

Resilience Assessment to Refresh Resilience Strategy

--- A Story from Greater Manchester, the United Kingdom ---

One of the first steps in developing a resilience strategy is to conduct an assessment of the city's present state of resilience. This serves as a basis for setting priorities and targets for the creation of a resilience strategy and implementation plan. It can help to identify gaps in the city's understanding of its resilience and areas to explore further as the resilience strategy is developed. This assessment should also provide an analysis of the shocks and chronic pressures that a city or place faces, as well as a high-level assessment of the impacts those challenges have on various parts of the society, economy and environment.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (paragraph 27b) encourages local areas to:

'adopt and implement [...] local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales, with targets, indicators and time frames, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience'

Greater Manchester joined the United Nations' [Making Cities Resilient campaign](#) in 2014. Our embrace of a more proactive disaster risk reduction approach and use of a robust self-assessment tool earned Greater Manchester the distinction of being recognised as one of only 54 role models worldwide. Part of this process included the development of a resilience strategy and an associated action plan.

The resilience strategy is now being updated and further developed as part of the city-region's membership of the [100 Resilient Cities \(100RC\) programme](#) – an initiative pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. This, alongside the development and piloting of a city-to-city peer review tool through an EU-funded project ([UScore2](#)), has provided the perfect opportunity for a stocktake of the city-region's current resilience.

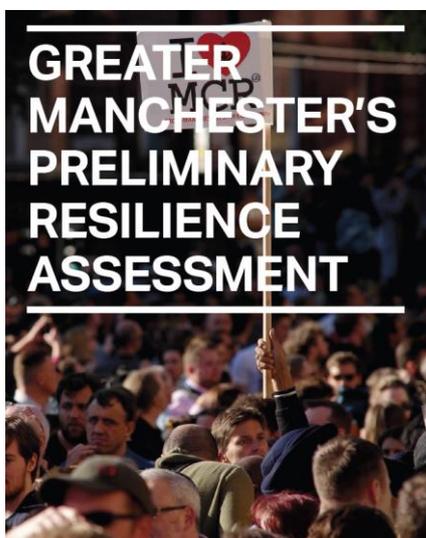


Figure 1: Greater Manchester's Preliminary Resilience Assessment

The peer review tool is based on the preliminary level assessment targets and indicators within the [Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities](#), drafted by AECOM and IBM, which allow local governments to monitor and review their progress and challenges in implementing the Sendai Framework, whilst the partnership with 100RC enables use of analytical tools such as the City Resilience Framework designed by Arup and 100RC. Both tools have offered Greater Manchester an opportunity to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based, baseline of its current resilience.

Developing this resilience assessment required a cross-sector, multi-stakeholder approach that included both the organisations that prepare for and respond to disasters such as first responders, together with a wide range of stakeholders that address the longer-term pressures affecting the city-region. This reflected the understanding that resilience is not only about the capacity to navigate one-time shocks, but also how we address the chronic stresses that weaken a city’s fabric and which can undermine attempts to respond to crises. Long-term pressures such as income and health inequality, ageing infrastructure and the effects of climate change can slowly reduce living standards and quality for life for everyone, creating a disaster in their own right.

By looking at these complex challenges Greater Manchester found opportunities for:

- Understanding cascading impacts of risks
- Closer collaboration in exploring the development of innovative adaptive programmes which can give stakeholders and communities the opportunity to think differently about the way in which Greater Manchester should and could work.

