



 **THRIVING
PLACES
INDEX**

**CREATING CONDITIONS
FOR WELLBEING**

2020

"The Thriving Places Index supports dynamic, pioneering leaders to deliver policy and practice fit for the 21st century. If your vision is for a place where sustainable wellbeing is a reality for everyone, then the TPI will help you work to achieve it and bring others along with you."

Liz Zeidler

FOREWORD

The Thriving Places Index (TPI) helps put the wellbeing of people, place and planet at the heart of local decision making.

We believe it's both urgent and possible to shift society's compass from growth-at-any-cost to a new model of prosperity centred on wellbeing. But to get there we need new ways of thinking and new measures to build a credible base on which to deliver change. The TPI provides just that. It's systems-change made practical.

Everyday items, from the vehicles we drive to the systems that heat our homes, provide information to help us assess if they are working well, delivering what we need and taking us in the right direction. Yet our economy, which influences so much of our lives, continues to be largely focused on one metric above all others: growth. This is despite the fact that all too often the wealth we seek to grow is created and distributed in ways that undermine the ability of current and future generations to live well.

Our current model and metrics are taking us towards environmental breakdown, deepening inequality and poor wellbeing. We need a new model and new metrics.

The TPI gives a clear picture and a practical dashboard to help us understand how to meet a broad range of current and future needs in a local area. This clarity is an essential first step towards creating a better, fairer and healthier economic system that works for the people who contribute to it – that is, all of us.

