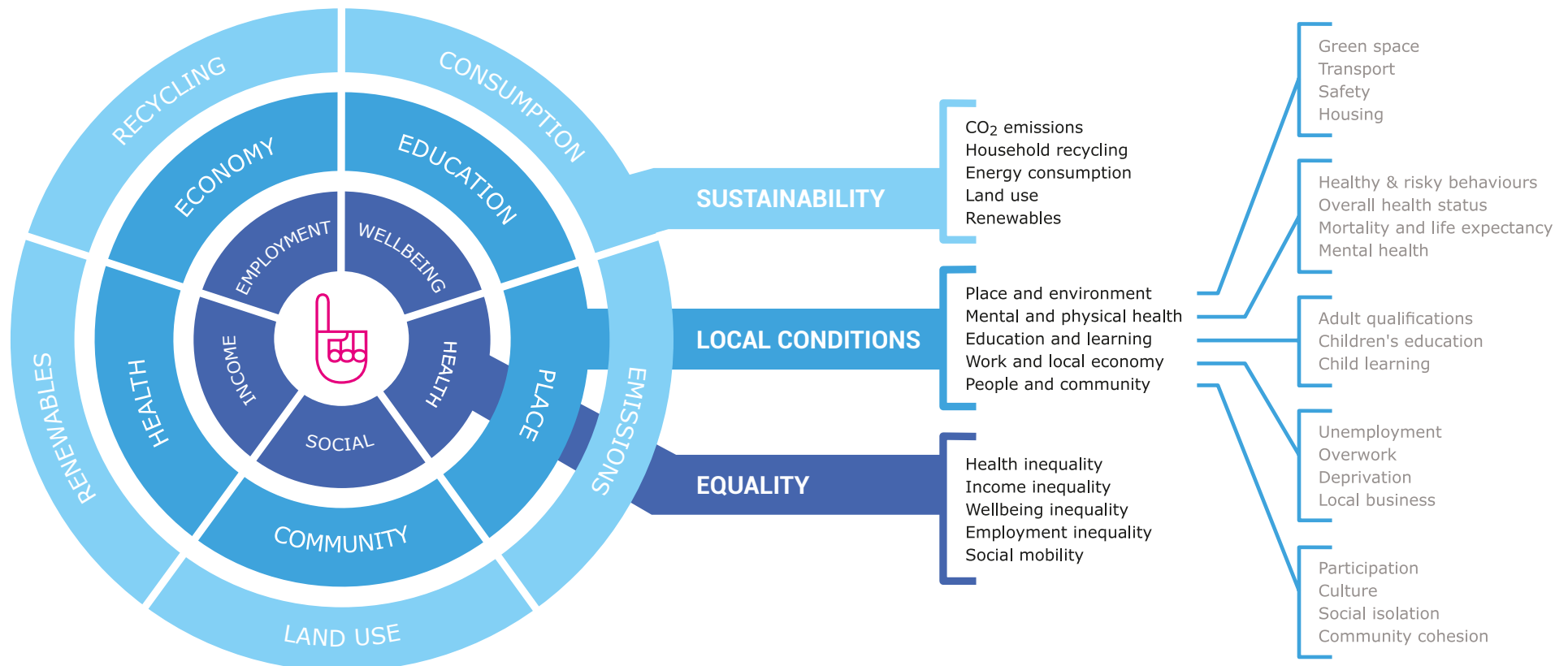
SUSTAINABILITY LOCAL CONDITIONS EQUALITY

These headline elements support a broad dialogue about whether an area is creating the conditions for people to thrive, within environmental limits and in a socially just way and helping us to produce an easy to understand scorecard.

We then use a layered approach to drill down to the detail: within each headline element there are domains and sub-domains. We select indicators that we know measure, or provide a proxy for, something that is known to have an influence on subjective wellbeing. The indicator data topic must also be something that it is within the remit of a local area to influence through policy and action.

This layered approach helps make the breadth of information the TPI holds accessible to citizens and statisticians alike, and supports the cross-sector use of the framework as a roadmap for collaborative change.

Each local authority area has a unique scorecard and results page on the website where they can explore and compare their data.

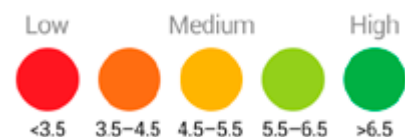


Headline element	Domain	Sub-domain	Hackney
Local conditions			4.13
Place and environment domain score			4.04
Local environment			2.89
Transport			7.33
Safety			3.46
Housing			2.48
Mental and physical health domain score			3.82
Healthy & risky behaviours			4.66
Overall health status			3.89
Mortality and life expectancy			3.43
Mental health			3.31
Education and learning domain score			4.58
Adult education			4.04
Children's education			5.11
Work and local economy domain score			4.74
Unemployment			3.35
Employment			4.02
Basic needs			3.22
Local business			8.37
People and community domain score			3.47
Participation			3.22
Culture			5.77
Community cohesion			1.40
Sustainability			5.07
CO2 emissions			7.69
Household recycling			2.37
Energy consumption per capita			9.16
Renewables			1.61
Land use			4.53
Equality			6.87
Health inequality			7.39
Income inequality - Overall			7.23
Income inequality - Gender			7.85
Employment inequality			5.04
Social mobility			9.33
Wellbeing inequality			4.38

This is an example from Hackney, London.

All scores are given on a 0-10 scale, colour-coded for easy reading:

The **headline graphic** below shows, for example, that Hackney scores 6.87 for Equality. The full scorecard, left, provides greater detail, showing that Hackney has a very high score of 7.39 on Health Inequality, but a below average score of 4.38 on Wellbeing Inequality.



You can find the headline results and scorecards for all upper tier and district local authorities across England and Wales on our website: www.thrivingplacesindex.org.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT?

THE TPI APPROACH IS:

CONSISTENT

The TPI is a set of 60+ indicators, all collected by highly respected national and international data agencies and bodies, brought together against rigorous guidelines for inclusion. They are chosen for being the very best indicators consistently available at a local level across the country that are: evidence-based drivers of wellbeing, robust and valid (sample sizes and representative), current and amenable to local action, asset based, broad and balanced³.

