



An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí
Sheachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe
Department of Public Expenditure
NDP Delivery and Reform

Unravelling the Puzzle of Time

Well-being and Public Policy in Ireland

Dr. Fiachra Kennedy

Dublin Economic Workshop - *The state of economics, the planet and well-being*

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Introduction



Programme for Government - Our Shared Future commitments:

- Develop a **set of well-being indices** to create a well-rounded, holistic view of how Irish society is faring
- Ensure that this well-being framework will be utilised in a systematic way across government policymaking at local and national levels in **setting budgetary priorities, evaluating programmes and reporting progress**; as an important complement to existing economic measurement tools

Well-being Framework...

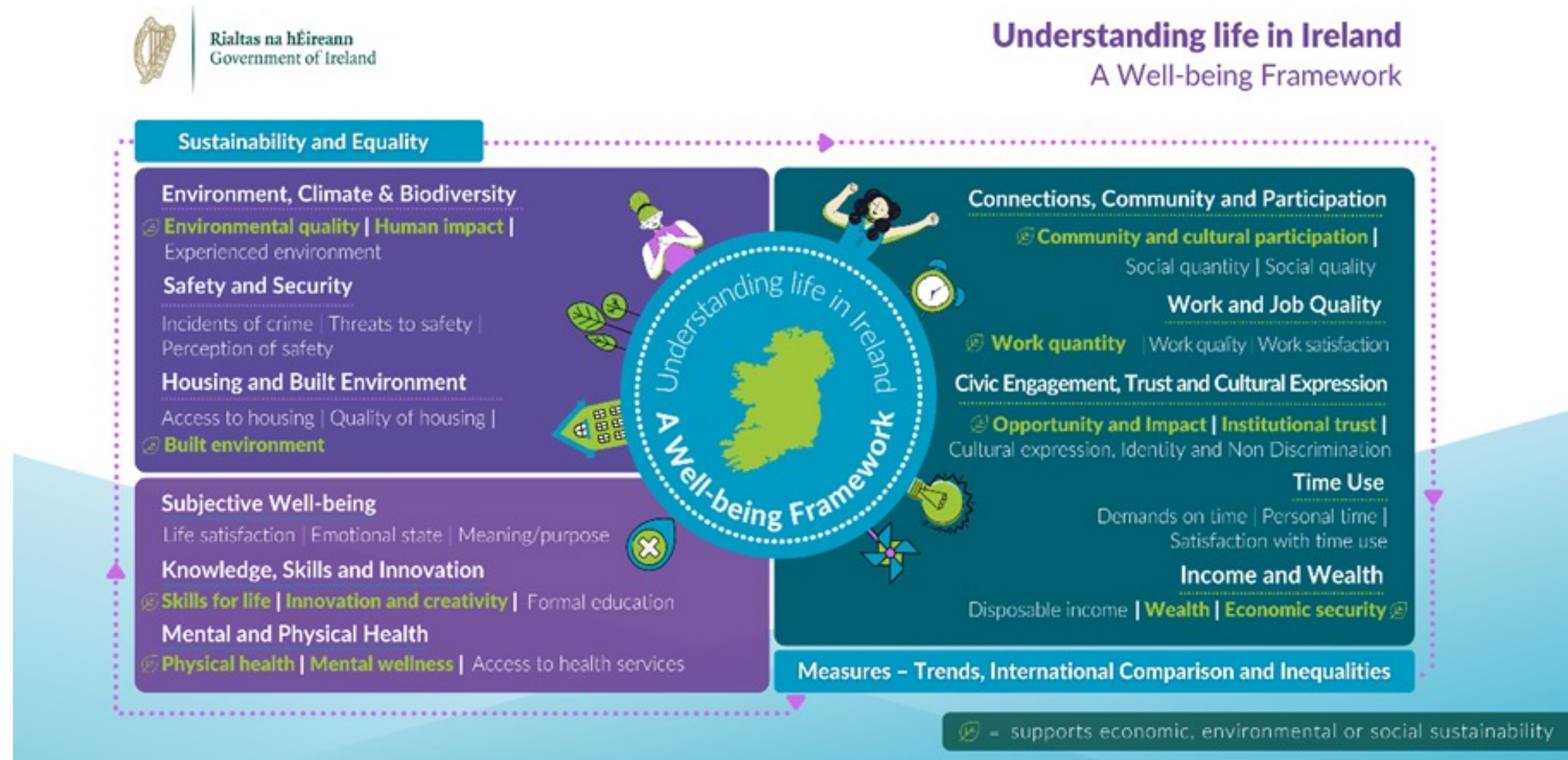


Government published an initial Well-being Framework for Ireland that sets out:

- An overarching vision of “enabling all our people to live fulfilled lives now and into the future”; and
- A multi-dimensional approach to understanding people’s lived experiences across person, place and society

Capabilities of persons to lead the kind of lives they value – and have reason to value
 Focuses attention on what it is a person can be and what they want to achieve (“ends”)