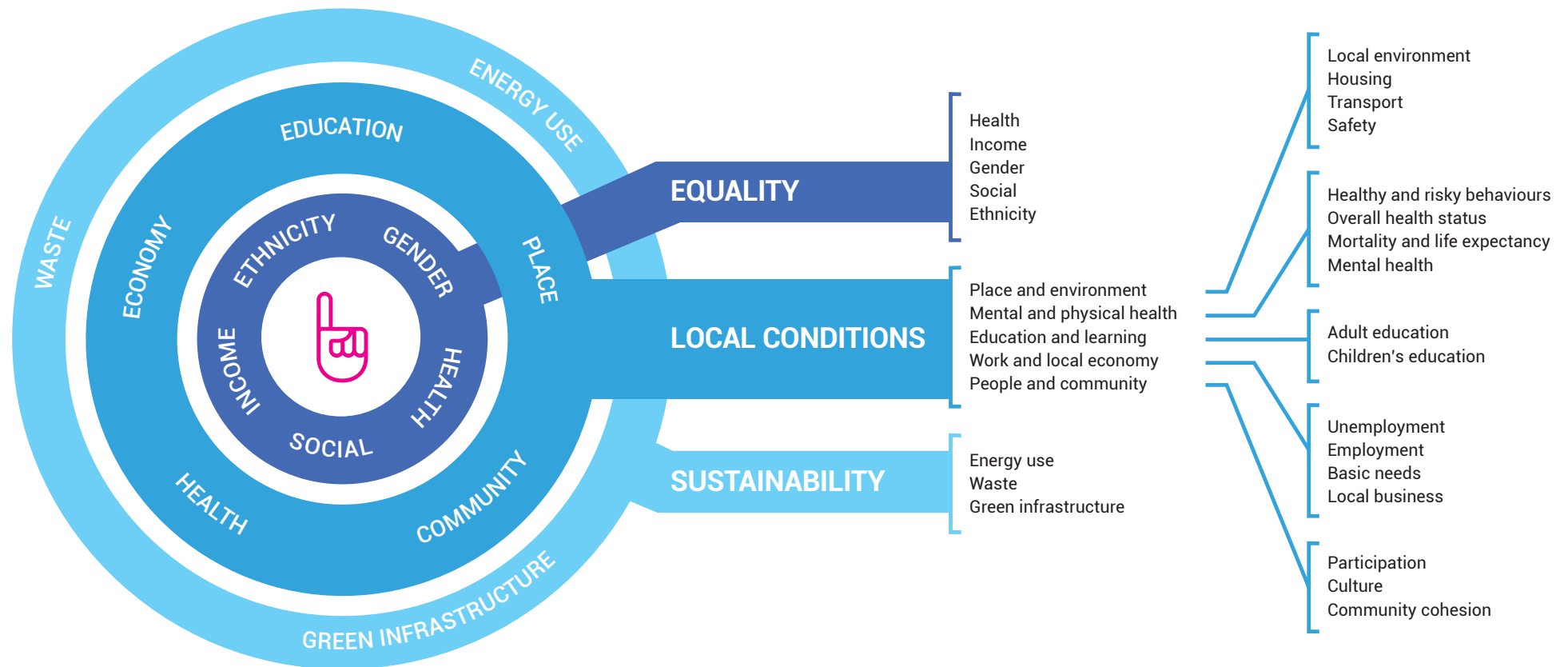
Liz Zeidler

Chief Executive, Centre for Thriving Places

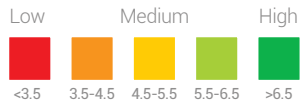
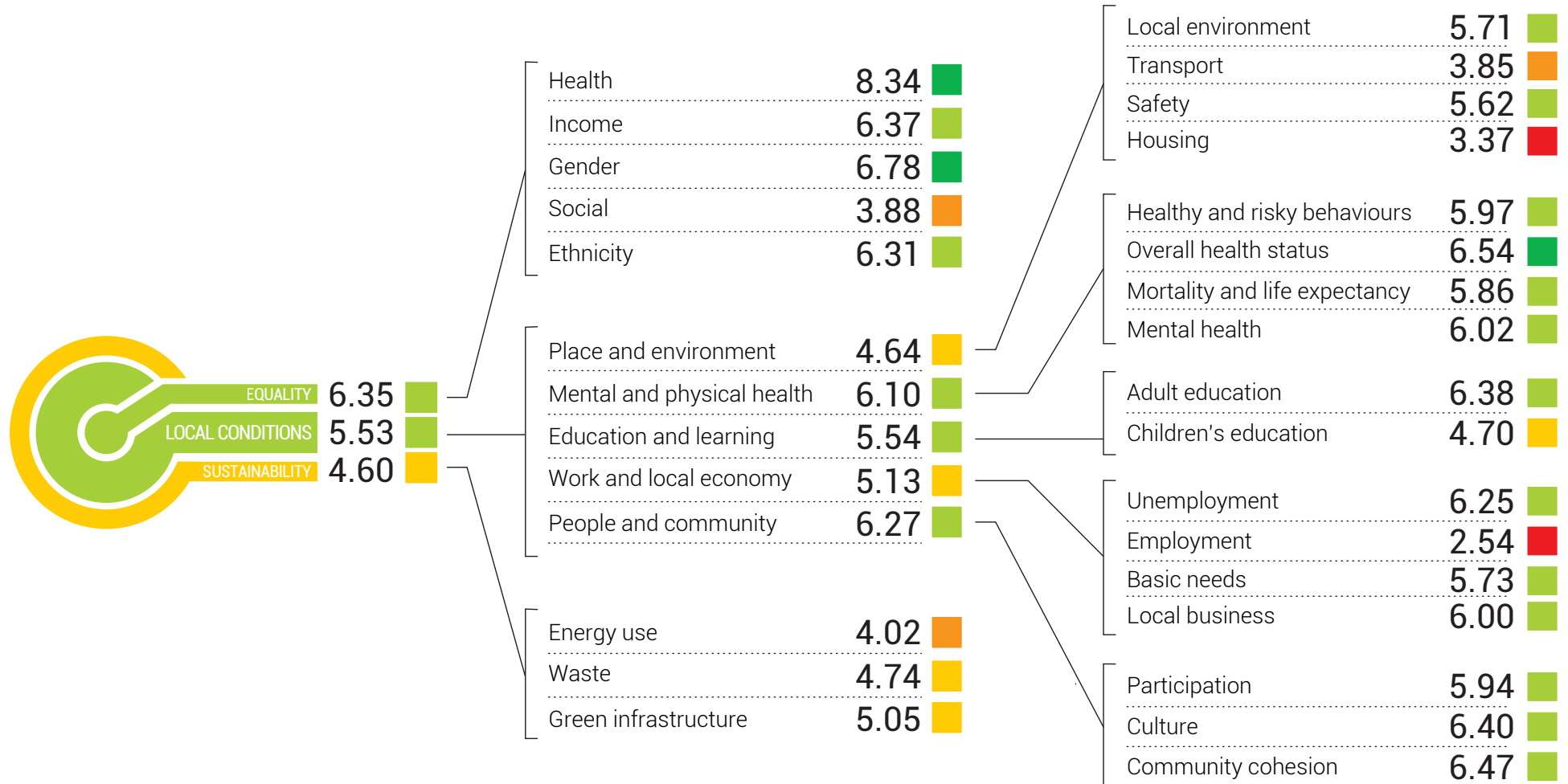
THE THRIVING PLACES INDEX FRAMEWORK

