

Our corporate plan - Nature and People Thriving Together Draft impact statements and strategic indicators

Annex 1 – Methodology

Our corporate plan up to 2030, *Nature and People Thriving Together,* sets out our vision, mission, and well-being objectives to 2030.

In the plan we committed to strengthening our performance management framework, to ensure we effectively monitor delivery of the corporate plan. We have designed a performance management framework that monitors progress towards our well-being objectives in 2030 and beyond, while also showing the line of sight to what is happening in our day-to-day business. Ensuring this alignment has been central to our approach, so that we can demonstrate progress and the tell the story over the lifetime of the plan and beyond.

We have designed our performance management framework to integrate the strategic and the operational, opening to more detailed, granular information as we move through to understand the drivers of performance:

Strategic - focussed on the long-term to 2030 and beyond. Used to monitor and report on progress in delivering the impacts associated with our well-being objectives

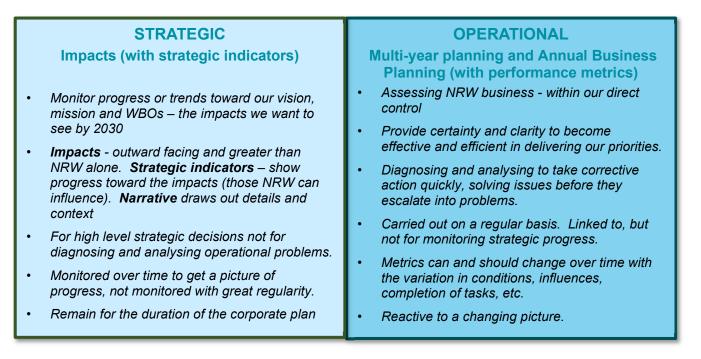
Operational – focussed on the short to medium-term to 2030. Multi-year planning used to monitor and report on progress in securing the outcomes of the steps to take. Sequencing will inform prioritisation in the annual business plan.

• **Annual Business Plan** – focussed on the short-term annual commitments. Used to monitor and report on progress in delivering annual commitments aligned to sequenced steps to take priorities from the multi-year plan.

Together, these provide a clear line of sight from the corporate plan to departmental, team and individual plans.

Diagram 1 below outlines the attributes of strategic and operational monitoring.

Diagram 1: Attributes of strategic and operational monitoring



The remainder of the methodology will focus on the 'Strategic' element – the development of the Impact Statements and Strategic Indicators.

Strategic performance monitoring - impacts and strategic indicators

To provide an integrated perspective on strategic performance we are using impact statements and strategic indicators together. These have been deliberatively designed to avoid functional silos and facilitate connections as we strive to maximise the benefits of our work on nature, climate and pollution minimisation for people's well-being.

The impact statements sit below the well-being objectives and define the ambition of what we want to see by 2030 and beyond - the destination or the 'ends'. They provide a detailed description of what success looks like. The impact statements are outward facing and recognise that collective action will be required across the public, private and third sectors to realise change.

The strategic indicators focus on those things NRW can directly influence, using its levers and tools, and are intentionally ambitious and stretching. We have chosen indicators where we can monitor progress over time, tracking progress against the things that need to change by 2030 (the 'curves we need to turn'). We have chosen strategic indicators that provide an integrated assessment of progress, painting a picture of the corporate plan in its totality. Each one is designed at a high level to 'pull along' other data and should be measurable and transparent. Each strategic indicator contributes to several impact statements highlighting the cross-cutting and holistic approach we are taking to monitoring and reporting.

The combination of impacts; quantitative and qualitative indicators; and supporting narrative provide a strategic perspective of progress towards our well-being objectives and the multiple benefits that flow from our work. The three parts will be used together to tell the complete story.

