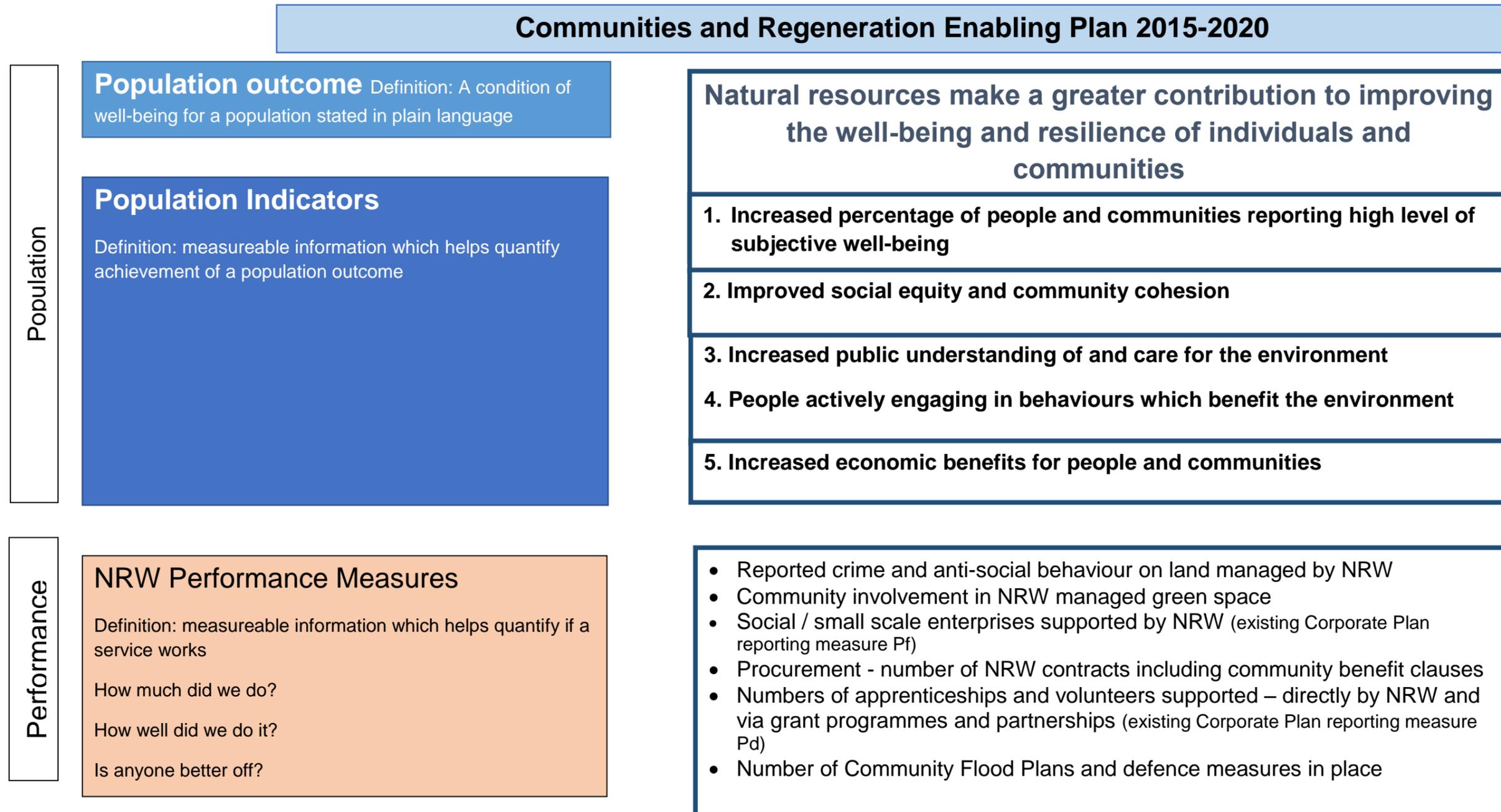


Communities & Regeneration Enabling Plan 2015 – 2020: Results Based Accountability Plan

What is Results Based Accounting?

