Recovery, Renewal, Resilience:

Renewing how we ‘do’ community resilience

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Most people like the idea of community resilience:

Cherished communities supporting each other
Empowering communities to direct their own futures

(But, very often it gets boiled down to volunteering)

What do we mean by community ...  
• Individuals  
• Organisations  
• Community groups  
• Associations/networks made up of all of these
But, what is community resilience?

Hard to pin down …
- what is it?
- how to build it?
- how to mobilise it?
- is it all about volunteers?

How do we operationalise community resilience?
(infrastructure and mobilisation)
Operationalising a Local Resilience Capability
Step 1. The partners

The capability is co-produced by

- Facilitated by:
  - Local resilience partners

- Designed, driven, implemented, and owned by:
  - Communities and local groups
  - Organisations (public / private; local / national; small / large)
  - Youth, university students
  - Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector
  - Households
  - Individuals

- Not everybody – its coverage/capacity rather than saturation
Step 2. The aims

**Aims** to enhance mitigation, preparedness and response to:

- **Reduce the likelihood of impacts**
- **Reduce the severity of impacts**
- **Reduce the need to recover**

**Examples** what can we do to support each other on:

- **Preparedness**
  - e.g. identify risks at source

- **Mitigation**
  - e.g. prevention and protection activities
  - e.g. co-produce ambitions

- **Response**
  - e.g. pinpoint vulnerabilities

- **Renewal**
  - e.g. identify impacts

- **Recovery**
Step 3. Build the system of Local Resilience Capability

Activities that Local Resilience Capabilities can support:

1. **Inform strategy**
   - Communities co-developing response, recovery, renewal, resilience strategies

2. **Provide intelligence**
   - Two-way communication so communities can provide risk, vulnerability and preparedness information when changes happen – a surveillance mechanism using local knowledge

3. **Manage their own preparedness, response, recovery activities**
   - Developing governance, plans, asset readiness, educate/training/exercise so they can operate effectively

4. **Coordinate supply and demand**
   - Coordinating with partners on offers of support and community needs so partners can address them
   - Communicating with partners so they are working together

5. **Deliver activities**
   - Deploying capabilities in a delivery approach, with autonomous delivery units, responding to feedback

Communities have been doing this across the UK
Step 4. Evaluate the system

- Strategy co-production
- Leadership
- Risks
- Vulnerabilities
- Preparedness
- Governance
- Plans
- Asset readiness
- Educate, train, exercise
- Coordinate with official partners
- Communicate on community activity
- System feedback
- Delivery approach
- Autonomous delivery units
- Effective and efficient delivery
- Customer feedback

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Step 5. Build the capabilities of Local Resilience

Contributing

Organisational volunteering – Business partnerships, Volunteering days, Skills

Spontaneous volunteers – Policy and processes, Pop-up community groups

Donations management – Policy and processes

Coordinating

Organised communities – Trained teams, Civic groups, VCSE sector offer, Network resources

Information dissemination – Alert/warning/informing, Debates with communities, Social media

Community infrastructure and essential services – Key service disruptions, Continuity for at-risk communities

Aftermath

Recovery – Impacts and needs assessment, Recovery Plans, Renewal Summit

Business continuity – Relationships with businesses, Supply chain resilience

Household preparedness – Awareness, Education, Resources
Step 6. Evaluate the capabilities
Recovery, Renewal, Resilience:
Local resilience capability

Thank you for listening!

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The Manchester Briefing: International lessons on Recovery and Renewal from COVID-19, available free from:
ambs.ac.uk/covidrecovery