Principles for development

- In line with our commitment in the corporate plan, we adopted a 'blank sheet of paper' approach, to avoid being skewed by focussing on those areas which are easy, rather than important to monitor. We challenged ourselves to ensure we explored what we need to know and recognised in some areas we will need to develop new data sources to support the strategic indicators.
- Led by the Corporate Strategy Team a cross directorate working group, with involvement of Board members Calvin Jones and Mark MacKenna, has taken forward development of the strategic indicators. The methodology and progress in the development has been scrutinised by the Planning and Resource Group (PRG) and Executive Team (ET). Leadership and Management Teams have also had briefing sessions. Welsh Government officers have also been briefed on progress to date.
- We committed to focussing on a small number of impacts and strategic indicators that provide an integrated assessment of progress painting a picture of the corporate plan in its totality.
- No one team or department will be responsible for an individual impact statement or strategic indicator. They are to be owned collectively by the Executive Team and the NRW Board.
- The impacts and strategic indicators will be tested through to Autumn 2024 with the intention of finalising and signing off for use in 2025-26. They will then remain for the course of the corporate plan through to 2030 (and beyond). Testing will include: engagement with partners to explore insights and opportunities to refine; progression of a development agenda where we have identified gaps; use in real-time to frame and shape four set piece strategic discussions at ET and Board.

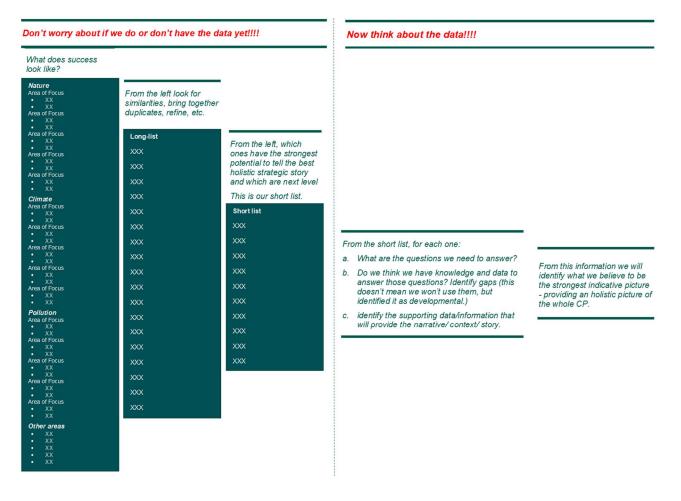
Approach

A deliberative and iterative approach was taken to the development of the impacts and strategic indicators. Diagram 2 illustrates the process of development.

Impact Statements are what we want to see by 2030.

- Impact statements have been developed to set the ambition. They will be stretching but achievable, showing the difference we want to see for both the environment and people.
- The Impact statements are outward facing and clearly recognise NRW cannot achieve these 'ends' alone.
- Through a series of internal workshops, we have visualised where we want to be in 2030 identifying what success would look like. We have considered this for each WBO, including the steps to take, alongside the other commitments in the plan. From this we identified an initial long list, which has been refined to a short-list giving a holistic view of what the impacts of our actions will be.

Diagram 2: Process for the development of impacts and strategic indicators



Strategic Indicators focus on the trajectories we need to turn (the things that need to change by 2030).

- Our choice of strategic indicators is focussed on those things that are within our power to influence.
- Each one is high level to 'pull along' other data.
- Colleagues across specialities have been engaged to identify the strategic indicators that represent the trajectories to turn under the impact statements.
- Each impact statement will have a few strategic indicators, but each indicator may contribute to more than one impact area showing the holistic nature of our work.
- We are working with external colleagues to draw on their expertise, such as Welsh Government, Sports Wales, Public Health Wales, and Future Generations Commission.

Supporting narrative and context. Through monitoring and reporting, the impact statements and strategic indicators will be accompanied by detail setting out the narrative and wider context within which we work. This will enable us to illustrate dependencies, identify potential risks, and provide clarity on the external constraints and inefficiencies in the wider system that could be a bar on progress.

• Colleagues across specialities are being engaged to identify content for the supporting narrative and context through the testing phase.