



Changing engagement in public accountability...

Making what governments do more relevant—wellbeing: measuring beyond GDP

Mr Brendan Smyth MLA

Chair, ACT Standing Committee on Public Accounts

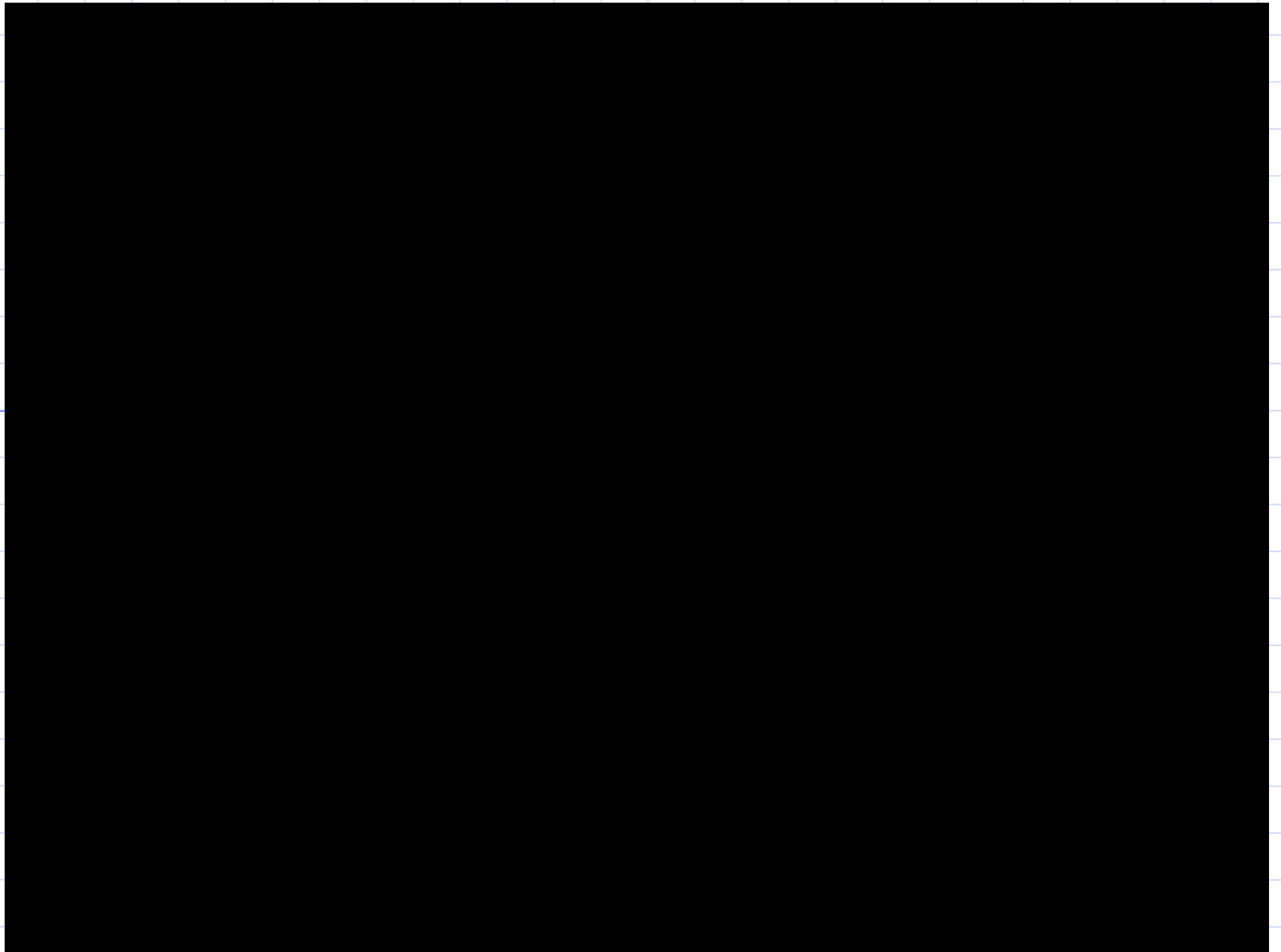


Bobby Kennedy on GDP: 'measures everything except that which is worthwhile'



Robert F Kennedy - Remarks at the University of Kansas, March 18, 1968

[Video—Robert F Kennedy—extract from GDP speech]





GNP and GDP...



Gross domestic product (GDP) refers to the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period. GDP per capita is often considered an indicator of a country's standard of living.



Beyond GDP: The Need for New Measures of Progress?



