Developing a Social Progress Index for LBBD

- *Measuring what matters to society to improve the quality of life of its people –*

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Corporate Insight Hub
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SOCIAL PROGRESS IMPERATIVE

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Content:

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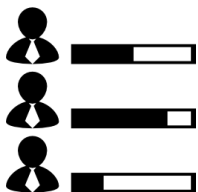
Economic Prosperity vs. Social Progress

1.0 Context: Economic Prosperity vs. Social Progress

During the 20th century the leading economic paradigm was the notion that social progress is improved through increasing economic prosperity (measured by **GDP** per capita) i.e. making people richer automatically means they become more socially progressive.

However, we know that in many instances economic development does not result in social progress. The relationship between economic prosperity and social progress is **not always a linear correlation.**

Neither is this a one way stream: increasing social progress can increase economic prosperity.

In order to understand inclusive growth we need to **measure social progress directly**, and use it to **complement** standard economic measures.

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What is the Social Progress Index (SPI)?

2.0 What is the Social Progress Index?

Ultimately the Social Progress Index (SPI) is a scorecard, with an overall score out of 100, that policy makers can use to track progress, measure outcomes and use to attract inward investment.

Exclusively **social** and **environmental** indicators: measuring social progress directly, rather than utilizing economic proxies.

Outcomes not inputs: measuring outcomes that matter to the lives of real people

Relevant for everyone, and leaving no one behind: holistic measure of social progress that encompasses the many aspects of health of societies, that are relevant for every single member.

Actionable: practical tool that will help leaders and practitioners in government, business and civil society to implement policies and actions that will drive faster social progress.

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2.1 SPI on a international, national and regional scale

The Social Progress Imperative is a philanthropically run organisation and has implemented their index in 133 countries to date on both a national and regional level.

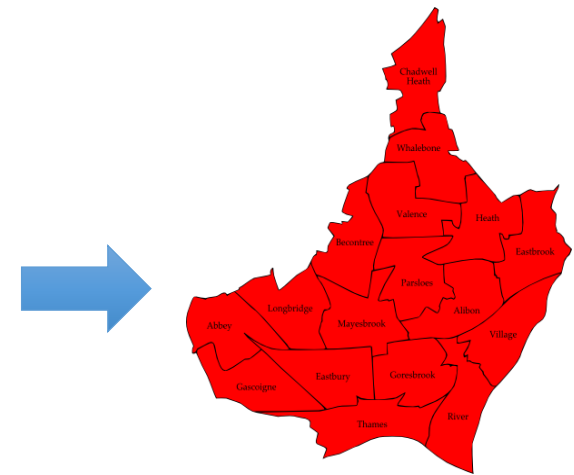**UK**

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The 2015 (Global) Social Progress Index includes 133 countries covering 94% of the world's population
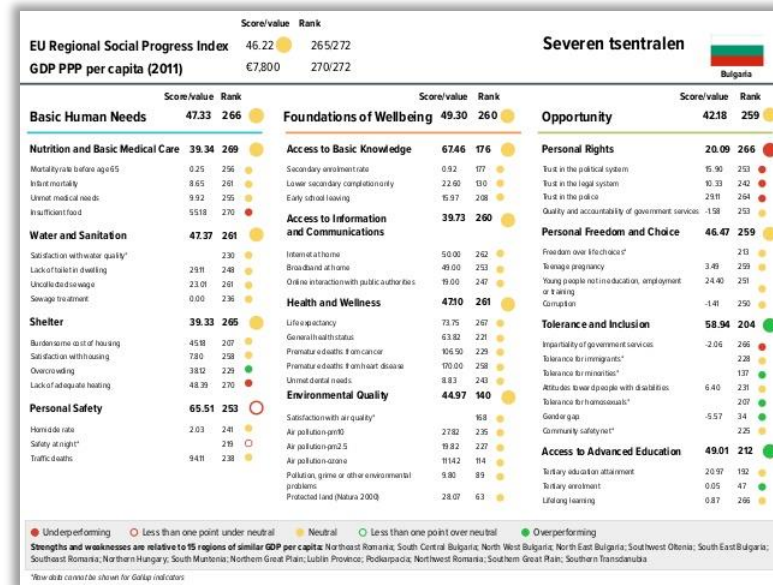
The EU Regional SPI focuses in on 272 EU regions, including Greater London

The next step is to focus in closer using the SPI on a community level

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2.2 SPI as a Practical Framework

It provides a **unique framework** that captures the needs and opportunities for the borough.