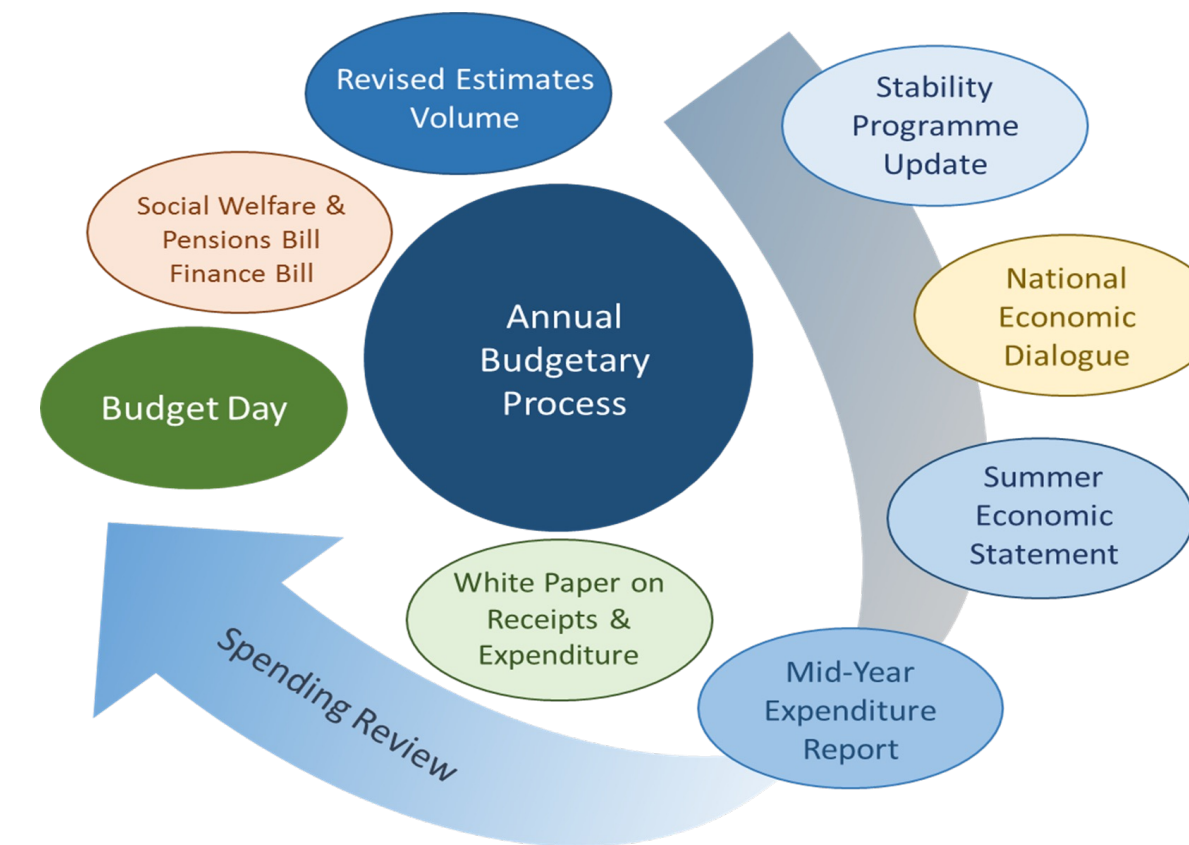
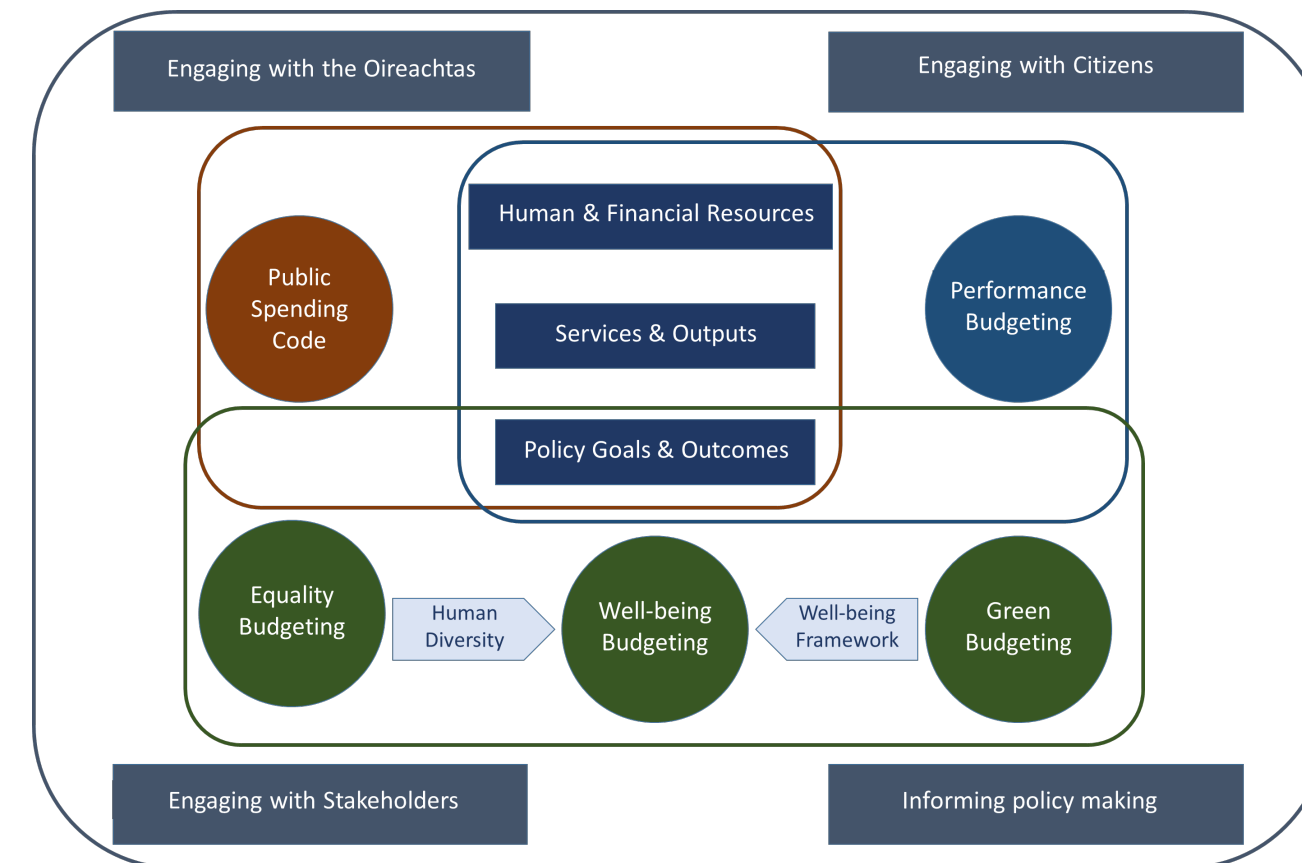
- Describes people’s lives and the challenges they face - **Supports efforts to define the policy challenge and to set clear policy goals**
- Acknowledges the complexity of context within which policy intervention is implemented - Focuses attention on **broad range of interacting factors** that need to be taken into account when trying to design and implement public policy to address complex policy challenges
- Presents **public policy as a way of creating opportunities for people to change or progress their lives**