‘You can't manage what you can't measure.’

Management thinker – Peter Drucker

‘You can't manage what you don't measure.’

William E Deming (Engineer, Statistician and Management Consultant)

UK National Well-being Programme

UK Office of National Statistics (ONS)

- **Aims to produce accepted and trusted measures of the well-being of the nation.**
- **Well-being defined as about “how we are doing” as individuals, as communities and as a nation and how sustainable this is for the future.**
- **Measuring National Well-being is about looking at “GDP and beyond”. It includes headline indicators in areas such as: health; relationships; education and skills; what we do; where we live; our finances; the economy, governance; the environment; and measures of “personal well-being” (individuals' assessment of their own well-being).**

[well-being frequently asked questions.](#)



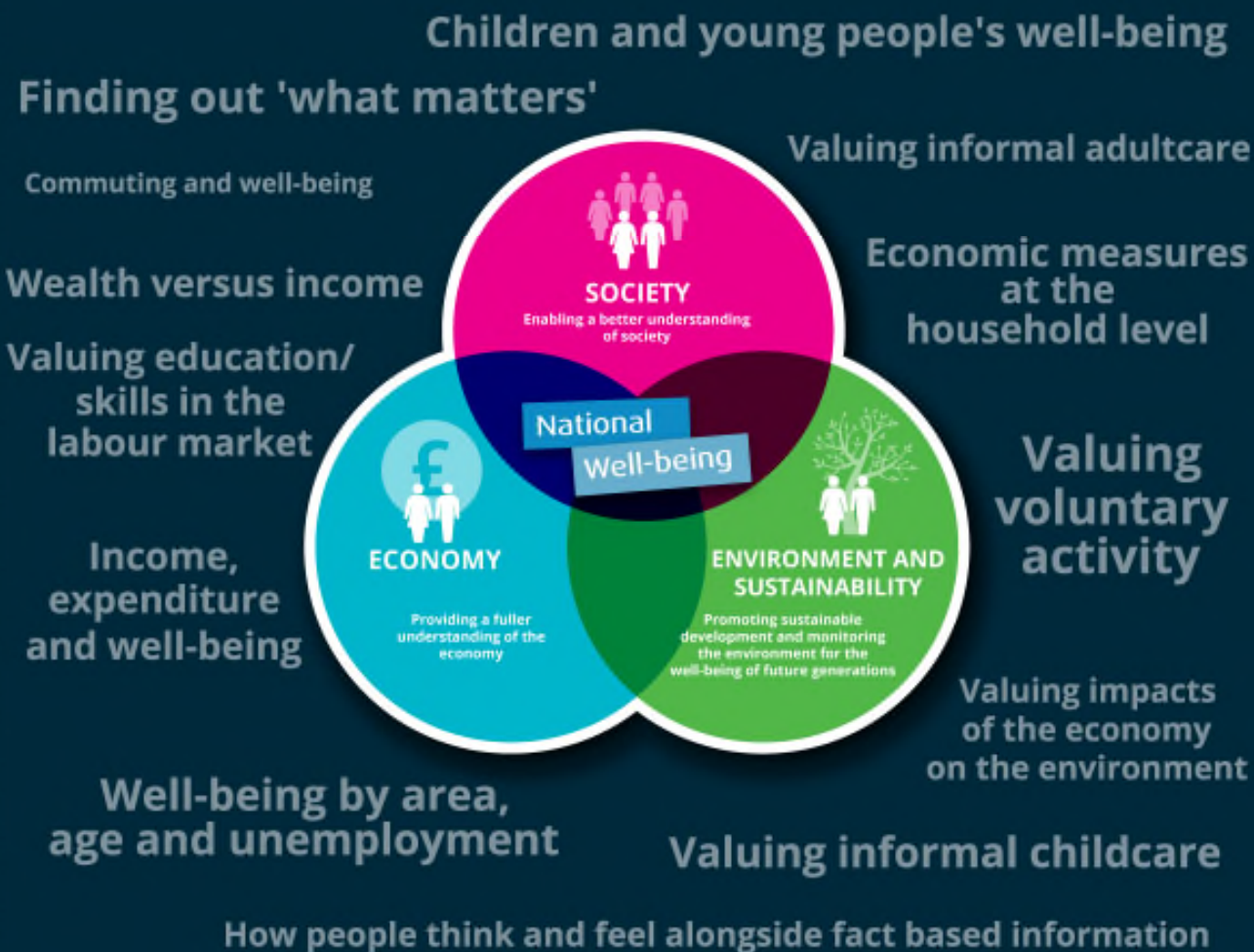
UK National Well-being Programme

UK Office of National Statistics (ONS)