The TPI is designed to give a balanced and easily read 'dashboard' of information on the different elements that support places to thrive. It cuts across different policy areas and is structured to provide a holistic way of approaching different priorities.

By looking at a much broader picture of what supports the wellbeing of communities, the TPI's asset-based approach shows what's already going well and highlights that different areas experience different challenges.



Sample 2020 Local Authority Scorecard



MEASURING THE DRIVERS OF WELLBEING

The TPI identifies the local conditions for wellbeing and measures whether those conditions are being delivered fairly and sustainably.

It consists of a broad set of indicators selected from datasets produced by established data agencies such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Public Health England (PHE) and the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). We select indicators that measure or provide a proxy for, the key factors known to have an influence on wellbeing¹. The TPI includes data for all upper and second tier Local Authorities in England and Wales.

The TPI framework is arranged into three headline elements:



The scores for each headline element (out of 10) are shown in each Local Authority's summary score.

Sample Local Authority



Within each headline element there are domains and subdomains which show the headline elements broken down into greater detail.

Each Local Authority area has a scorecard which shows the colour-coded scores for headline elements, domains and subdomains.



Summary scores and scorecards for all English and Welsh Local Authorities are available online at www.thrivingplacesindex.org

We can also support you to use the TPI with raw datasets and bespoke analysis. Get in touch at hello@centreforthrivingplaces.org

¹ See the 'How we measured this' page on site at www.thrivingplacesindex.org

HOW IS THE THRIVING PLACES INDEX DIFFERENT?



CONSISTENT

The indicators that are chosen for the TPI measure evidence-based drivers of wellbeing – they are robust, valid and representative and available at Local Authority level. Measuring the same drivers for wellbeing for all Local Authorities in England and Wales provides a level of consistency that makes it possible to compare different places as well as draw connections between regional and national themes.



COMPREHENSIVE

The TPI offers its users a framework that brings together key data across the whole system of a place. It takes complex ideas and makes them accessible to citizens and practical for project teams on the ground. This makes it possible to understand interconnected issues through a single framework.



CHALLENGING

The asset-based approach behind the TPI points to what drives wellbeing, not just what limits it. It shows how sustainably and fairly the conditions for wellbeing are being delivered, shining a crucial light on inequality and intergenerational justice and challenging the current growth-at-all-costs paradigm.



PRACTICAL

Local data supports local action and the indicators are chosen based on how amenable they are to Local Authority implementation. The TPI provides a shared perspective to inform and evaluate multi-stakeholder projects and programmes, and to drive better wellbeing policy and practice.



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

...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."

Kate Raworth
Economist and author of *Doughnut Economics*



HOW TO USE THE THRIVING PLACES INDEX: PUTTING WELLBEING ECONOMICS INTO PRACTICE

The TPI is a new compass for the 21st century. It supports decision makers across sectors to assess and prioritise policy, based on the impact it has on the wellbeing and sustainability of people and communities.

The way we measure progress has a big impact on whether we achieve it. The Thriving Places Index can help you find a golden thread connecting individual citizens to community, place and planet.



The TPI can be used to provide:

- a shared set of goals for cross-sector, multi-disciplinary working.
- the framework for designing holistic approaches to budgeting, planning, procurement, commissioning and collaborative placemaking.
- a powerful communication tool to engage citizens and diverse stakeholders in a sustainable wellbeing approach to change.
- local and asset-based means of measuring, tracking and evaluating progress on a range of interconnected priorities (including the Sustainable Development Goals).
- the means to balance the competing priorities inherent in a sustainable and just approach to local economics.