The data can be trusted, and the story it tells is tried and tested. It provides a consistent and hence comparable way of agreeing, measuring and tracking progress towards shared goals.

COMPREHENSIVE

The TPI does not underestimate the complexity of the questions it poses. There is no single answer to how to shift to an economic model that delivers intergenerational equitable wellbeing. But the TPI does bring together complex, connected issues and presents them as part of an integrated whole. Instead of it merely being the job of one department or one organisation to deliver the conditions in their 'silo', the TPI helps leaders think through their actions and decisions through a more systems focused lens: How do green spaces influence physical and mental health? How does access to transport affect income inequality? Why do levels of locally-owned businesses matter to community trust or the health of our children? No single tool can answer all these questions but the TPI allows the complexity of positive place-based change to be seen in a single unifying framework.

CHALLENGING

There is a radical challenge at the heart of the TPI. It does not shy away from shining a light on the impact of inequality on power and access, nor use wellbeing to 'soft-focus' some of our entrenched local and global challenges. It supports leaders in all sectors to recalibrate their organisations towards long term and real prosperity of people and planet.

LOCAL, COLLABORATIVE AND PRACTICAL

The TPI is at its most powerful when it becomes a shared set of key performance indicators (KPIs) for cross-sector visions and plans for change. The local level data it presents enables those ideas and visions to emerge at a scale that makes sense. Lots of different people influence places – from tiny community groups to big businesses and local government departments – and the TPI provides a shared perspective to coordinate change across a whole local authority area.

³ See full report for the methodology, full criteria and list of indicators.

In this section, we provide a short overview of some of the patterns and themes arising from the 2019 TPI results.

The TPI is a place-based tool, to be used by individual local places – to explore their strengths and challenges, and to help guide decisions and make priorities around a shared framework of progress. You can use the TPI results to:

- **UNDERSTAND** what needs to be in place to create a fair, sustainable area that supports both individual and societal wellbeing.
- **COMPARE** how areas are doing across different dimensions or compare different areas with your own to get a comprehensive sense of how things are going.
- **FOCUS** on what would have the most impact in improving wellbeing and celebrate what's already going well.
- **SHARE** ideas and inspiration for change across different sectors, organisations, groups and communities.

The following pages contain a summary of headline findings, short analyses by region and two more in-depth case studies. Together they give a taste of the depth and insight the TPI can provide. The findings here are for upper-tier local authorities, with a short section to show how the results break down for two-tier councils.

This represents the tip of the iceberg of what the TPI can tell you – as a business or political leader, an academic or a citizen.

Start your journey to local change, take a look at the results for your local authority area, or read the full report for a much more in-depth analysis and discussion of the results for the whole of England, at both upper and lower tier at www.thrivingplacesindex.org.

People need tools to create a vision and deliver a socially and economically just community, one that lives within environmental limits. The Thriving Places Index offers a robust framework for local authorities to better understand what is going well and less well and whether they are making progress.

This deeper local understanding can contribute towards moving to a more equal and sustainable society from those who put it into practice.

Rosie Maguire
Wellbeing Manager, New Economics Foundation

Head to the four most **Northerly** counties for green space, good air quality and peace and quiet.

The **North West** has work to do when it comes to the mental and physical health of its citizens.

Trafford comes top overall in England for Education and Learning.

West Midlands does well for income equality with seven local authorities achieving scoring above 6.5, but most Social Mobility scores are below average here.

The **South West** region leads the way for Sustainability with six of the top 10 scores.

Strong performance on Local Conditions in the **South East** overall, but much weaker on Sustainability and Equality.

Five local authorities score highly on all three headline elements: Devon, Bath and North East Somerset, Dorset, Kingston upon Thames and Bexley.

The top ten scorers on the Housing sub-domain are local authorities in the **North East**.

Yorkshire and The Humber is the highest performing of the three Northern regions across the three headline elements.

Wellbeing equality is a challenge in **Yorkshire and the Humber** with most local authorities here scoring well below average.

The **East Midlands** performs particularly well on Community Cohesion, but Employment scores are below average.

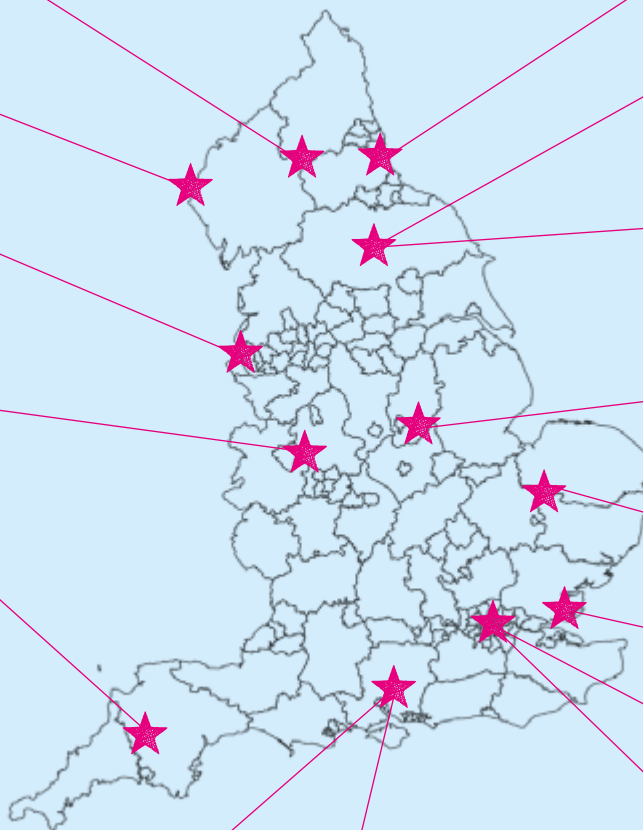
Great performance on Safety across the **East**.

Southend-on-Sea does brilliantly on the Culture sub-domain - second of all local authorities.

All top 10 Equality scores come from **London** Boroughs.

Half of **London** local authorities score below 3.5 for Community Cohesion.