Results based accounting is a disciplined way of embedding outcome based decision making into planning, delivery and accountability for partnerships and projects. It uses population outcomes and indicators alongside performance measures. In this case our population is Wales and our performance measures are based on our contribution to delivering the population outcome. The illustration below shows how this works for our Communities and Regeneration Enabling Plan:



Communities and Regeneration Enabling Plan: Results Based Accounting Plan

We have set out the outcomes we wish to progress and associated activities we will undertake for all our communities and regeneration related work.

The population **outcome** of this enabling plan is that: **natural resources make a greater contribution to improving the well-being and resilience of communities**

We wish to do this to achieve the following **benefits**:

- Increased public understanding of and care for the environment – leading to behaviour change and more sustainable ways of living
- People actively engaging in behaviours which benefit the environment
- Improved social equity and community cohesion
- Increased economic benefits for people and communities – reducing levels of poverty

We intend to deliver the main **outcome** and associated **benefits** under the following **activity headings**, aiming to:

- Be an exemplar public body, promoting and maximising opportunities for enterprise, skills development, and the promotion of well-being through the land we manage and influence, and the way we run our business (NRW *as a public body and land manager*)
- Increase community resilience in relation to the impacts of pollution, flooding and climate change (NRW *as a regulator*)
- Increase provision of and community involvement in the management of accessible natural green space (NRW *as a facilitator*)
- Champion the contribution of green space and trees as powerful and versatile natural assets which support well-being, local economies and climate change mitigation (NRW *as a facilitator and statutory adviser*)

These activity headings are used to group the actions within the Action Plan.

This indicative **Results Based Accountability (RBA)** plan sets out how NRW intends to assess progress with delivery of our Plan, in particular the benefits at the Wales (population) level from community engagement. Where possible we have incorporated relevant measures that are already part of NRW's Corporate Plan reporting processes. This RBA Plan sets out how we will measure the work NRW delivers (the performance measures) that contributes to the desired Wales outcome of **natural resources making a greater contribution to improving the well-being and resilience of communities**. We will apply the same RBA approach to monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Action Plan.

NB - the RBA indicators are indicative, based on current information. These are likely to be subject to change in order to align with the development of indicators for the Future Generations Bill and the State of Natural Resources Report. This will be taken into account in NRW's Monitoring Review and the development of the new National Survey for Wales.

What's the Wales picture in relation to the communities and regeneration plan's main outcome: natural resources make a greater contribution to improving the well-being and resilience of communities?

In order to measure this effectively we have split our Wales level outcome into measurable indicators:

Table 1: What is the Wales picture in relation to natural resources making a greater contribution to the well-being and resilience of communities?	
Population Outcome	Improved well-being and resilience of people and communities
Population Indicator	Increased percentage of people and communities reporting high level of subjective well-being
Baseline and target	[Data to be developed from Programme for Government reporting; Wales Household Survey]
Data source:	Source: ONS Well-being Survey; WG / joint NRW/WG new National Survey (starting in 2016)

Performance measure: How is NRW doing and what goals do we have in relation to natural resources making a greater contribution to the well-being and resilience of communities?

Table 2: How are we doing and what goals do we have in relation to natural resources making a greater contribution to the well-being and resilience of communities?	
Population Outcome	Improved well-being and resilience of people and communities
Performance Measure	Increased community involvement in NRW managed green space
Baseline and target	[Data to be developed from Woodlands and You/Mynediad monitoring]
Data source:	Woodlands and You/Mynediad monitoring database, reporting annually

Table 3: What is the Wales picture in relation to the benefits of natural resources making a greater contribution to the well-being and resilience of communities?

Population Outcomes	Increased public understanding of and care for the environment	People actively engaging in behaviours which benefit the environment	Improved social equity and community cohesion	Increased economic benefits for people and communities
Interim population outcomes	More people caring for the natural environment	More people actively engaged	Increased access to natural green space close to where people live and work	Increased relative income, reduced levels of child poverty, reduced levels of persistent poverty
Population Indicator	% of population reporting high level of concern for the environment	% of population engaging in pro-environmental behaviours (including volunteering)	Increase in % of people from WIMD most deprived areas: (a) with access to natural green space; (b) participating in outdoor recreation; (c) volunteering in environmental groups	(a) % of population employed in the 'green economy' (b) total value of outdoor recreation (c) reduction in overall poverty
Baseline and target	[Data to be developed]	(Data to be developed)	(Data to be developed)	[Data to be developed]
Data source:	NRW: Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey / new National Survey	NRW: Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey / new National Survey	NRW: Accessible Natural Green space; Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey / new National Survey	NRW: Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey / new National Survey; Labour Force Survey

Performance measure: How is NRW doing and what goals do we have in relation to the **benefits** of natural resources making a greater contribution to the well-being and resilience of communities?