The TPI can also be tailored to the context, priorities and needs of local areas through the development of custom datasets to align the framework to local objectives.



SECTOR SPOTLIGHT 1: LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The TPI provides Local Authorities with a solution to a number of significant challenges including:

- Aligning priorities across policy silos and departments and communicating those priorities to citizens.
- Providing leadership within a new partnership-based delivery model, where local government has moved from being the sole provider of services to the facilitator of them.
- Moving from symptoms to causes, providing insight into the wider determinants of equitable and sustainable wellbeing.
- Delivering progress whilst addressing the 21st century's twin crises of rising inequality and climate change.

How Local Authorities use the TPI:

- As a trustworthy dataset of local strengths and needs which supports a wellbeing-focused approach to policy, investment and action.
- As a baseline from which to assess change over time, by using the menu of validated indicators to evaluate interventions.
- As a way to quickly develop bespoke measurement frameworks tailored to local strategic priorities or major change programmes.
- As a way to embed a wellbeing economy approach in sustainable budgeting, planning and wider decision-making.



SECTOR SPOTLIGHT 2: FUNDERS AND COMMISSIONERS

The TPI supports funders and commissioners across a range of their key priorities including:

- Measuring impact across and between traditional funding silos and supporting flexible, collaborative approaches to delivery.
- The need for metrics to work hard – to aid learning and impact for both funders and their grantees and be accessible, meaningful and motivating.
- Supporting change at all levels of a place, from citizens and communities to society and planet, and working in local, context-specific ways.
- Consistently tracking social impact in order to share learning.

How funders and commissioners use the TPI:

- As a shared set of goals for multi-partner place-based programmes.
- As a way of mapping key strengths and investment needs at a local and national scale.
- As a baseline from which to assess change over time, by using the menu of validated indicators as project evaluation metrics.
- As a foundation for a bespoke measurement system to build an evidence base for a fund's theory of change and priority objectives.
- As a way to understand how individual projects or programmes might support larger-scale change.

A photograph of three young women with long hair, laughing and smiling together outdoors. They are wearing casual clothing, and the background shows a blurred cityscape and greenery.

WORK WITH US

Alongside our measurement tools, Centre for Thriving Places offers research and data consultancy, workshops for individual and team wellbeing, and support for building a wellbeing culture to embed a wellbeing focus in multi-stakeholder initiatives.

RESEARCH AND DATA SERVICES

- Detailed reports and insights into your Local Authority's TPI data and what it can tell you with bespoke analysis to compare your results with 'statistical neighbours' and other relevant datasets.
- Consultancy support and workshops to engage multiple stakeholders, pinpoint specific areas for policy intervention and share case studies and best practice expertise.
- Bespoke 'dive deeper' indicator sets relevant to specific local priorities, sector needs and programme areas to supplement the headline data in the TPI.
- Support for adapting the TPI framework to a ward or neighbourhood level, researching additional datasets to deepen insight on local context and priorities.