Slough and **Southampton** show the reverse pattern from the rest of the South East, with lower scores for Local Conditions and much higher scores for Equality.



ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS BY THEMES

LOCAL CONDITIONS

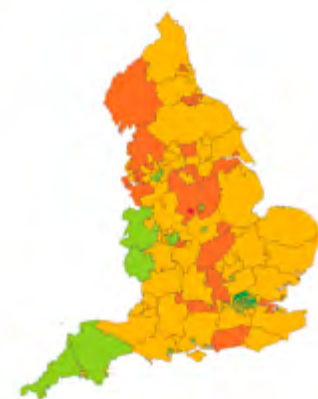
Local Conditions is the largest element consisting of five domains, 17 sub-domains, and 50 indicators in total. It covers the five bases of good living – Place and Environment, Health, Education, Work and Economy and People and Community. There is a noticeable North-South divide when it comes to Local Conditions averages – of the top ten local authorities, eight are in the South and seven in the South East – reflecting the latter's overall affluence and absence of many of the challenges associated with more dense urban living. A handful of Northern areas appear in the top 30 scores – Trafford, North Yorkshire, Cheshire East, Stockport and the East Riding of Yorkshire. There is a marked difference in scoring patterns between predominantly urban and predominantly rural areas – urban areas do well on aspects such as Transport, whereas rural areas do well on Local Environment and Safety. Overall, predominantly rural councils receive higher scores across the board in Local Conditions.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustainability element comprises five sub-domains – CO₂ emissions, Household Recycling, Renewable Energy, Energy Consumption and Land Use. No council scores well in every area of Sustainability, reflecting how challenging it is for councils to cover all bases locally on sustainability issues. The most balanced performers across all five indicators are South Gloucestershire, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, City of York, Leeds, Poole, St Helens, Stoke-on-Trent and Kensington and Chelsea. Four local authorities score below 3.5 overall – Kensington and Chelsea, Stockton-on-Tees, Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham. In contrast the top local authorities are Islington, Devon, South Gloucestershire, Kent and the East Riding of Yorkshire, scoring 5.75 and up. Local authorities with a legacy of heavy industry – for example North Lincolnshire and Stockton-on-Tees – score very low indeed on CO₂ emissions, likely because of the slow process of industrial pollution clean-up.

EQUALITY

The Equality element looks at inequalities in Health, Income, Employment and Wellbeing, and also considers Social Mobility and Educational Achievement. London boroughs perform extremely well on Equality. The top 11 scoring local authorities are in London, with the top six scoring above 6.5/10. Only one local authority, Derby, scores below 3.5. A general pattern seems to be that areas with greater diversity of population – usually metropolitan or predominantly urban local authorities – score higher across all aspects of Equality. The Social Mobility sub-domain – which measures the academic achievement of those receiving free school meals – supports this theory. The top 29 scoring local authorities on this indicator are all London boroughs and urban areas adjacent to London such as Slough. At the lower end we find North East Lincolnshire, Doncaster, Derby, Isle of Wight, Northamptonshire and Barnsley.



HEADLINE RESULTS BY THEMES

	LOCAL CONDITIONS	SUSTAINABILITY	EQUALITY	Place and Environment	Mental and Physical Health	Education and Learning	Work and Local Economy	People and Community
Top of table								
1	Wokingham	Islington	Harrow	Bracknell Forest	Wokingham	Trafford	Wokingham	Rutland
2	Buckinghamshire	Devon	Hackney	City of York	Richmond upon Thames	Richmond upon Thames	West Berkshire	Wokingham
3	Windsor and Maidenhead	South Gloucestershire	Newham	Blackburn with Darwen	Buckinghamshire	Westminster	Harrow	Worcestershire
4	Richmond upon Thames	Kent	Barking and Dagenham	Wirral	Windsor and Maidenhead	Torbay	Buckinghamshire	West Berkshire
5	Surrey	East Riding of Yorkshire	Barnet	Sefton	Surrey	Buckinghamshire	Windsor and Maidenhead	Buckinghamshire
Bottom of table								
146	Sandwell	Middlesbrough	Wirral	Southwark	Middlesbrough	Oldham	Stoke-on-Trent	Hammersmith and Fulham
147	Kingston upon Hull	Hammersmith and Fulham	Cumbria	Islington	Liverpool	Bury	Sunderland	Manchester
148	Nottingham	Westminster	West Berkshire	Lambeth	Manchester	Leicester	Blackpool	Camden
149	Manchester	Stockton-on-Tees	Swindon	Kensington and Chelsea	Knowsley	Wolverhampton	Nottingham	Westminster
150	Blackpool	Kensington and Chelsea	Derby	Westminster	Blackpool	Sandwell	Kingston upon Hull	Lambeth

ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS BY REGION

NORTH WEST

North West region contains the two lowest scoring areas in England for Local Conditions – Blackpool and Manchester. Scores for this headline element are very much on the low side generally, with the exception of Cheshire East, Stockport and Trafford.

The region fares better on Sustainability and Equality with scores moving a notch higher. Oldham stands out in Sustainability, and Manchester and Trafford in Equality.

Knowsley is the only local authority in this region to score below average on all three headline elements.

Trafford comes top overall in England for Education, with a very high score in the Children's Education sub-domain.

The North West scores poorly on the Mental and Physical Health domain – 17 local authorities score below average and ten of these score below 3.5/10. Scores are low across all four sub-domains in Mental and Physical Health, particularly Mortality and Life Expectancy (three indicators: life expectancy, years of potential life lost and preventable mortality rate). Manchester has recorded a 0.00/10 score for Mortality and Life Expectancy.

Cumbria is the top scorer of all English local authorities on the Local Environment sub-domain, with 7.93/10.





NORTH EAST

North East region has the lowest profile of scores across the three headline elements of all nine English regions, and the scores fall within a very narrow range: Local Conditions: the 12 councils score between 3.57-5.13/10; in Sustainability between 3.07 and 5.00/10 and Equality the range is 3.16 to 5.43/10. There is no score above 5.43.