It **complements** traditional economic indicators.

Easy and friendly way to visualize the information through scorecards that **mobilize social innovators and actors** from different sectors (business, academia, government, civil society).

The framework and its indicators reflect the **most important needs** of people.

The SPI could be used as a **shared measurement and actionable tool** to guide social, economic and environmental interventions.

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Brussels - economically prosperous but social progress comparatively lagging behind other cities
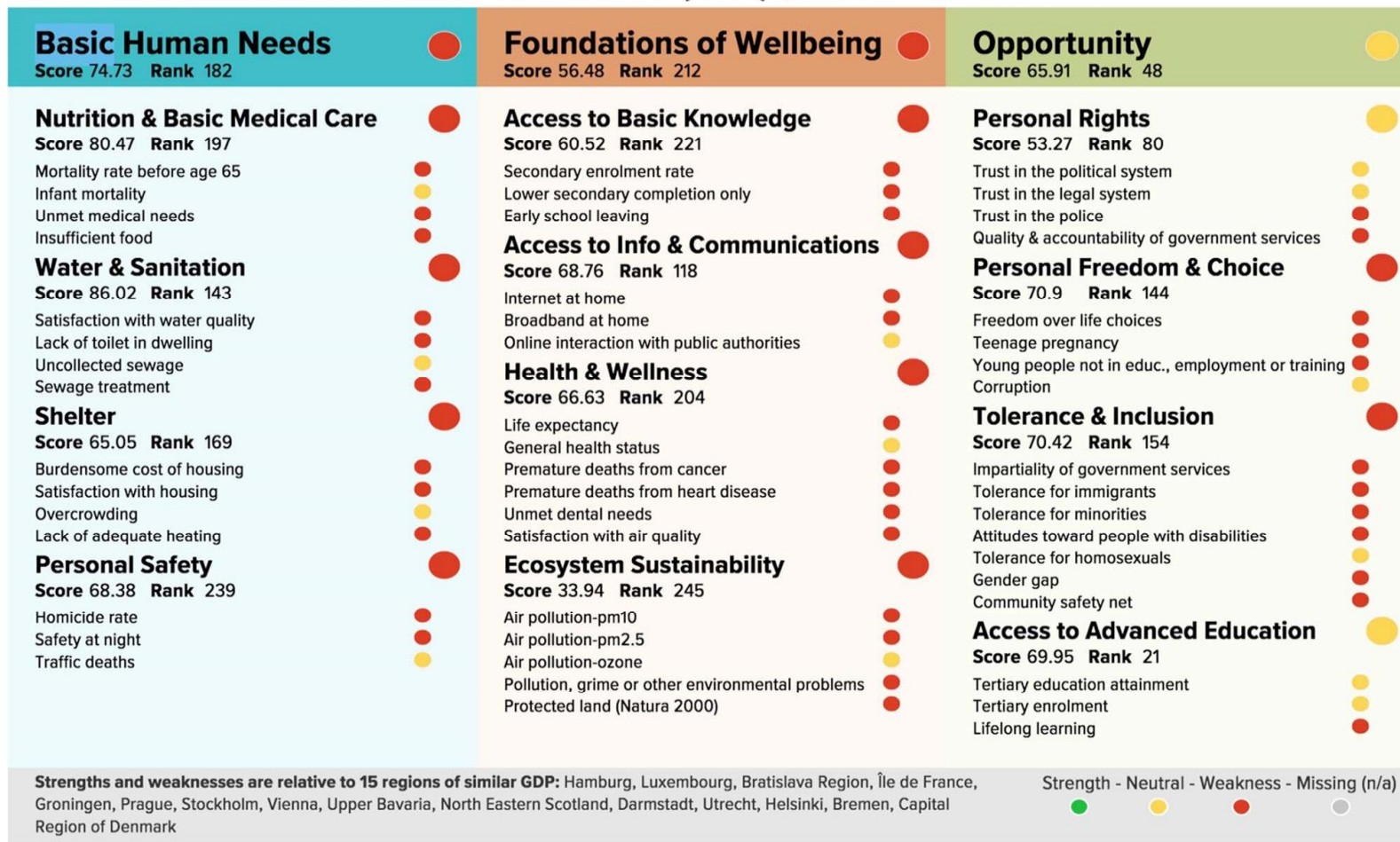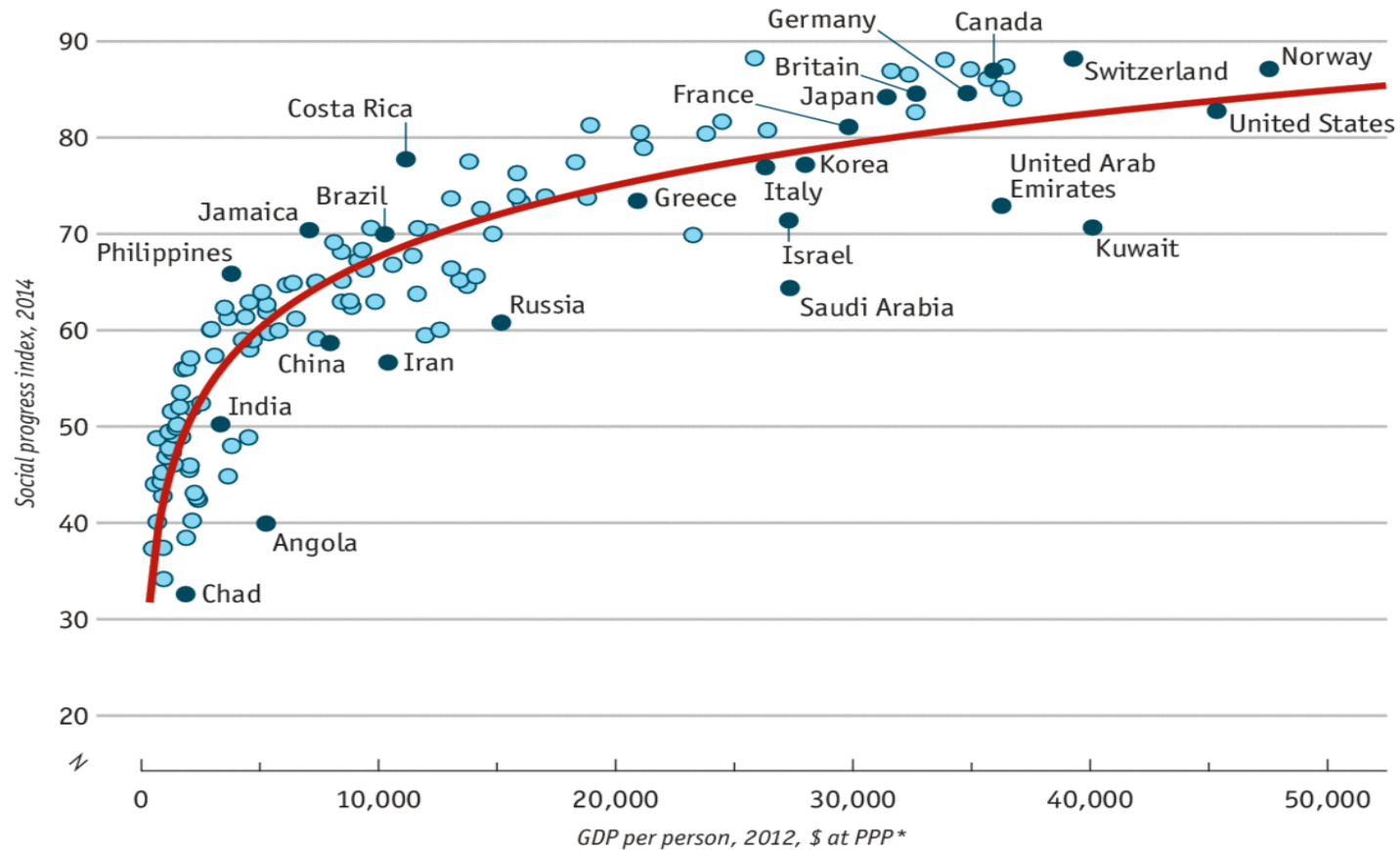
2.4 Comparing SPI and GDP across countries

