Developing a Social Progress Index (SPI) in B&D

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These are some thoughts on the development of a Social Progress Index in B&D. This document is internal to Strategy and Programmes and should not be circulated further for the time being.

- *Geraud, Policy Officer, Community Enterprise Team*

About the SPI

The SPI is a tool that can be used to measure a country or a region's social progress, i.e. by focusing exclusively on social and environmental indicators. Social progress is defined as "*the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential*".

The SPI is based on 3 pillars – basic human needs, foundations of wellbeing and opportunity - each of which have 4 different components (Table 1). These 12 components form the basic structure of the index and cannot be modified, no matter the differences in context, or whether it is deployed at the international, national, regional or local level. However, the indicators used to measure each one of these components should be defined according to the local context, ideally through an inclusive process.

Basic Human Needs	Foundations of Wellbeing	Opportunity
Nutrition and basic medical care	Access to basic knowledge	Personal rights
Water and sanitation	Access to information and communication	Personal freedom and choice
Shelter	Health and wellbeing	Tolerance and inclusion
Personal safety	Environmental quality	Access to advanced education

Table 1 – Pilars and components

There are multiple advantages of adopting a SPI at the borough level:

- The SPI can be used to make a diagnosis of the social progress situation, ward by ward.
- As a process, it can also be used to assess existing policies and programmes, and identify new priorities on which the borough should be focused.
- It can provide a visual and highly communicable way to monitor and evaluate progress, e.g. by making interactive maps of the situation in each ward, and showing their evolution over time.
- It can help us shift the evaluation of the work of the Council from a focus on inputs and outputs towards a focus on outcomes and impacts.

SPI Design Process in B&D

The process for designing a SPI for B&D is facilitated by the Social Progress Imperative, the organisation that develops and promotes the SPI worldwide. The process was launched on 12 April 2017 with a general introduction on the index. This launch involved staff from the Insight Hub, the Delivery Unit, PMO and myself. A second meeting involving the Insight Hub and myself was held on 9 May 2017 in B&D Town Hall. During that meeting, we began to develop the framework and created a wish list of indicators for each of the components in the index. In total, we produced over 90

tentative indicators (7-8 indicators per component). The following key principles guided this exercise:

1. **Exclusively social and environmental indicators.** A fundamental characteristic of the SPI is that it <u>excludes</u> economic measures, e.g. GDP, employment… as they are considered means towards social progress rather than indicators of social progress itself. This doesn't mean that economic indicators are not important. In fact, such indicators can be used against the SPI to measure performance (SPI/GDP=Performance). In other words, keeping the two separate can show how much economic input achieves what social progress.

2. **Only measure outcomes, not inputs.** This second principle follows the first. It suggests that the focus of performance evaluation should be shifted from measuring input and outputs, towards measuring outcomes and impacts.

3. **Relevant to all wards.** SPI indicators need to be based on data that can be disaggregated at ward level, in order to ensure comparability between wards.

4. **It needs to be actionable.** The indicators need to have practical value/be able to be acted on.

5. **It needs to be based on easily accessible, preferably free secondary data.** To keep the SPI economically viable, it should not rely on primary, resource intensive data. This means that, once the framework has been developed and the data sources identified, it will be very easy to update the index at little or no cost in the future.

The indicators selected on 9 May are listed in Tables 2-4 below, each table representing one pillar of the SPI. Wherever possible, we tried to identify the indicator data source(s). These sources are shown in brackets in the tables.

Table 2 – Potential indicators for measuring basic human needs

Nutrition and Basic Medical Care	Water and Sanitation	Shelter	Personal safety
Child mortality rate (GP datasets)	Overcrowding? (DEFRA)	Domestic waste collection	Traffic death/serious injuries
Premature mortality (Care City)	Satisfaction with water quality (Local pollution control statistics)	Overcrowding	Perception of crime
Food banks (IMD)	Food hygiene	Housing cost significantly high compared to household income (CACI, ONS, GLA)	Crime rates
Nutritional quality/5 a day (Check Gallup)	Private water supply	House price (ASHE)	Domestic violence
Child disease testing		Percentage of homes that meet the Decent Homes standard	Youth violence
Unmet medical needs (Dept of health)		Percentage of people accessing affordable rent	Violence with injury
Distance to GP surgery and waiting time (Decent Homes Standards)		Proportion of properties that are affordable	Domestic fires
		Pest control	Sexual harassment
		Eyesore gardens	Trip and fall elderly
		Homelessness	Safety at night
		Proportion of people in temporary accommodation, ward of origin	
		Fuel poverty	

Table 3 – Potential indicators for measuring foundations of wellbeing

Access to basic knowledge	Access to information and communication	Health and wellbeing	Environmental quality

| Children who get 1st choice primary (Dept of education)	Digital inclusion	Obesity/Healthy weight Reception (Year 6)	Recycling levels
Children who get 1st choice secondary	Digital literacy	Life expectancy at birth	Air pollution
No formal education	Percentage of people who have used internet	Healthy life expectancy	Open spaces (DEFRA/Conservation sites)
Educational attainment	Library visitors (CIPFA)	Percentage of people with LTC	Taking pride in the borough from environmental perspective
Excellent schools (Ofsted)	Online interactions with Council	Mental health	Fly tipping
Special education needs	Internet/Broadband at home	Carers, number of unpaid carers	Littering (people's perception)
Gender ratio boys to girls / girls to boys	Trust in media?	Loneliness	Noise complaints/pollution
Unauthorised absence from schools		Food retailers offering healthy options	
		Care city prescription levels	
		Dental health	
		Suicide/self-harm	
		Other happiness measures?	