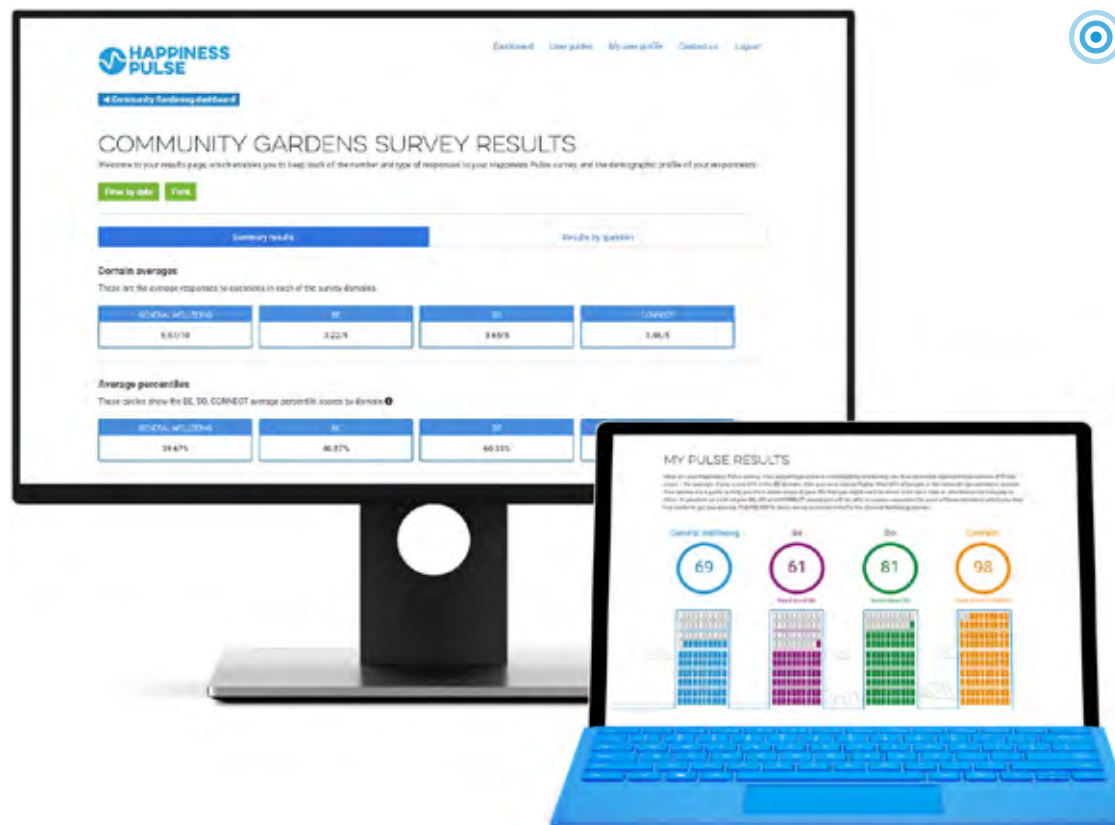
TRAINING, ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTANCY SUPPORT

- Training and support materials to up-skill in-house teams in use of the data and ways to measure, understand and improve local wellbeing.
- Consultancy for cross-sector collaboration and impact measurement to shift to an interconnected model of local prosperity with sustainability and equality at its core.
- Workshop sessions and team training to help you to build a wellbeing culture in your organisation or community.

"To build an economy that delivers wellbeing for people and the planet, we need systemic transformation that starts where people are. The Thriving Places Index does exactly that: it starts where people are, and measures success through the lens of wellbeing. Metrics like these are vital because they open up conversations about the purpose of the economy, and what living good lives actually means in our communities."

Dr Katherine Trebeck

Advocacy and Influencing lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and author of *The Economics of Arrival*



“The Royal West of England Academy has been working with Centre for Thriving Places since 2013 to embed wellbeing at the heart of our organisation. We recognise that this time of change has the potential to be stressful for the team, and we want to ensure that everyone has the tools to make it a positive experience. By undertaking wellbeing training and evaluating how everyone feels before, during and after the project using the Happiness Pulse, we'll get real insight into the impact of wellbeing interventions on personal resilience, and hope to ensure that the team is stronger and happier as a result.”

Alison Bevan
Director of the Royal West of England Academy

USE THE THRIVING PLACES INDEX WITH THE HAPPINESS PULSE ONLINE WELLBEING SURVEY

Measure a 'golden thread of impact' from individual citizens to society and planet by using the TPI with the Happiness Pulse, our online wellbeing survey.

Whilst the TPI makes sense of the impact of your work on the conditions in communities, the Happiness Pulse measures the social impact of programmes or policies on the lives of individual citizens and smaller groups. The Happiness Pulse produces easily accessible data on how people are experiencing conditions on the ground by measuring self-reported wellbeing.

Find out more at www.happinesspulse.org



The new name for HAPPY CITY

Centre for Thriving Places (formerly known as Happy City) helps put wellbeing economics into practice.

Centre for Thriving Places was founded in 2010, with the aim to change the economic compass from pointing to consumption and growth toward wellbeing for people, place and planet. We bring this vision to life through place-based strategic consulting, training and our evidence-based measurement tools the Thriving Places Index and Happiness Pulse. We work with local authorities, organisations and individuals to provide practical pathways to measure, understand and improve wellbeing.

TEAM

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