At domain and sub-domain level in Local Conditions more nuance becomes apparent and clearly shows the strengths and challenges for the region: at domain level scores for Place and Environment and Education are high overall, and offset by low and very low scores in Mental and Physical Health and Work and Local Economy. People and Community has more mixed scores.

At sub-domain level the contrast is even more apparent: for Local Environment (indicators: green space, noise pollution and air pollution) scores are all high or very high, with Northumberland and County Durham second and third respectively across all 150 upper tier councils; Housing (indicators: housing condition, affordability and homelessness) receives an even higher profile of scores, in fact the top ten scoring local authorities overall on the Housing sub-domain are all in the North East. Children's Education also receives a lot of high scores.

In contrast, scores are very low (under 3.5) or low (under 4.5) across all the sub-domains within Mental and Physical health. The major blackspot however is the Local Business domain, where all but one of the 11 councils (Northumberland) scores below 3.5, significantly lower than any other region.



YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

Yorkshire and the Humber is the highest performing of the three Northern regions across the three headline elements, thanks to the predominantly rural county councils of East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire. Both those areas score over 5.5/10 in Local Conditions, with City of York not far behind with 5.48/10. All three make it into the top 35 overall scores for Local Conditions. In contrast Kingston upon Hull is a low scorer with 3.48/10. East Riding of Yorkshire also has a high score in Sustainability, and is fifth overall. Equality scores are marginally lower across the 15 councils in this region.

At domain level in Local Conditions there is only a small number of very low scores – Kingston upon Hull and Rotherham in Mental and Physical Health; Kingston upon Hull, North East Lincolnshire, Barnsley and Doncaster in Work and Local Economy. Scores are much higher across the board in the Place and Environment and People and Community domains. North Yorkshire scores over 5.5 in four of the five domains in Local Conditions.

At sub-domain level in Local Conditions: North Yorkshire and Calderdale are in the top five scoring local authorities on the Local Environment, and North Yorkshire comes second on the Safety sub-domain.

In Sustainability, scores are very wide ranging – for example North Lincolnshire has a capped score of 0/10 for CO₂ emissions but scores are very high 7.82/10 for Renewables. East Riding of Yorkshire scores 7.89/10 for Household Recycling and 2.83/10 for Energy Consumption. Doncaster scores 6.88/10 for Land Use.

In Equality, the most notable feature is that the Wellbeing Inequality scores are very low, with nine councils out of 15 scoring below 3.5/10, showing that wellbeing equality is a challenge for this region.



WEST MIDLANDS

The West Midlands region falls very much into the average range or slightly lower in Local Conditions, where the pattern of scores reflects the profiles of its councils which tend to be either large urban and metropolitan areas or more rural county councils.

In Equality overall the scores are average or above, with only Solihull showing a low overall score for Equality. This region's performance on the Income Inequality sub-domain stands out – seven local authorities achieve scores above 6.5, with only Solihull falling into a low scoring category.

The region scores noticeably lower overall for Sustainability, with the scores again reflecting the urban-rural pattern of strengths and weaknesses.

Worcestershire is third of all local authorities on the People and Community domain. Dudley and Staffordshire are in the top five scoring local authorities on the Community Cohesion sub-domain. Warwickshire is second on the Unemployment sub-domain. Sandwell is notable as the only local authority out of 150 to record a very low score for both Children's and Adult's Education.



EAST MIDLANDS

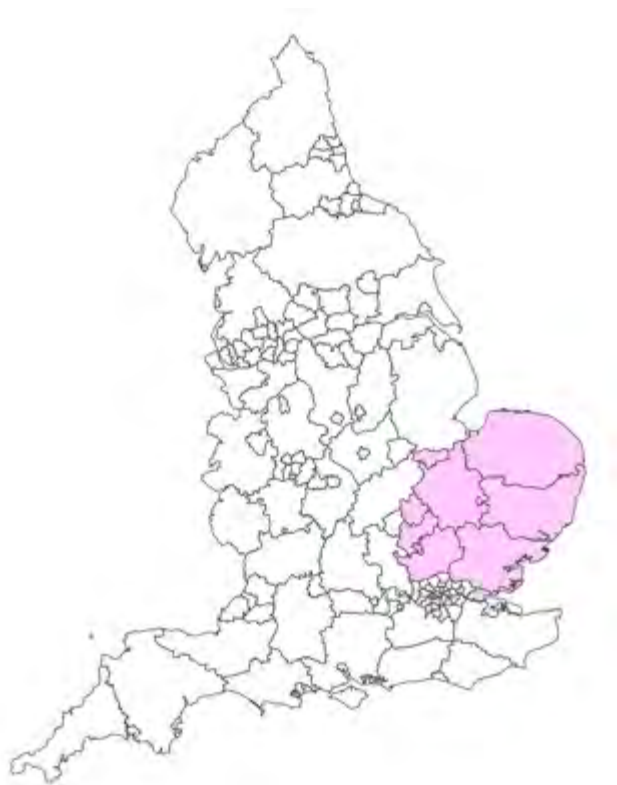
Performance on the Local Conditions headline element varies across the East Midlands. Rutland and Leicestershire do well, scoring above 5.5. In contrast, Nottingham has one of the lowest scores on Local Conditions, coming 148th of 150. Overall, the East Midlands has average scores on the Sustainability element. Most of the East Midlands performs below average on Equality and Derby has the lowest score of all upper tier local authorities on the Equality headline element. However, Leicester and Nottingham do well on Equality, scoring above 5.5.

Within Local Conditions, Rutland comes top of all local authorities on the People and Community domain. Performance on the Mental and Physical Health domain varies widely across the East Midlands – Rutland achieves a score above 6.5, coming fifth of all local authorities. Nottingham scores less than 3.5, coming 141st.

The East Midlands performs poorly on the Employment sub-domain; most scores are below average. Derby, Leicester and Rutland score below 3.5.

Most of the East Midlands performs particularly well on the Community Cohesion sub-domain, with six local authorities scoring 5.5-6.5.

Across many of the sub-domains within Local Conditions, Rutland is the stand-out performer in the East Midlands. However, it comes bottom of all local authorities on our indicator of good jobs (forming the Employment sub-domain) and performs very poorly on two sub-domains within Sustainability: CO₂ Emissions and Energy Consumption.