Some countries have become less socially progressive despite becoming richer

Measuring development
Social progress index and GDP per person

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Why Barking & Dagenham?

3.0 Why Barking & Dagenham?

The SPI is cross cutting in nature and can be used to underpin three key projects in LBBD that require a robust framework to track impact performance.

The Borough Manifesto

Public consultation collecting residents views on what they want the Borough to look like in 2035. The responses have been analysed and developed into 10 aspirational themes. These themes align to the SPI.

Everyone Everyday

Collaboration with Participatory City to develop an eco-system of collaborative social initiatives to encourage social cohesion and participation in communities. This project requires the council to illustrate to funders how we will measure social progress.

Be First

The purpose of Be First to transform the borough and deliver long-term economic growth and prosperity for the people of Barking and Dagenham. SPI can be used as a tool to track social prosperity.

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3.1 Why Barking & Dagenham?

✓ Both executive and political alignment and approval

✓ Resources in place: lead index developers will be from the council's corporate Insight Hub with input from both the Community Enterprise and Strategy & Policy teams

✓ Barking & Dagenham represented on the London Prosperity Board in partnership with UCL Global Institute of Prosperity and the Social Progress Imperative

✓ Prosperity pilot study in Heath Ward will provide additional robustness to the model

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4.0 Alignment Exercise

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4.1 Alignment of SPI to Borough Manifesto Outcomes

Basic Human Needs

Nutrition and Basic Medical Care
Premature mortality (<65)
Unmet medical needs
Insufficient food

Infant mortality

Water and Sanitation
Water quality
Sewage treatment
Satisfaction with water quality

Shelter
Availability of affordable housing
Overcrowding
Quality of housing
Satisfaction with housing

Personal Safety
Homicide rates
Violent crime levels
Perceived criminality
Traffic deaths

Foundations of Wellbeing

Access to Basic Knowledge
School results (GCSE, A levels)
Truancy rates
Gender parity in secondary enrolment

Access to Information & Communication
Access to internet
Computer literacy

Heath and Wellness
Mental wellbeing levels
Suicide rates
Obesity & eating disorder rates
Healthy life expectancy
Heart disease frequency
Drug rehabilitation

Environmental Quality
Recycling & waste tonnage levels
Air pollution levels
Greenhouse gas emission
Cleanliness
Greenspaces

Opportunity

Personal Rights
Trust in the political system
Trust in the legal system
Quality of public services

Personal Freedom and Choice
Teenage pregnancy rates
Citizen engagement
Freedom over life choices

Tolerance and Inclusion
Hate crime statistics
Isolation levels
Community safety net
Tolerance for immigrants
Tolerance for homosexuals
Discrimination and violence against minorities

Access to Advanced Education
People accessing training – NEET
Higher education attainment levels
Years of tertiary schooling
Lifelong learning

* Blue highlights = also tracked under Borough Manifesto

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4.2 Alignment of SPI to Everyone Everyday Outcomes

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* Light green highlights = also tracked under EE project

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4.3 Alignment of SPI to BeFirst Outcomes

Basic Human Needs

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Infant mortality

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* Dark blue highlights = also tracked under BeFirst project

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