



## Welsh Infrastructure Alliance

### Consultation Response: Shaping Wales' future: using national indicators and milestones to measure our nation's progress

#### 1. National milestones

**Q1: Do you agree with the 2 proposed national milestones for indicator No.8: Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework?**

Yes

- Society's expectations of our built environment are changing, reinforced by commitments to Net Zero by 2050 and an increasing influence of ethical investors. To realise a new vision for infrastructure, the milestone will need a focus on the different profile of skills and capabilities needed for businesses to succeed. In addition, the career expectations of future built environment professionals will challenge our traditional professions and training providers currently supporting businesses to develop.
- Research suggests to a skills shortage not just by number, but by capability. There is a requirement for more highly trained/re-skilled engineers equipped for longer careers, as well as greater exposure to digital tools before they enter workforce. Truly integrated teams will be essential in unlocking skills capabilities across organisational boundaries and traditional professions. The additional capability will be that of digital expertise so basic digital skills to support this interface will become increasingly important.
- Specifically on Milestone 1 and 2, the Government has made good progress in these areas and therefore should aim to be more ambitious and achieve targets before 2050.

**Q2: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.22 Percentage of people in education, employment, or training (in different age groups)?**

Yes

- Our members provide opportunities in this area and are a key delivery partner. Specifically on Milestone 3, the Government has made good progress in this area and therefore should aim to be more ambitious and achieve targets before 2050.

**Q3: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.21 Percentage of people in employment?**

Yes

- WIA members employ thousands in Wales (and across the UK) and many more worldwide, contributing billions of pounds to the Welsh and UK economy. However, the buildings they create actively contribute even more per year in GVA.

**Q4: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for Indicator No.17 - Pay Equality – for gender, ethnicity, and disability?**

- N/A

**Q5: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.5 Percentage of children who have fewer than 2 healthy lifestyle behaviours?**

- N/A

**Q6: Do you agree with the proposed national milestone for indicator No.14 Ecological Footprint of Wales?**

Yes

- We welcome the focus in this milestone on ‘using fair share’, but would welcome greater clarity on what is proportionate use and how this will be measurable.
- As part of this milestone, consideration should also be given to the resource needs of other countries and how, where possible, we ensure the sustainable use of resources – so depleting resources are replenishing.
- More generally, we welcome the extra focus on net zero. There is the opportunity to go further and look at embedding international declarations within the indicators (for example, those agreed at the forthcoming COP conference).
- The Government should consider linking indicator 14 and 41, given that declaration of both a climate and biodiversity emergency. At present, the wellbeing indicators are different.

**Q7: Do you agree with adopting the existing Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions target as a national milestone?**

Yes

- As above in question 6

**Q9: How do you think we should communicate the national milestones and national well-being indicators with the people and communities of Wales?**

- WIA members represent thousands of key stakeholders operating in key sectors of the Welsh economy. Their collaboration with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the milestones/indicators outlined in this consultation document is key to success.
- We would welcome simple communications to ensure key messages (including strategies/asks) can be disseminated effectively across Welsh society. Additionally, we would welcome feedback on how the Government intends to closely track progress against these milestones, particularly as many are long-term and could be impacted by short-term trend changes (for example, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic).

**2. National indicators**

**Mode of travel**

**Q11: Do you think an indicator on mode of travel should be added to the existing national indicator set?**

Yes

- The consultation document asks us to decide between two options with regards to this indicator:
  - a) focused on active travel, for example the percentage of people who actively travel or percentage of journeys that are by active travel.
  - b) focused on decarbonisation, for example percentage of journeys that use a sustainable mode. The 'Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021' sets out plans for the transport system in Wales over the next 20 years. It has a focus on the need for fewer cars on roads, and sets a target to increase the proportion of journeys being made using public transport, walking, or cycling. A new Wales National Travel Survey is proposed that will provide data on journey mode share and enable progress to be measured.
- We would welcome the greater focus on 'decarbonisation', rather than on active travel alone. We welcome the progress with active travel initiatives across the country, but urge the Government to take a holistic view on the solutions needed in other parts of the country and how they link to the net zero challenge (for example, the movement of freight, reduction in speed limits).

- How society responds to the Net Zero challenge is the biggest question of our time. The government has committed to cutting greenhouse emissions to net zero and in doing so is playing its part in capping global heating at 1.5 degrees, thus mitigating the worst effects of climate change. Like all businesses, WIA members will need to change the way they work on a day-to-day basis.
- Many WIA members have signed the ‘Pledge to Net Zero’, the environmental industry’s global commitment, requiring science-based targets from its signatories to tackle greenhouse gas emissions within their organisations. The pledge recognises the need for those in the environmental sector to demonstrate leadership and take strong actions to mitigate the most significant impacts of climate change
- The ‘Are We Ready’ report, published by WIA member ACE, polled more than 130 Net Zero and sustainability experts who work across different areas of the built environment. The findings show few sectors rating highly with common challenges such as client business models being incompatible with Net Zero pathways, and disconnects between different regulators: <https://www.acenet.co.uk/media/6444/are-we-ready-delivering-net-zero-in-the-built-environment.pdf>
- ICE’s primary focus is on Net Zero, not just for the current year but going forward for at least the next five years. Changes have been made to the training of all Civil Engineers, accredited College and University courses (by changing the Joint Board of Moderators’ requirements – JBM) to prioritise Sustainable Development theory, practice, and leadership The Professional standards in this area will increase from 2022 going forward.
- The focus on decarbonisation, rather than active travel alone, is an opportunity for the government to consider the economic impact and opportunity of net zero, and consider technological solutions particularly for transport.
- The weather and topography in Wales can discourage people from walking and cycling and these factors need to be considered when promoting modal shift.