EAST

Performance on the Local Conditions headline element varies in the East: six local authorities achieve average scores, Peterborough and Luton are low scorers, and Central Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire perform well, scoring above 5.5. The East's performance on the Sustainability headline element stands out. None of the local authorities perform below average, and four of them (Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Central Bedfordshire) score 5.5-6.5. Only Luton has a high score on Equality.

Local authorities in the East have no scores below 3.5 and few below 4.5 across the domains within Local Conditions. All local authorities in the East have average scores on the Place and Environment domain. However, within Place and Environment, the East do very well on the Safety sub-domain with eight of the ten local authorities scoring 5.5-6.5.

The East does well on the Safety and Community Cohesion sub-domains, with most local authorities scoring above 5.5. Performance on Healthy & Risky behaviours is notably mixed - Luton and Peterborough score below 3.5, whereas Cambridgeshire is in the overall top ten. The weakest sub-domain for the East is Adult Education; Thurrock and Luton are in the overall bottom five. Bedford comes top of all local authorities on the Unemployment sub-domain, and Southend-on-Sea is second on the Culture sub-domain.



LONDON

London region scores gravitate towards the average range for Local Conditions, with only Richmond upon Thames (third overall nationally), Kingston upon Thames (20th) and Bromley (15th) scoring above 5.5. There is a little more variety within the Sustainability element, with Islington and Bexley scoring high – Islington is top in England overall. There are also three boroughs scoring under 3.5 – Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. Kensington and Chelsea notably scores under 3.5 in all of the five Sustainability sub-domains.

Equality is a different story: London is the best performing region on Equality by a significant margin – 70% of the 32 London boroughs score over 5.5. The top ten local authorities nationally for this headline element are all London boroughs, and six of these achieve scores above 6.5. Harrow is top overall.

In Local Conditions domains, the most notable pattern is that People and Community scores are lower across the board than the other four domains. Within this domain half of London local authorities score below 3.5 on the Community Cohesion sub-domain.

At sub-domain level some scores are not surprising – lower for Local Environment and higher for Transport for example. The Local Business sub-domain has some very high scores within it. Overall scores across the Physical and Mental Health sub-domains are higher than in the closest equivalent metropolitan areas nationally, especially those in the North. Scores are especially consistent in the Overall Health Status sub-domain.

In Sustainability, performance on the CO₂ Emissions sub-domain is very good, indicated by high scores (exceptions are Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster). In contrast, Renewables sub-domain scores are very low (exception: Havering).

In Equality the most notable scores are in the Social Mobility sub-domain, where all but four councils have very high scores (for example Newham 9.38/10 and Tower Hamlets 9.30/10). Havering is the only outlier, scoring 4.51.



SOUTH WEST

Devon is the only local authority to score above 5.5 across all three headline elements in the 2019 TPI. Dorset and Bath and North East Somerset are also in the top five scoring councils across all three headline elements.

Six out of the top ten councils on Sustainability are in the South West – Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. This is due in particular to high scores on the Household Recycling, Renewables and Land Use sub-domains.

The South West performs particularly well on the Healthy & Risky Behaviours and Adult's Education sub-domains within the Local Conditions domain.

There are also some notable lower scores within Local Conditions – Torbay and Bournemouth for the Mental Health sub-domain, Bristol for Safety, and Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and Devon all have low scores on the Employment sub-domain (job quality indicator).



SOUTH EAST

Wokingham is the top scoring local authority on the Local Conditions headline element.

The South East is a strong performer on Local Conditions overall, but markedly less so on both Sustainability and Equality. The exceptions are Slough and Southampton, where that pattern is reversed with lower scores for Local Conditions and much higher ones for Equality in particular.

Within Local Conditions, the South East performs well on the Mental and Physical Health domain, with seven local authorities scoring above 6.5. It also performs very well on the Employment sub-domain – nine local authorities score above 6.5.

The South East also takes seven out of the top ten places on the Basic Needs sub-domain, indicating very low levels of material deprivation. The exceptions to this are Southampton and Portsmouth, both of which score much lower.

Kent comes fourth on Sustainability, largely due to good scores for Recycling and Land Use and a high score for Renewables.

TWO TIER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A significant improvement we have made to the TPI in 2019 is to include all second-tier local authorities. We recognise that for two-tier county councils a single upper-tier scorecard covering the whole area fails to recognise the differences between districts, and is therefore of limited use.

We illustrate this by showing a map of **North Yorkshire** for the **Equality** headline element. As a whole North Yorkshire scores **5.12/10**. The second map shows the Equality scores for the six districts – Selby scores below **3.5** whereas both Craven and Scarborough score above **6.5**.



Another example is the **Sustainability** headline score for **Cumbria**. As a whole Cumbria scores **4.42/10**. Broken down into its six districts, the scores range from **2.73** for Eden (one of the most rural council areas in England) to **4.59** for Carlisle (a small city). The other four councils range from **3.83** to **4.47**. This gives greater insight into the light and shade of the sustainability picture in Cumbria.



CASE STUDY 1: DEVON



Headline element	Domain	Sub-domain	Devon
Local conditions			5.57
Place and environment domain score			5.47
		Local environment	6.54
		Transport	4.11
		Safety	6.43
		Housing	4.78
Mental and physical health domain score			5.92
		Healthy & risky behaviours	6.71
		Overall health status	5.75
		Mortality and life expectancy	6.00
		Mental health	5.58
Education and learning domain score			5.80
		Adult education	6.33
		Children's education	5.26
Work and local economy domain score			4.97
		Unemployment	6.02
		Employment	3.11
		Basic needs	5.39
		Local business	5.35
People and community domain score			5.67
		Participation	6.88
		Culture	4.79
		Community cohesion	5.35
Sustainability			5.80
		CO2 emissions	3.98
		Household recycling	7.15
		Energy consumption per capita	5.61
		Renewables	6.36
		Land use	5.92
Equality			5.98
		Health inequality	6.65
		Income inequality - Overall	5.28
		Income inequality - Gender	5.74
		Employment inequality	5.44
		Social mobility	4.85
		Wellbeing inequality	6.91



This year, Devon is the only upper-tier authority to do well on all three headline elements. It ranks 27th of 150 for Local Conditions, 15th for Equality and second overall for Sustainability, behind the London borough of Islington.

