

# The Leeds Social Progress Index: Measuring Inclusive Growth

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Report of: Chief Officer Culture and Economy

Report to: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## What is this report about?

### Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report is to update the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee about the Social Progress Index (SPI) for Leeds. The SPI complements traditional economic measures such as employment rates and GDP and helps deepen our understanding of the impact of delivering Inclusive Growth and our City Ambition in Leeds. In our presentation to CEAC we will present the first iteration of the Leeds SPI model.
- A report on the background to the SPI can be found [here](#) and was considered by the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board in January 2022.
- As a Council we want to understand the difference we are making for people across the city as we deliver the Inclusive Growth Strategy yet there is no single measure or agreed approach to how to measure inclusive growth. City strategies and rankings systems have typically measured economic success in terms of standard economic metrics such as Gross Value Added (GVA), employment and business start-up rates. Using the SPI along with traditional economic measures enables us to take a more holistic approach.
- CEAC are asked to consider the report and the presentation in the meeting and provide views and comments including on what additional environmental indicators we can include in our next version.

## Recommendations

- a) To note the SPI model for Leeds; consider the potential uses of the SPI and to provide a view to support improvement work in this area.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The SPI underpins our understanding of Inclusive Growth in Leeds. The insight from the model sits alongside traditional economic measures to give us a holistic and deep look into the city over time.
- 2 Covid-19 has led to economic shocks which have continued beyond the pandemic, intertwined with adjustments from the EU-Exit as well as the impact of the war in Ukraine. Growth is currently slowing and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Report of November 2022 states that the economy is expected to remain in recession throughout 2023 and for half of 2024.
- 3 We want to ensure that as we recover, we do this in an economically, socially and environmentally inclusive way. This is directly linked to our ambition to deliver Inclusive Growth across the city, whilst striving to be the best city for health and wellbeing and tackle the Climate Emergency.
- 4 The Social Progress Index is a "comprehensive measure of real quality of life, independent of economic indicators" and is "designed to complement, rather than replace, economic measures such as GDP" (Social Progress Imperative)
- 5 The SPI is a practical tool that will help us to identify and implement policies and programmes that will drive faster social progress. The SPI enables us to build understanding of what's happening at the ward level, so we can have conversations with communities about what is making a difference to people's lives.
- 6 Research by the Economic Policy team in consultation with Corporate Intelligence Unit and other internal data analysis experts across the Council, as well as with Higher Education partners identified the Social Progress Index as the best recognised model used internationally both at the national level and by a range of other cities across the world.

## Next Steps

- 7 The first iteration of the Leeds Social Progress Index is now ready to launch on the new [Inclusive Growth Leeds](#) website. It is expected that the launch of the Leeds Social Progress Index model will generate a substantial amount of interest and enquiries, as well as provide some new opportunities for conversation on the data, findings and potential action.
- 8 To facilitate further versions of the Leeds SPI model, there is a need for us to explore how we can achieve efficient data collection.

## What impact will this proposal have?

### Wards affected: The Leeds SPI covers all wards in Leeds

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

Little London and Woodhouse, Temple Newsam, Roundhay, Crossgates and Whinmoor have seen versions of the SPI for their wards during testing

- 9 The Best City Ambition will use the Leeds SPI model as a key part of future analysis to monitor the impact of our interventions and enable us to better understand the differing strengths and challenges of the city's communities.

- 10 This proposal will allow policy leads to support Key Decisions and Projects based on data in a way not previously realised or visualised – with dimensions and components not previously explored.
- 11 As part of the Communications and Engagement Plan that will be established, we will also consider how we feedback the findings of our work to the city.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

- 12 Policy leads and data practitioners from across the council have been consulted and included in the selection of indicators and included in training on how to produce the SPI model for further interrogation and iterations.
- 13 The initial Leeds Social Progress Index model has been presented to the following groups:
  - a) Economic Development Senior Management Team November 2021;
  - b) Leader Management Team, November 2021;
  - c) Cllr Pryor (Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council and Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education) – November 2021;
  - d) Corporate Leadership Team - November 2021;
  - e) Inclusive Growth Core Delivery Partnership – December 2021
  - f) Cabinet - 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022
  - g) Scrutiny Board ((Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Board), January 2022
  - h) Open Innovation – March 2022
  - i) Public Health Team – March 2022
  - j) Climate Change Team – March 2022
  - k) Leeds 2023 - Sept 2023
  - l) Office for Data Analytics – Oct 2022
  - m) Executive Members – Oct 2022
  - n) Health Partnerships Team - Oct 2022
- 14 It is noted that whilst there is intention to make this available to the public on the [Inclusive Growth Leeds](#) website, the underlying data will remain hidden and only an index score will be visible from the website. The methodology will also be available on the web pages so that we can promote transparency.

### **What are the resource implications?**

- 15 A contract was awarded to the Social Progress Imperative (DN521370) for the provision of the Social Progress Index for Leeds to the total value of £45,328 on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. No additional resource other than Officer time is required to fulfil and maintain the Leeds Social Progress Index model.

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 16 This report is an information update providing CEAC with a summary of the Leeds SPI model. The data that has been used to produce the index scores of the calculated model have been controlled and processed in accordance with the GDPR guidelines and Information Governance Procedures internally. The publication of the Leeds SPI model will be subject to [privacy notice](#) and the [Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) we adhere to.

## **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

17 There are no significant risks in the production of the Leeds SPI model.

## **Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

18 The SPI Leeds model has drawn ideas and indicators from all 3 pillar strategies directly and as such supports all three Pillars and the City Ambition.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

19 There were several other options considered to measure the impact of inclusive growth in Leeds, please see the Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board paper [HERE](#).

20 We considered the option to not to use additional social and environmental measures for the impact of our work towards the Inclusive Growth Strategy. This would mean relying on traditional economic indicators with which we would miss real insight on lived experience of our residents and would fall short of our ambition on to deliver inclusive growth.

### **How will success be measured?**

21 Successful adoption of the SPI Leeds model will be seen in future reporting on Inclusive Growth and through use of the SPI in decision making and seen in relevant reporting.

### **What is the timetable for implementation?**

22 The first iteration of the Leeds Social Progress Index model was to Leeds City Council from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, and it is expected to be updated either annually or bi-annually by a trained LCC team.

23 Detailed visualisations and web-based mapping produced by the Social Progress Imperative will be available by the end of 2022.

24 The next iteration of the Leeds SPI model will be aligned with the refresh of the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy.

## **Appendices**

25 Nil

## **Background papers**

26 Nil