



RTPI Cymru

Royal Town Planning Institute
Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol

Royal Town Planning Institute
Cymru (RTPI Cymru)
Studio 107
Creative Quarter
8a Morgan Arcade
Cardiff
CF10 1AF
Tel +44 (0)20 7929 8197
email walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk
www.rtpi.org.uk/wales

25th October 2021

e-mail response sent to: ShapingWalesFuture@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to: Using national milestones and indicators to measure our nation's progress

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 26,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,300 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. The RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

Planning performance assessments historically have tended to be narrowly centred on process metrics such as the speed of processing applications, the number of consents given and the amount of housing units delivered. Whilst these metrics have some value, to achieve better quality placemaking outcomes a change in measuring performance is needed and we therefore support the principle of measuring outcomes and impact on the ground.

The move away from a system of focusing on measuring process and speed to a more holistic outcomes and impact based approach is widely accepted to be complex, however it is equally recognised as “essential to determine whether and how the potential wider benefits of planning are being realised,”¹ with the aim of better connecting policy, decision-making and quality of outcomes across social, economic and environmental contexts.

¹ [RTPI | More effective way to measure impact of planning published by RTPI](#)

Planning Policy Wales edition 11² defines a series of ‘national sustainable placemaking outcomes’, which sets out what a ‘sustainable place’ is. Some of the outcomes are similar to the Well-being indicators, such as “resilient to climate change”; “not car dependent”; “minimises the need to travel”, “has good connections”; “promotes physical and mental health and well-being”; and “has community-based facilities and services”. Links should be made across all indicators and data sets.

The Measuring What Matters: Planning Outcomes Research published in 2020 by the RTPI provides a toolkit and routemap to moving towards an outcomes based approach to performance management. This ties in directly with the need to understand what data sets are necessary and what digital solutions are in place to monitor performance. Further information on the toolkit, which was part-funded by Welsh Government, can be viewed here: [RTPI | Measuring What Matters: Planning Outcomes Research](#)

If you require further assistance, please contact RTPI Cymru on 020 7929 8197 or e-mail Roisin Willmott at walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPi

Director
RTPI Cymru

² [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 11 \(gov.wales\)](#)