Devon does well across four of the five Local Conditions domains, ranking 20th for Place and Environment, 22nd for Education and Learning, 27th for Mental and Physical Health and 30th for People and Community. Particular strong points are in Local Environment (seventh), Participation (seventh), Adult's Education (tenth), Safety (12th) and Healthy & Risky Behaviours (14th). The Local Environment score is brought up by very low air pollution: for example NO₂ concentrations are less than half the English average. Meanwhile, high levels of physical activity contribute to both healthy behaviours and participation (Devon has the third highest levels of volunteering related to sport and activity, with 20% of the population reporting having done so twice within a year).

Devon's weakest domain is Work and Local Economy, where it sits firmly in the middle of the table for England (74th). Although there is a low rate of people unwillingly out of work, and material deprivation scores are generally low, it scores very low on the Employment sub-domain (indicator: quality jobs), with less than 50% meeting the four criteria for this indicator. Unsurprisingly, whilst the county does well on Place and Environment overall, its worst sub-domain is transport, ranking 12th from bottom. In particular the average journey time to key services using public transport is 17 ½ minutes, the fifth highest value in England.

Like most places, Devon's Sustainability score mixes very good performances on some indicators with poorer performances on others. It ranks 19th best for renewable energy production, producing 1.2MWh per capita, and 35th for land use change. However it also ranks 123rd for CO₂ Emissions – this pattern is typical of rural areas. However, unlike other rural areas, it does not do so badly on energy consumption per capita – ranking 49th, which is similar to more urban areas such as Hammersmith and Fulham, or Sheffield. And it ranks tenth for Recycling, with 56% of waste sent for reuse, recycling or compost, compared to 43% across England.

On Equality, Devon does consistently well, with all except one of six indicators scoring well above average. Wellbeing and Health Inequality are particularly low – with Devon ranking 13th best in England for the former. The only score where Devon falls slightly below average is for Social Mobility.



Headline element	Domain	Sub-domain	Sheffield
Local conditions			4.75
Place and environment domain score			5.51
		Local environment	6.48
		Transport	5.77
		Safety	4.19
		Housing	5.61
Mental and physical health domain score			4.33
		Healthy & risky behaviours	4.36
		Overall health status	4.34
		Mortality and life expectancy	4.43
		Mental health	4.19
Education and learning domain score			5.04
		Adult education	5.81
		Children's education	4.27
Work and local economy domain score			3.65
		Unemployment	1.59
		Employment	5.44
		Basic needs	4.18
		Local business	3.40
People and community domain score			5.21
		Participation	5.40
		Culture	6.05
		Community cohesion	4.18
Sustainability			4.93
		CO2 emissions	4.97
		Household recycling	2.79
		Energy consumption per capita	5.58
		Renewables	5.86
		Land use	5.46
Equality			4.94
		Health inequality	3.28
		Income inequality - Overall	6.01
		Income inequality - Gender	6.59
		Employment inequality	6.15
		Social mobility	4.15
		Wellbeing inequality	3.45



Looking just at its overall scores, Sheffield may not seem remarkable, ranking in the middle of the table for all three headline elements. However, it is important to remember that Sheffield is a city of over half a million. Its score on Local Conditions is second highest of all the eight English core cities, though it is not as high as the scores for smaller cities such as Stockport, Poole or City of York, nor indeed some more wealthy metropolitan areas such as Richmond upon Thames in London, or Trafford in Greater Manchester.

Perhaps the most noteworthy domain for Sheffield is Place and Environment, where it ranks 17th out of 150, placing it among more rural areas such as Lancashire and Devon. Unusually for a city, this is primarily driven by its high score on Local Environment, the ninth highest in England, which in turn is driven particularly by the city's large green spaces: 47% of the borough being covered by green urban and natural green space. This is only beaten by three other local authorities: Richmond upon Thames, Cumbria and Calderdale, and no doubt contributes to the low levels of particulate matter – 8.0 parts per million, compared to 9.1 for Leeds, or 9.2 for Liverpool.

Combined with good scores for Transport and Housing, these figures contribute to Sheffield's high score on Place and Environment. The city also does very well for People and Community – ranking 28th overall. This is particularly down to a high Culture score – ranking ninth overall, with widespread participation in heritage activities. A further strong point for Sheffield is Adult's Education, with 26% of adults participating in education or training in the last four weeks, and a high level of apprenticeship starts.

Sheffield's lowest scoring domain is Work and Local Economy, where it ranks 122nd. In particular it comes fifth from bottom for Unemployment, 15% of the adult population being unwillingly out of work (compared to only 7% in nearby Leeds).

Sheffield performs moderately well on Sustainability. Most noteworthy is its high ranking on renewable energy production per capita. Ranking 39th is very good for a large city. Indeed, Sheffield is the urban area that produces the most renewable energy in England: 395 GWh, only surpassed by large counties with lots of acreage for the production of renewable energy. Energy Consumption Per Capita is also well below average for England, although so is Household Recycling.

For Equality, the picture is mixed. Whilst Income Inequality and Gender Inequality are low, Health Inequality and Wellbeing Inequality are both higher. As a result, Sheffield does not do as well on Equality as some of the other core cities, including Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham.

Thriving Places Wales is a joint project between Happy City and **Data Cymru**.

It is based on the same methodology as the TPI and shares the same structure of headline elements, domains and sub-domains. However, the indicator data that contributes to the scores at these levels differs, due to the devolved nature of some of the areas covered by indicators. Where indicators differ, Thriving Places Wales (TPW) uses a 'best-fit' principle to replicate the indicators in the TPI.

Scores in Thriving Places Wales are relative to the Welsh average for that particular year. This means TPW should not be used to compare the scores of one area over time as scores for different years are not directly comparable. Also, changes in the indicator list affect the comparability of scores. However, we can look at the scores of all 22 local authority areas combined and see how they have changed between 2018 and 2019.