Table 4 – Potential indicators for measuring opportunities

Personal rights	Personal freedom and choice	Tolerance and inclusion	Access to advanced education
Property ownership anchor to an average (London)	Open spaces (Gallup freedom of life choices)	Hate crime	Higher education / Gender / Ethnicity
Trust in police	NEET	Tolerance (residents survey and Census)	Percentage of population enrolled in higher education
Voter turnout (age/gender/minority groups)	Teenage pregnancy	Community safety net (Gallup)	Lifelong learning (Adult college, Erik Stein's team)
Citizen advice bureau	Usage of culture and recreation	Civic participation (PC/Volunteering level)	Apprenticeships/Gender
Freedom of information request/response rate	Troubled families	Community cohesion	University drop-outs
Councillor surgeries/Members enquiries	Freedom of religion	Gap between people with LD and General population / Gender	Work placement for students
Josephine – members enquiries		Tolerance for LGBT	Social mobility
Satisfaction with public services		Ethnicity Group concentration in an area/ Origins, diversity (proxy of diversity and attitude)	Student mobility

Next steps: Making the SPI framework inclusive

One important key to success for the SPI initiative concerns how well it will be received, and owned, by stakeholders in the borough. This aspect is also intimately linked to how relevant the indicators turn out to be. Attaining a high level of ownership and relevance will require considering, and reflecting on the perspectives of these stakeholders. An inclusive participation in the development of indicators will potentially mean that the indicators will be co-designed, together with them. But this might also lead stakeholders to challenge some of our own perspectives and make the collection of data more difficult. Inversely, a low level of participation will mean that the SPI will essentially emanate from the Council. This may still include consultations with stakeholders, but SPI ownership and indicator relevance will likely be negatively affected.

NOTE: Various consultations, e.g. the BBM report, have shown the importance for the Council to communicate clearly about its actions to the residents. The SPI is an opportunity to show that the Council is acting in the interest of residents, in a language that speaks to them. A communication strategy and a narrative will need to be developed to accompany the launch of the SPI.
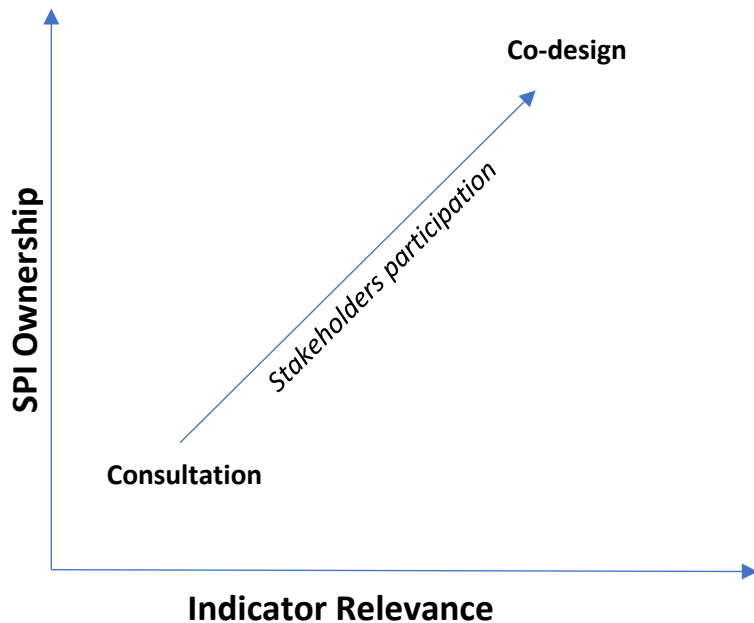
Local priorities can be made visible in the choice of indicators, e.g. by disaggregating certain indicators. For instance, 'crime rates' can be included in the 'Personal safety' component. But this can also be disaggregated to reflect 'domestic violence' and 'youth violence' which could, in principle, be included under crime rate. Doing this would have the merit of making visible the priorities of the Council and residents. It would also have an important communication potential. We have started to do so by selecting indicators that reflect these political priorities based, notably, on the Survey carried out for the Borough Manifesto.

Additional actions will need to be considered to further involve VCS organisations and the wider community in the design of the SPI. Such actions may include:

- Working sessions with Commission Watch,
- Interactive indicator design with residents during Summer events?
- Community cohesion events (how to use the SPI to measure community cohesion)
- A communication strategy
- …

A detailed plan of engagement should be set up in upcoming weeks. I will consult each one of you to set up this process.