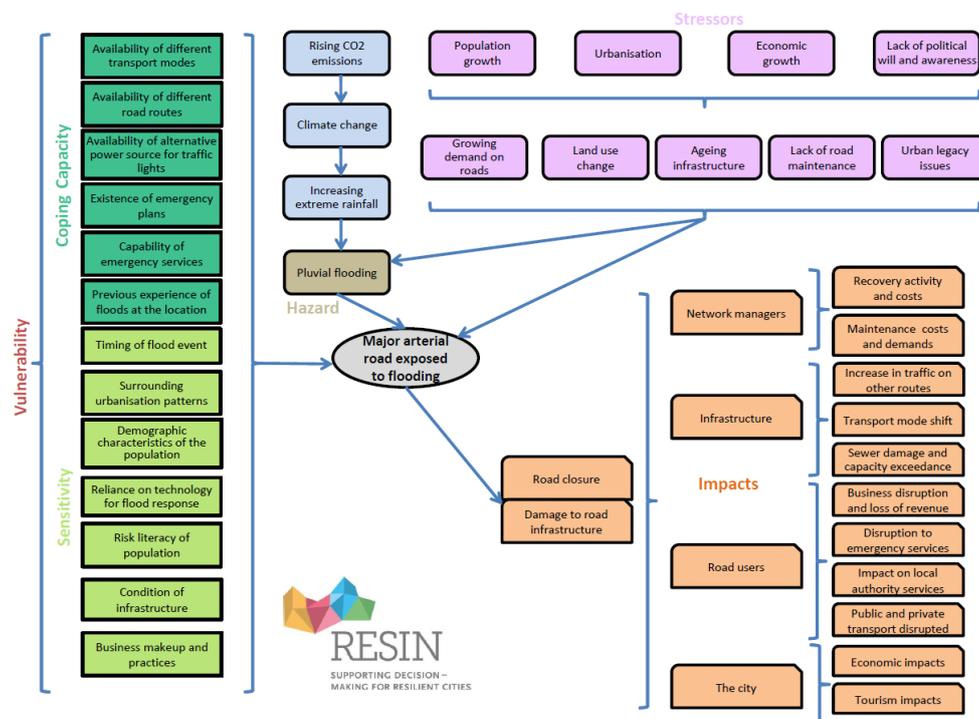


Figure 2: Output from a Climate Resilient Cities and Infrastructures EU funded project (RESIN):

In preparing the preliminary assessment we looked at each of the key strategic city-region plans and analysed them against the drivers of resilience as defined within the City Resilience Framework, helping to give us a unique mosaic of the current resilience focus across Greater Manchester. This analysis helped us to understand where the resilience strategy can best align with and leverage current initiatives to strengthen our overall city-region resilience.

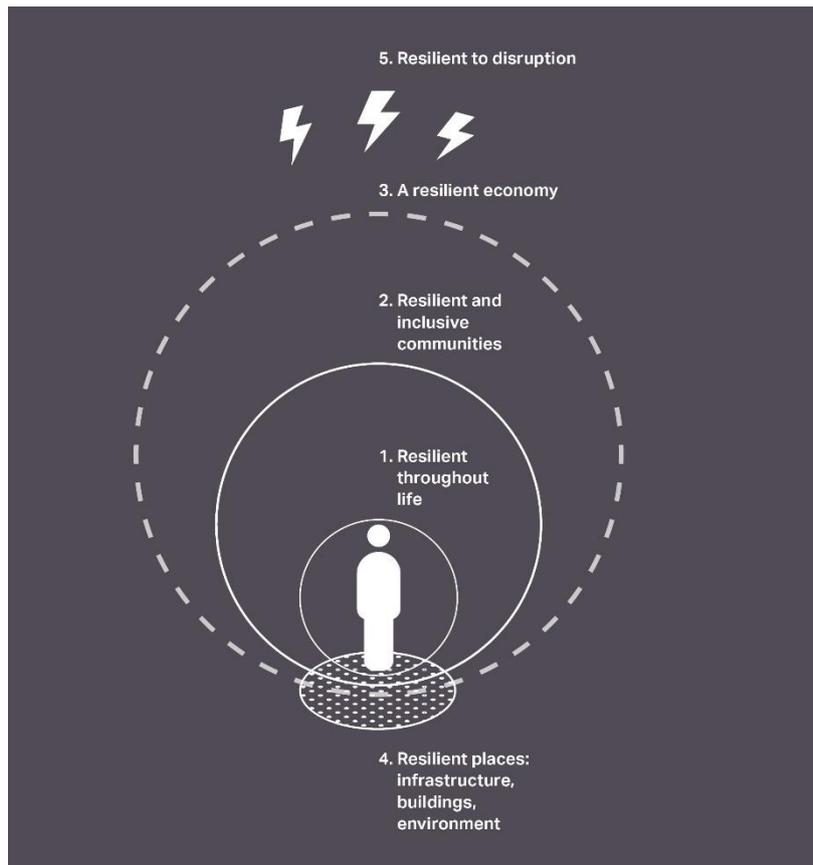


Figure 3: Greater Manchester's 'Discovery Areas'

Through conducting a preliminary assessment, or resilience scan, across the city we have ensured that Greater Manchester has a solid foundation on which to refresh its resilience strategy. The process has encouraged conversations between a wide variety of stakeholders, improving awareness of resilience issues, strengthening understanding of how our shocks and stresses interlink and building system-wide linkages to deliver resilience solutions that offer co-benefits and efficiencies.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
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