In both years, there were 748 scores across the 22 local authority areas in Wales at headline element, domain and sub-domain level. From 2018 to 2019, there has been a shift towards lower scores across the TPW, which is more prominent at the sub-domain and domain level than headline element level.

In 2019, 266 of the 748 scores were above 5.50, a drop of 79 from the 2019 figure of 345. There were 253 scores below 4.50 in 2018, an increase of 23 compared to the 2018 figure of 230. This shows a downward trend across the whole TPW compared to the Welsh average.

You can explore the results for Wales in detail at www.thrivingplaces.wales or www.thrivingplacesindex.

The Thriving Places report and the work of Happy City UK gives government, policy-makers, public services and people an exciting alternative to measuring.

This report helps to shine a light on the many drivers of wellbeing and gives insight into the places that are thriving, from which we can all learn.

Sophie Howe
Future Generations Commissioner, Welsh Government

HEADLINE WALES ANALYSIS

At a headline element level, 31 scores have increased from 2018 to 2019 and 35 have decreased. Three local authorities have increased across all three and five have decreased across all three.

LOCAL CONDITIONS

The overall mean of the 22 Local Conditions scores is almost identical for 2019 and 2018 (5.02 compared to 5.03). The median value has risen from 5.21 to 5.24. The distribution of the scores is also almost unchanged, with no local authorities scoring in the highest or lowest score bands (above 6.49 or below 3.50). Six local authority areas maintained their score in the 5.50 to 6.49 band. Six local authorities also remained in the 3.50 to 4.49 band, five of which are in the south-east of Wales.

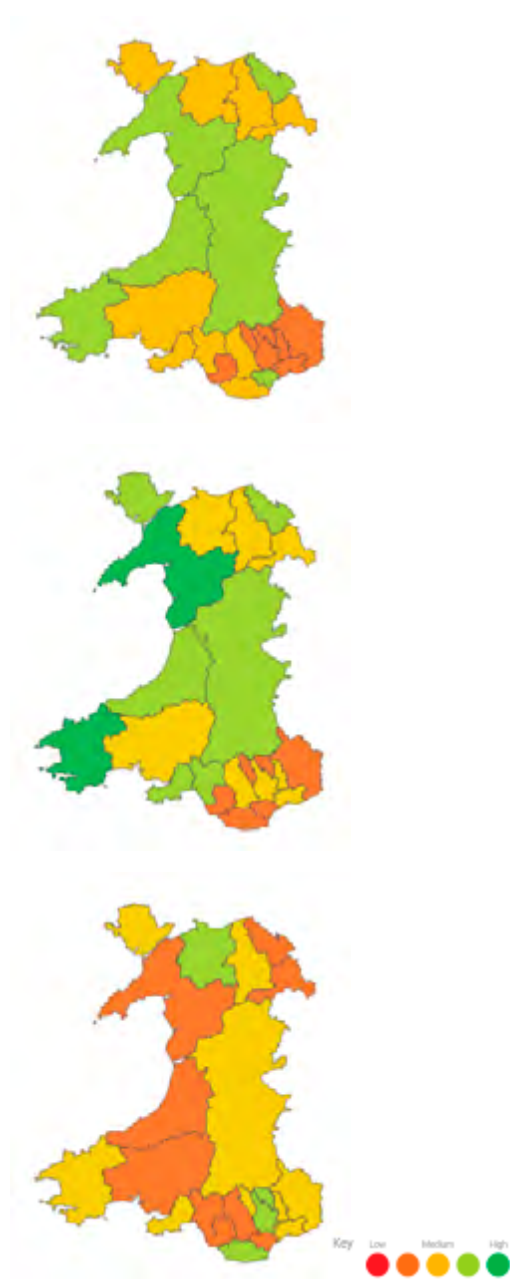
SUSTAINABILITY

The overall mean of the 22 Local Conditions scores has increased from 4.74 in 2018 to 4.83 in 2019. The median value has fallen from 4.92 to 4.83. The distribution of the scores is now more heavily weighted below the mean, with nine local authority areas scoring below 4.50 in 2019, compared to 4 in 2018. The one capped score at headline element level in 2018 (Neath Port Talbot) is not repeated in 2019. Their Sustainability score has risen to 3.75. As with Local Conditions, this means that no local authority area scores in the highest or lowest band for Sustainability. Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil retain their scores in the 5.50 to 6.49 band, with Bridgend and Conwy the only other local authority areas in this band.

EQUALITY

The overall mean of the 22 Local Conditions scores has dropped from 5.34 in 2018 to 5.27 in 2019. The median value has risen from 5.23 to 5.28. The distribution of the scores has changed between 2018 and 2019 but with no clear pattern.

This is the only headline element with local authority area scores in the highest band. Gwynedd keeps its score of 6.50 or higher, Anglesey and Pembrokeshire have dropped down one band and Ceredigion has moved up to the highest band. In 2019 there are six local authority areas in the 3.50 to 4.49 band compared to two in 2018.



At its heart the TPI is a practical tool to support real local change.

The following are just three of the ways that TPI can support action today.

1. PLACE BASED CHANGE

The TPI can be used by those leading policy and action at a 'whole-place' level. When public, private and third sector organisations are working together at a community, city or regional scale, the TPI can be used as a 'wellbeing economy' lens to focus the investments and choices that will deliver long-term, sustainable wellbeing for citizens.

At a national level, our partners and friends in some pioneering places are starting to use national frameworks to align budgets, policies, planning and procurement to the principles and practice of a wellbeing economy.

In New Zealand for example, the government has committed to delivering a wellbeing budget to gauge the longterm impact of policy on the quality of people's lives. Closer to home, Wales passed the pioneering Future Generations Act which puts the wellbeing of current and future generations into law and requires all public money to be accountable for its impact on those goals. Similar initiatives are emerging in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Costa Rica, Argentina, Spain and UAE.

At a local government, city or regional level only a handful of places have developed new progress measures unique to their context and many of these places have turned to Happy City for advice and practical support⁴. But the capacity to support a real and rapid shift to a wellbeing economy at any scale has faced the challenge of finding and gathering consistent, quality data across and between regions.