### **Minimum digital living standard**

**Q12: Do you think an indicator on a minimum digital living standard should be added to the existing indicator set?**

Yes

No

**Indicator 33 - Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance**

(measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure)

Q13: Do you think indicator 33 “percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance” should be changed?

Yes

- In principle, we support the change for this indicator. However, this should incorporate businesses, transport, and others to ensure the milestone has further reach than just the percentage of dwellings.
- SonARR (NRW) quotes that: The 1.4 million homes of Wales are still responsible for *27% of the nation’s annual energy consumption (BEIS, 2017)*.
- There has been a 23% fall in domestic sector energy intensity use between 2000 and 2019 (BEIS, 2020b), due to improvements in the energy efficiency of homes and regulations (BEIS, 2019d). However, the majority of homes remain far short of the *government’s aspirational target for higher efficiency and UK properties are among the least well insulated in Europe (Halden-Pratt, 2020; Timperley, 2019; BPIE, 2019)*.
- In 2018, 12% or 155,000 of Welsh households lived in fuel poverty (WAO, 2019). Of this figure, 2% or 32,000 households lived in severe fuel poverty. Many of these homes were built in pre-1919 and have low energy performance rating or lack of central heating (Welsh Government, 2018b).
- Building Regulations are also devolved to Wales, and the Welsh Government consulted on changes to building regulations which has potential to improve the energy efficiency for new homes.
- To achieve the Net Zero Target, the UK and Wales need to drastically improve the heat efficiency of homes and buildings and transition to either low carbon electricity or hydrogen or both.

#### **Additional gaps to the national indicator set**

**Q14: We would also welcome your views on any further gaps you feel the COVID-19 pandemic may have highlighted in the way we measure progress towards our well-being goals?**

- A new indicator with regards to enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. This would provide a clear link to the Government’s Environment Act.
- A new indicator with regards to improving communities and society as a whole. This would provide an opportunity to expand the focus beyond jobs and opportunities to wider community requirements (for example, amenities).
- A new approach linking the focus on indicators to regional inequalities/disparities.
- A new indicator with regards to upgrading existing infrastructure (retrofitting etc)

**Q15: We would like to know your views on the effects that this policy would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.**

- N/A

**Q16: Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.**

- N/A

**Q17: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:**

- N/A

**Responses to consultations may be made public. To keep your response anonymous (including email addresses) tick the box.**

Keep my response anonymous

Email completed form to: [ShapingWalesFuture@gov.wales](mailto:ShapingWalesFuture@gov.wales)

Deadline: midnight 26 October 2021

## **Notes: Members of the Welsh Infrastructure Alliance (WIA):**

### **Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)**

Founded in 1818, the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is a UK-based international organisation with over 95,000 members in the UK, some 3,700 members in Wales, ranging from students to professionally qualified civil engineers. As an educational and qualifying body, with charitable status under UK law, we support our members throughout their careers, and help society to have trust and confidence in infrastructure professionals.

Under our Royal Charter, ICE has become recognised worldwide for its excellence as a centre of learning, a public voice for the profession and a leading source of expertise in infrastructure and engineering policy.

### **Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE)**

Association of Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) – Trade association for the UK's professional consultancies and engineering companies operating in the social and economic infrastructure sectors championing infrastructure to government and other stakeholders, representing the views of around 450 members. Our members employ over 60,000 in UK and 250,000 worldwide, contributing more than £15 billion to the UK economy.

### **Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT)**

The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) is a charity, learned society and membership body with 12 UK nations / regions and a number of international groups. CIHT represents and qualifies professionals who plan, design, build, manage, maintain and operate transport and infrastructure. CIHT offer routes to qualifications including Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer and Engineering Technician, the SoRSA Certificate of Competency and Transport Planning Professional. CIHT is the leading voice of the highways and transportation infrastructure profession. We are the prime source of advice for national and local government and other strategic stakeholders when they are seeking technical expertise and knowledge to guide future policy and investment.

### **Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)**

CIWEM represents and supports a community of thousands of members and organisations in over 89 countries who are dedicated to improving water and environmental management for the benefit of the public. Our aim is to work towards a safer, more sustainable world. Our mission is to build a global community of water and environmental professionals dedicated to working for the public benefit.

### **Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)**

CIWM is the leading institution for resources and waste management. CIWM Cymru Wales has 400 waste and resources management professionals in Wales meeting at technical and social events for development, debate and networking.

### **Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Wales**

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Wales represents 60 of Wales' largest and smallest civil engineering contracting businesses with a cumulative annual turnover in excess of £1bn and employing over 6,000 people. These businesses play a huge part in supporting communities across Wales and make a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of our nation. Our members are also major providers of training and apprenticeship opportunities. On a more fundamental level it is our members who will build the infrastructure that our nation needs to prosper.

### **Constructing Excellence in Wales (CEW)**

Constructing Excellence in Wales is the united voice of Welsh construction, representing every part of the supply chain. We are an independent, self-funding membership body campaigning to highlight the industry's role in creating a built environment in Wales that's fit for the future.

### **Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)**

IStructE leads and supports the development of structural engineering worldwide in order to secure a safe and resilient built environment for all.