...and Public Policy

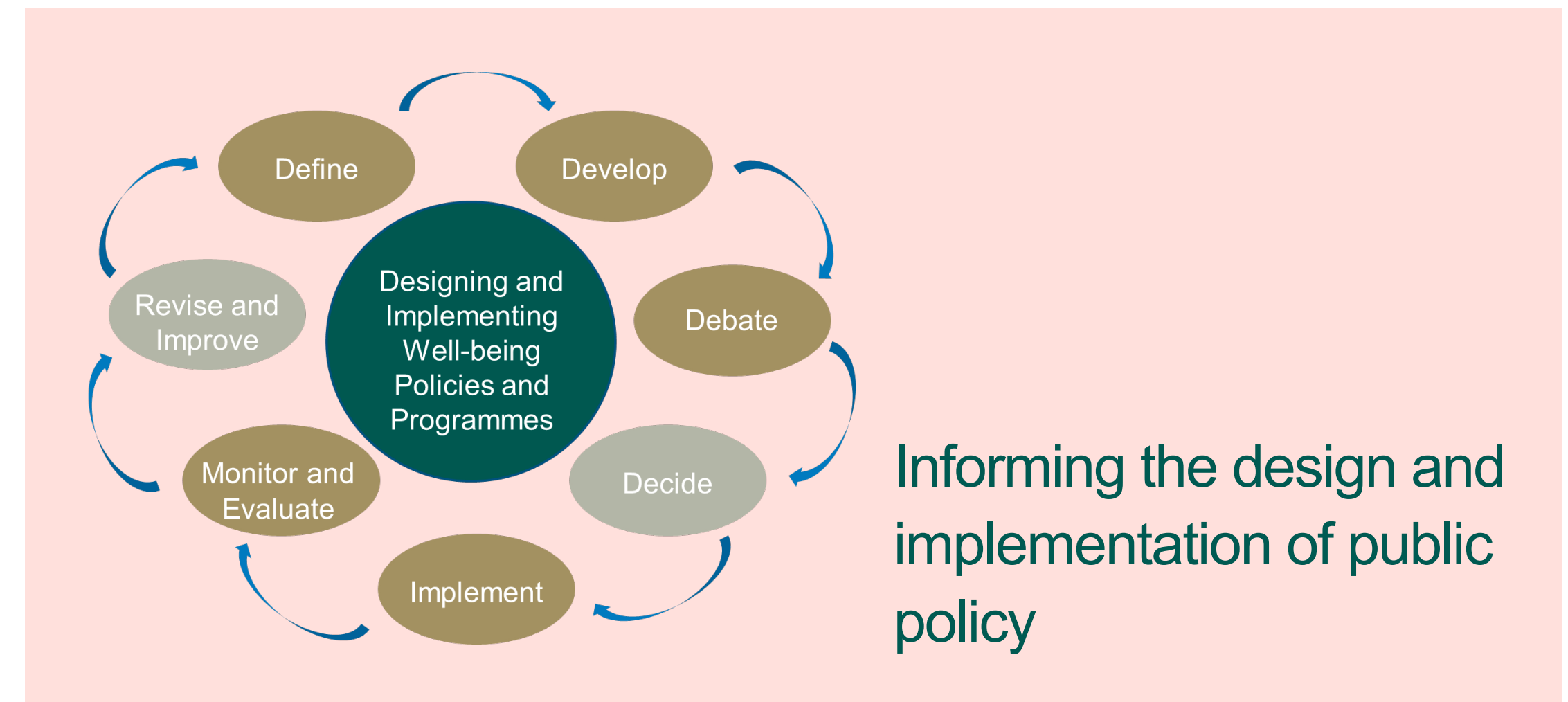
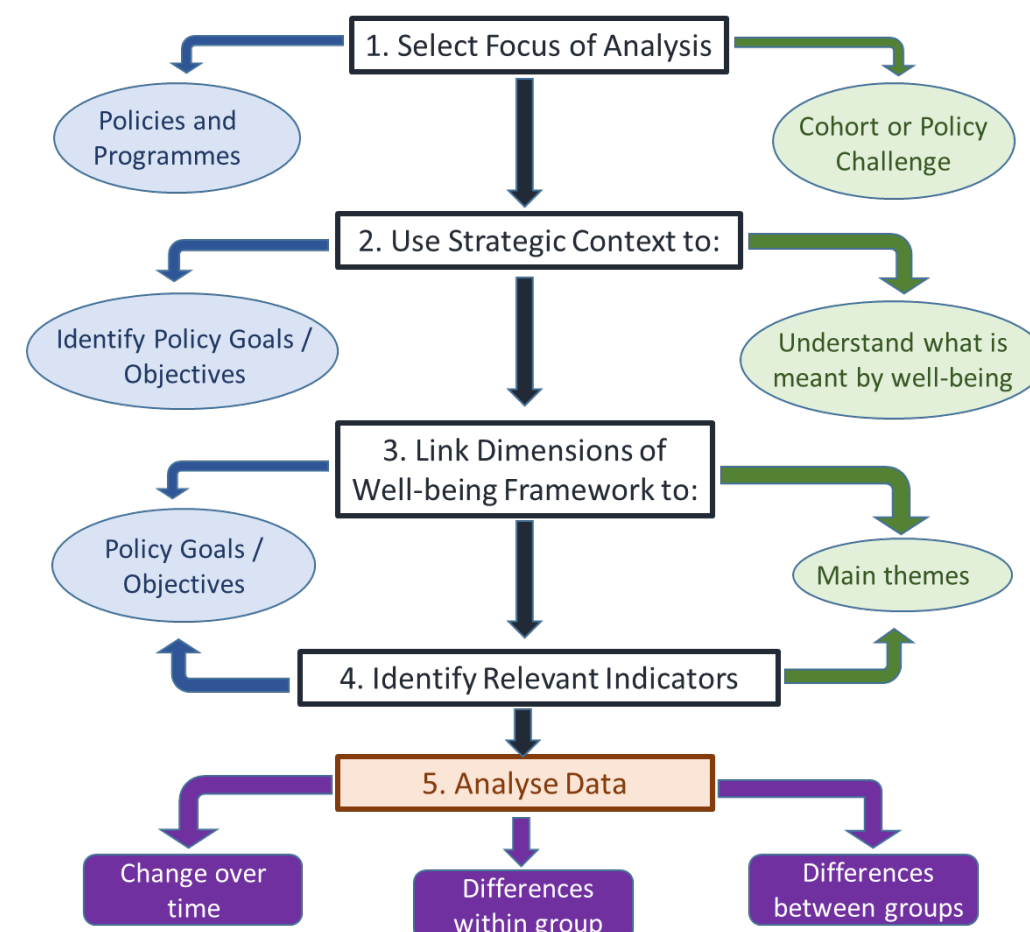


Part of a broad series of reforms



Within whole-of-year budgetary process

Examine existing public policies and programmes



Informing the design and implementation of public policy



Sustainable Well-being



How can public policy enhance the well-being of people today without compromising the ability of people in the future to enhance their well-being?

As life is:

- Concomitant – What obligations do we have to future generations?
- Complex – How can we weigh our interests with those of future generations?
- Capricious – How can the policy process prime itself for the potential consequences of difficult-to-resolve imbalances of interests?

Next Steps



Continue to develop the Working Paper underpinning this presentation by:

- Engaging with national and international experts to deepen understanding of key policy elements for enhancing sustainable well-being
- Undertaking empirical analysis of specific policy challenges to test the reliability and validity of key policy elements for enhancing sustainable well-being
- Designing a “dialogue” methodology to engage with policy experts and practitioners about enhancing sustainable well-being in the context of day-to-day policy design and implementation



Thank you!

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