

Vision London @Futurebuild, 6 March 2019

Introduction from Kristen Guida, LCCP Manager

Thanks to Lisa for chairing, Briony for organizing, and to all of the speakers who made it out to participate in this session despite being asked at quite short notice.

It was short notice, but when given the opportunity to host a session here at Futurebuild, we couldn't turn it down, given the importance of the built environment.

So much depends on our buildings and infrastructure. Our health and wellbeing depend on the quality of our housing. Our economic prosperity and London's attractiveness to investment depend on the quality and resilience of our infrastructure.

But our built environment can't just mean the concrete, steel, and glass. It also needs to include the living green spaces that sustain us as people as well as the species we share the city with.

Health, nature, infrastructure, buildings, the economy. The sheer complexity and interdependency of our city system creates incredible challenges in promoting resilience.

And where does climate change fit in? We know that it will create new risks, but it will also exacerbate the existing pressures throughout the system. Pressures like aging infrastructure, health inequalities, water scarcity. Adapting to climate change requires understanding these pressures and the way they interact.

And if we're being honest, we're not very well adapted to our current climate, let alone the climate we're projected to see over the rest of the century. Just last week the Committee on Climate Change published a report asking and answering the question "Are UK homes fit for the future?"

The answer was a resounding no. And while the report covered the UK as a whole, London certainly bears its share of the burden – in terms of homes at significant risk of flooding. Homes that overheat even when we're not having heatwaves. Homes that are neither energy nor water efficient. And homes where even relatively low-cost and accessible resilience measures aren't being taken up.

So the challenge is immense, and the complexity bewildering, but this complexity also creates opportunities that can only be understood and grasped through partnership working. In partnership:

- We can understand the competing priorities between different sectors, avoid locking in bad decisions with high costs for health, nature, the built environment, and society as a whole – and instead take opportunities to align priorities to achieve benefits for all.
- We can identify joint opportunities to improve liveability, resilience, and sustainability as a city
- We can identify and share research needs and connect decision-makers to the best available science in ways that are useful to ensure that their decisions are robust.

And considering climate change gives us an opportunity to think about the future and work to ensure that the decisions we're making now aren't ones we'll regret in years and decades to come.

LCCP coordinates this activity through

- Working groups like Heat Risk in London, where research, health, buildings and infrastructure, and academia come together to with policy makers – and where discussions informed the strong London Plan policies to prevent overheating in new development.
- Identifying and supporting adaptation champions in their own organizations – whether researchers or practitioners
- Dedicated knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement around particular research projects – like the new UKCP18 climate projections, or Kent's Urban Albedo project, or the CCC's behaviour change project, which will inform the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.
- Promoting adaptive planning, building on the approach of the TE2100 project
- Making links across agendas – including a commitment in London's food strategy to consider resilience, convening discussions with infrastructure providers to work out how best to consider interdependencies and the risks of cascading failures, and identify critical points of failure.
- Identifying activities and projects to build resilience, including the collection of indicator data, production of guidance and support for decision-makers, and improved weather monitoring.

A number of LCCP partners are represented here and can give their own takes on what makes LCCP, and partnership working, valuable to them.

And we welcome new partners to join us and help us scale up action on making London more liveable, resilient, and sustainable.