- **Aims to produce accepted and trusted measures of the well-being of the nation.**
- **The programme started with a national debate that gathered views on what matters to people. A report on the findings was published in July 2011. The debate helped establish an ongoing dialogue with citizens, specialists and others.**
- **Since the debate, there has been development work looking at new measures of well-being that include – but go beyond – measures of economic performance such as GDP.**
- **The programme publishes updates to the national well-being measures every 6 months, including an interactive wheel of measure and interactive charts. Annually, the ONS publishes a “Life in the UK” report giving the latest snapshot of the nation's well-being.**

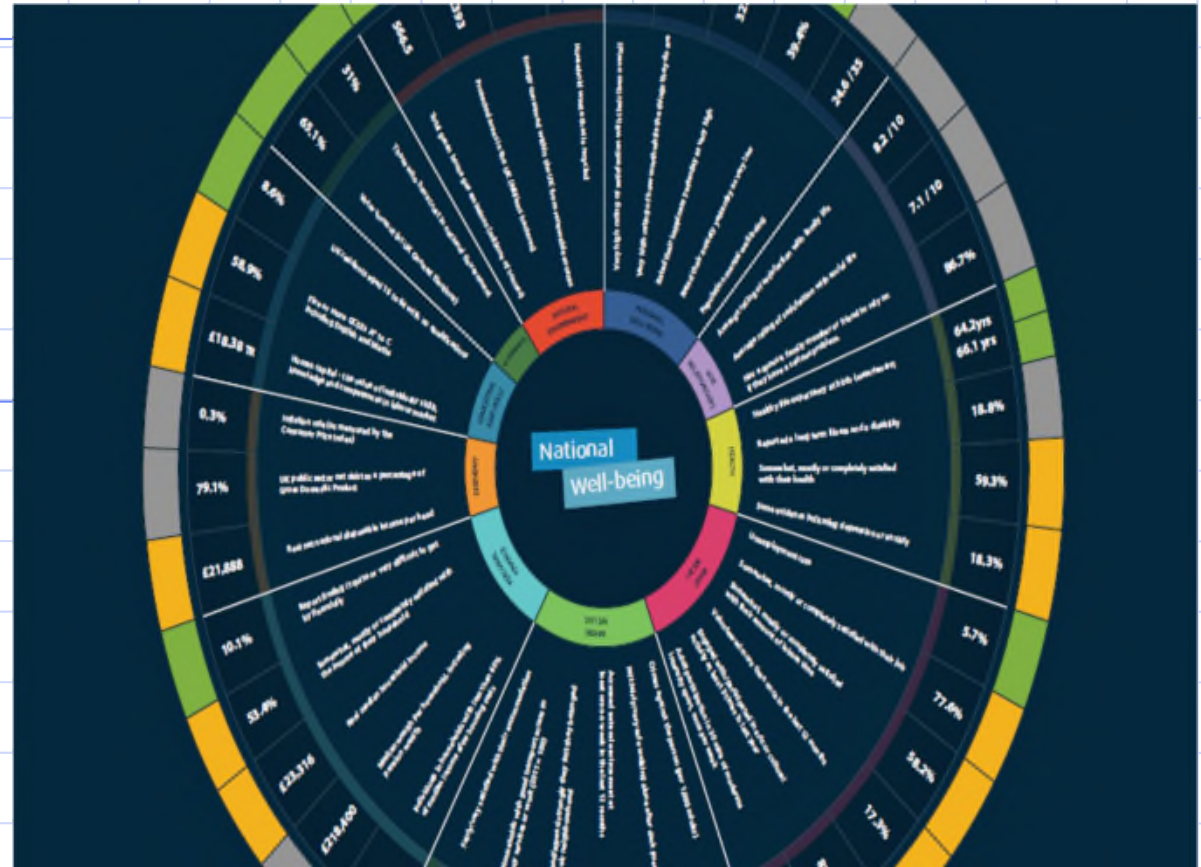
Measuring National Well-being: insights across society, the economy and the environment

Measuring National Well-being (MNW) is a long term development programme. In its first three years, the MNW Programme has started to highlight the potential for using economic, environmental and social measures alongside measures of progress such as GDP, to provide a wider lens on how society is doing.



UK wheel of well-being measure

It includes headline indicators in areas such as: health; relationships; education and skills; what we do; where we live; our finances; the economy, governance; the environment; and measures of “personal well-being” (individuals' assessment of their own well-being).



<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/dvc146/wrapper.html>



Some reflections...