Table 4: How are we doing and what goals do we have in relation to the benefits of improved well-being and resilience of people and communities?

[Note: the data will be presented as graphs to show the 'Baseline and target' data for each outcome]

Population indicator	Increased public understanding of and care for natural resources		Improve social equity and community cohesion			Increase economic benefits for people and communities		
Interim outcome	More users of NRW managed land care for the natural environment	Decreased frequency of reported crime and anti-social behaviour on land managed by NRW	Increased community involvement in green space managed by NRW	Increased community resilience to flooding	Increased resource focus on the most deprived communities	Increase in small and social enterprises using NRW managed green space	Increase in apprenticeships and volunteers supported – directly by NRW and via grant programmes	Procurement: increase in number of NRW contracts including community benefit clauses
Performance Measure	Number and percentage of people using NRW land say they care for the natural environment	Number and percentage of incidents of crime and /or anti-social behavior on land managed by NRW	Number and frequency of activities held on NRW managed green space Number of longer term management and leases held on NRW managed green space	Number and percentage of communities at risk of flooding with flood plans and flood defence measures in place	Number of council wards in the top 200 WIMD that we engage with on a structured initiative	Number of small and social enterprises using NRW managed green space	Number of placements supported through the NRW Cyfoeth Scheme Number of placements supported through our grant programmes	Number and percentage of NRW contracts including community benefit clauses
Baseline and target	[Data to be developed]	[Data to be developed]	[Data to be developed]	(data to be developed)	[Data to be developed]	[Data to be developed]	[Data to be developed]	(Data to be developed)
Data source:	New National Survey	NRW Incidents team monitoring	Woodlands and You/Mynediad monitoring	NRW Community Flood team monitoring	WIMD	Woodlands and You/Mynediad monitoring	Cyfoeth Scheme monitoring; grants scheme monitoring	NRW Procurement Strategy monitoring

The story behind the curve

There is a huge potential to use our environment and natural resources to improve people's well-being and local surroundings and to support community regeneration and poverty reduction. When communities engage with their local green spaces, and when green spaces are fully integrated with the built environment - there are direct benefits for people, wildlife and habitats. Green spaces can help to create social cohesion, provide opportunities for skills development and learning, and help reduce the impacts of climate change, flooding and air pollution.

It is essential that the opportunities that we provide, or help others to provide, are as inclusive as possible, considering people: at different life-stages, of different ages, of different races or faiths, with disabilities, or with any of the other protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act, 2010. However, because there are inequalities in levels and ranges of opportunities, provision and participation and subsequent benefits secured, NRW will target resources in those communities where the most benefit will be achieved.

Key issues for communities in Wales

Physical and mental health and well-being: health inequalities remain within and between communities in Wales. It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year,¹ whilst healthy lifespans are often dramatically different between neighbouring Unitary Authorities e.g. 57.1 years in Blaenau Gwent to 68.2 years in Monmouthshire. One in four adults in Wales experiences mental health problems or illness at some point during their lifetime, with an estimated annual cost of £7.2billion to Wales.

Access to natural green and blue spaces: these include parks, hedges, trees, woodland, rivers and ponds, beaches. Even in our 'green' country, not everyone has access to the green space required to maintain physical health and mental well-being. Of the 16 local authorities which reported in 2010, only 56% of their population met the standard for access to natural green space within a 300m walk of home. Passive contact with green space can be psychologically and physiologically restorative, reducing blood pressure and stress levels.² The development of path networks, urban woodlands and other green infrastructure aimed at enhancing the quality and accessibility of the local environment can all play an important role in improving the health and well-being of people in Wales.

Poverty: Wales faces high levels of poverty and inequality – low incomes are prevalent³ and rates of economic inactivity are high.⁴ As a result, 31% children in Wales are living in relative poverty and it's acknowledged that this figure is unlikely to reduce in the short term. Rising levels of chronic ill-health exacerbate these issues. Although poverty is often thought of in an urban context, rural poverty is also an important issue. Our focus will be on those communities which are most deprived.