The TPI is the first national solution to measuring and delivering a wellbeing economy at a local level but a national scale. It can be used to guide place-based development and local decision-making across England and Wales.

- **As a framework for wellbeing budgeting**
- **As an annual assessment of local progress**
- **As a planning and investment guide to target resources where they are needed most**
- **As an overarching measure with which partners and commissioners can set goals, and indicators against which to assess them.**

To find out more, or for support from our team of associates to help you embed wellbeing economics into your work, please contact thrivingplaces@happycity.org.uk

Understanding where investments and policy actions need to be targeted is all the more critical for local authorities in today's funding environment.

Happy City have built on their considerable experience to develop a critical tool in the hands of those wishing to improve the wellbeing of local residents, building on a place based approach to identify areas that need attention.

Dr Tim Taylor
European Centre for Environment and Human Health

⁴ Including cities in USA, India, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands

2. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The shift to a wellbeing economy is not just a job for politicians or economists. It requires a whole new way of working across and between traditional 'silos'. Governments alone cannot deliver the conditions for people to thrive. Businesses, civil society and all sections of the public sector play vital roles as do employers, producers and service delivery organisations.

Yet all these sectors have different cultures, different ways of thinking and different measures and KPIs. Delivering transformational change across those divides can be almost impossible.

The TPI acts as a shared narrative and a shared set of overarching goals, to deliver longer term benefits on 'what matters' to people and places.

Happy City is currently supporting a large partnership delivering an ambitious three-year programme of work across Birmingham and Solihull. The work, funded by Sport England, aims to increase the levels of physical activity across a wide demographic population.

Instead of taking a narrow or simplistic approach to change, the inspirational team behind the programme⁵ saw its potential for delivering a complex range of benefits across traditional policy divides. The team are using the TPI to help bring together the many partners involved around the shared goal of supporting people to thrive. They are using many of the TPI indicators to map changes in community cohesion, use of green space, employment and access, equality of health outcomes, levels of local trust and much more.

When used alongside Happy City's other digital tool, the Happiness Pulse, complex multi-sector partnerships can map the impact of interventions ranging from tiny community projects to major city-wide change programmes, helping each partner track their impact on the wider shared goals.

There are 1.1m citizens in Birmingham of which 408,000 – almost half – are in the top 10% poorest households in the country. This presents huge challenges in terms of inequalities, income, life expectancy and health, but it also means there is huge potential for change.

The Thriving Places Index is a huge step forward in being able to measure whether our work is having an impact, and what we need to rethink to really improve the lives of citizens.

Karen Creavin
Chief Executive of The Active Wellbeing Society

⁵ The Active Wellbeing Society <https://theaws.co.uk/>

3. A POWERFUL SOURCE OF DATA

The TPI is at its heart a rich well of data. That data has been brought together in ways that support researchers, academics and policymakers really dig into the complex factors that lead to thriving places.

In the last year alone, the TPI has supported research into the growing loss of community connection across the UK, in partnership with the Big Lunch. It has been used by the ONS to dig into the causes of wellbeing inequalities in our communities, and more recently, to inform the many factors that lead to homelessness on our streets. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is using data from the TPI to analyse different challenges in urban and rural living. A major national funding body used the TPI to explore the different strengths and needs of communities they were supporting. And academics from the University of Lincoln have explored economic wellbeing using the TPI data and framework.

Happy City has committed to gathering and publishing the TPI results on an annual basis, and regularly sharing its own analysis in support of a wellbeing economy. This work will also provide a rich data source to help citizens, civil society, journalists, academia and business push together for a better world. If you are interested in using the data that sits behind the TPI, please get in touch at thrivingplaces@happycity.org.uk

We need new ways of measuring quality of life, both at the level of policy and monitoring and in the public imagination.

Happy City's Index of Thriving Places is a valuable step in this direction. It will allow evidence-based assessment of policies and initiatives trialled at a local level.

Robert Macquarie
Economist and Author at Positive Money

BECOME A THRIVING PLACES PIONEER

We at Happy City never sit on our laurels. The TPI is a dynamic project – it is learning, expanding, adapting and improving all the time.

PLANS FOR THE COMING MONTHS INCLUDE:

YEAR ROUND ANALYSIS

We will be using TPI data to dig into some of the key challenges of our time, including publishing quarterly analysis on the key elements of a wellbeing economy, and working with clients and partners to support their research in this area. Get in touch if you have a burning issue or a research project where the TPI data could be mined and used for good, or if you are interested in ways our team of associates could help.

ENHANCED DASHBOARDS

The TPI website already makes wellbeing data accessible to all via maps and scorecards. In summer 2019 we will be developing the capacity to offer to those places that are really committed to embedding this approach, a bespoke and expandable data dashboard to coordinate work, educate and inspire citizens as well as bring together partners to deliver thriving places where you are.

SCALING IMPACT

TPI can be used alongside Happy City's pioneering **Happiness Pulse** tool by organisations of any scale – from micro community projects to global companies or governments. Together they can measure not just the conditions for wellbeing, but how people are actually doing. The Happiness Pulse is available free online, and any project, large or small can quickly produce accessible wellbeing measurement data to guide its work and demonstrate the impact its organisation has on people's lives.

EMBEDDING THE CHANGE

Happy City and our team of thematic expert associates are ready to support your organisation, department, community or place to embed new ways to measure, understand, improve and action a wellbeing economy approach.

Get in touch at thrivingplaces@happycity.org.uk if you want to join the growing band of local government, business and civil society leaders interested in delivering wellbeing economics where you are.

At last - a vision of our living-places that puts people first. It fills me with hope, inspiration and energy.

Brilliant, vital and long overdue!

Emma Thompson
Actor, Writer and Activist



Happy City is a UK charity and social enterprise set up to *make what matters count*. We are working to change the compass from consumption and growth toward wellbeing for people, place and planet.

We bring this vision to life through extensively-researched and evidence-based strategic consulting, measurement tools and training.

We work with all sectors to provide practical pathways to measure, understand and improve wellbeing.

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