Climate change and pollution: Adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change will in future shape how and why we will need to engage with communities. Flood risk is a constant but unpredictable threat – 11% of all properties in Wales are at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. Changes in our climate, such as more severe storms and wetter summers and winters will increase the risk. Poor air quality in our larger towns and cities also puts people's health at risk and places a financial burden on the health service. In 2009 the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution estimated that air pollution in the UK caused at least 29,000 premature deaths. The Environmental Audit Commission (EAC) estimated that the cost to health from poor air quality in the UK ranges from £8.5 to £20 billion per annum which is equivalent to the economic cost of obesity. Recent research shows that vehicle emissions account for more deaths in the UK than road traffic accidents and passive smoking combined.

Care for the environment: To ensure that future generations continue to benefit from our rich natural resources, we need to reduce inequalities, and change the way we live and consume. Promoting understanding and creating greater connections between people and their surroundings is a key step towards this.

¹ *Climbing higher: creating an active Wales* by the Welsh Government 2009

² *Preference for Nature in Urbanized Societies* by Van den Berg et al, cited in *Benefits of Green Infrastructure* by Forest Research October 2010

³ over the three years to 2011/12, 23% of people in Wales were living in low income households Source: Department for Work and Pensions

⁴ 26.5% of the working age population was economically inactive in 2012 – higher than in Scotland or any English region Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

What Works

- Working actively to enable others to use the land we manage - developing and promoting our current public access scheme, Woodlands and You, and rolling it out as an NRW-wide scheme
- Working to ensure that our communities are well informed and actively involved to reduce the impacts of flood and pollution incidents
- Developing and implementing our Procurement Strategy with community benefit a key outcome
- Ensuring that communities are engaged appropriately in natural resource planning – including in relation to land we manage and the natural resource management pilots (Tawe, Rhondda, Dyfi)
- Working to ensure that communities understand, value and protect their environment – reducing incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour
- Promoting the provision of and community involvement in, high quality, welcoming green-space where people work and live – promoting the use of objective standards (e.g. Green and Blue Flag Awards) to assess that green space provision is fit for purpose
- Promoting the role of green space and trees in delivering health and well-being benefits - reducing the impacts of climate change, connecting people with nature, removing pollutants and dust from air, storing carbon, encouraging inward investment, lowering crime levels
- Providing advice and best practice guidance on planning matters and Local Development Plans – promoting the development and use of Supplementary Planning Guidance for the provision and safeguarding of green infrastructure
- Developing our Cyfoeth scheme (supporting the Welsh Government’s Esgyn/Lift programme): offering work placements, graduate placements, volunteering, apprenticeships
- Learning from and extending innovative and best-practice ways of working with communities (Communities First, Come Outside!, Woodlands and You, Cynefin) to establish a community of best engagement practice within NRW, with dedicated leads.
- Co-ordinating, supporting and evidencing our contribution to the development and delivery of Well-being Plans across Wales as members of Public Service Boards.

Data development	
Ensuring data can be obtained from the new National Survey from 2017 to identify and measure components of ‘well-being’ relevant to NRW’s work areas and care for the environment.	Ensuring that we are using the results of surveys and research to develop our work and monitoring and reporting systems.
The access to green space data set is being worked on by NRW’s GIS team, transposing from local authority GIS data sets to the NRW base map.	Analysis of the Welsh Government’s Headline Poverty measures to ensure that the population level indicator is appropriate – making changes as necessary.
The Woodlands and You scheme provides key data for community use of NRW managed land. As the scheme is rolled out across NRW (as the new Mynediad scheme), data collection processes will need to be extended and supported to ensure recording and reporting consistency.	Establishing the Cyfoeth scheme and monitoring and reporting systems to be able to report on apprenticeships and volunteering placements – and the outcomes of these for both NRW and participants.

In year performance measures [to be identified and developed]

Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing manageable and meaningful data collection and reporting systems • Changes related to attitudes and behaviours are more difficult to influence and assess • Local Authorities face reducing resources and capacity to ground truth and validate accessible natural green space assessments • Establishing data collection and reporting systems for the Mynediad and Cyfoeth schemes