PANDEMIC SUPPLEMENT:
INTEGRATED PLANNING GUIDE
For a healthy, sustainable and resilient future

KEY QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR RECOVERING FROM AND PREPARING FOR FUTURE PANDEMICS

The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken to mitigate its impact have highlighted the links between public health and the quality of our places, our incomes and the wider economy, transport choices, how our children learn, air quality, and social justice — and shown us clearly the existing inequities in our society.

The response to COVID-19 supports previous research showing how policies and actions outside of the health sector can protect wellbeing and foster resilience. We need to ensure that while planning the recovery from this pandemic, or preparing for future public health emergencies, that we take into account three key priorities: health and equity; addressing climate sustainability; and incorporating wider social goals.

Equity	Neighbourhood Amenity	Community Resilience
Public Services	Cultural Diversity	Natural Capital
Active Lifestyles	Housing Stock	Resource Sustainability
Transport	Economic Development	Food Security
Social & Community Capital	Community Safety	Engagement

Figure 2. The building blocks of health and wellbeing

HOW WE STRUCTURE OUR RECOVERY EFFORTS WILL DEFINE OUR CITIES FOR DECADES TO COME

This pandemic-specific supplement is a companion to the Integrated Planning Guide for a healthy, sustainable and resilient future (IPG) and is not intended to be used alone. Use these additional prompts when developing plans or projects for both pandemic recovery and to build ongoing resilience to public health emergencies.

Centered around the building blocks (or determinants) of health, the IPG was developed in Canterbury in collaboration with local agencies to provide prompts to use in assessing plans, projects and decisions for their health and wellbeing implications. Its predecessor, the Integrated Recovery Planning Guide, is another

useful tool that was developed in response to the Canterbury earthquakes and reflects recovery from a physical disaster.

The prompts here are not an exhaustive list and the existing questions in the IPG remain applicable. It also remains important to consider the links between the different blocks. The page numbers next to the blocks relate to corresponding section in the IPG. Examples of city responses are provided as links (with full addresses at the end of the document).

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Social & Community Capital (Page 24)

The need for physical distancing and fears about spreading infection can exacerbate loneliness and isolation. Social cohesion could be impacted by lockdown periods and the longer-term impacts of a pandemic.

- Is social cohesion included in the monitoring or evaluation framework?

- Will there be new vulnerabilities that add to those already experienced by individuals,

family/whānau and communities? Will the levels of belonging, inclusion and participation be reduced, thereby affecting levels of social cohesion?

- Have inclusive co-production and co-determination approaches been used to ensure the project is sensitive to the needs of communities and stakeholders?

See Edinburgh

Equity (Page 25)

Pandemics have disproportionate impacts. The lower a person's socioeconomic status, the more limited their resources and ability to access essential goods and services, and the greater their chance of suffering from chronic disease. Infectious diseases can also pose greater risk to Māori and Pasifika communities, where underlying conditions such as diabetes, asthma and heart disease are more prevalent.

See Helsinki

- How does this project redress inequity from a pandemic perspective?
- Does this project protect Māori and Pasifika health, and place equity at the centre?
- Who are the newly disadvantaged?
- Does the plan make assumptions based on traditional concepts of inequity?
- Have you considered how to reach, engage with and support those who lack digital connectivity?

Community resilience (Page 26)

Resilience is about understanding risks, vulnerabilities, and interdependencies, as well as building strong networks and relationships. Well-designed public spaces and infrastructure combined with strong social networks support community resilience.

- What are the key threats facing your community, organisation, and the people served? **See Edina**
- How can the project improve solidarity and decrease social isolation? **See Buffalo**
- Where can you gather data to better understand and better address the challenges ahead?
- What model of resilience are you applying and is it still relevant in the pandemic response and recovery context?

Neighbourhood amenity (page 29)

Good neighbourhood amenity supports physical and mental wellbeing, and allows people to remain physically distanced but socially connected.

- Is there enough space in local parks, and along pathways and streetscapes to support physical distancing? What changes are needed to support this?
- Are there other spaces (parking lots, road) that could easily be converted to public spaces, or used to set up temporary medical facilities or housing? Could design plans leave small parcels of land for this purpose?
- Does the neighbourhood amenity support an easy transition between pandemic alert levels?
- How can public buildings or facilities be retrofitted to accommodate physical distancing? Can ventilation and energy efficiency also be improved?
- How can local services be supported? What other elements will people be looking to their local neighbourhoods to provide? **See Melbourne**

Cultural diversity (Page 28)

A strong sense of cultural identity is recognised as a key factor for an individual's health. Long term physical distancing measures put current ways of building cultural identity and the creative economy at risk.

- How do pandemic mitigation measures affect different cultures or groups? Are there long-term implications? Can these be mitigated?
- What aspects of culture may change, or have changed, due to a pandemic response?
- How can creative spaces (art galleries, museums, theatres, music venues) be supported to make interim and long-term changes in the way they operate?
- Does your project include cultural assumptions (about behaviours, values, etc.) which may not be relevant in the pandemic response and recovery context? **See New York**

Public services (page 30)

Poor access to essential services exacerbated the challenge of responding effectively to pandemics and can make it difficult to comply with lockdown orders.

- What new public services might emerge as part of the pandemic response and recovery? How can barriers such an access and discrimination be reduced for people accessing them?
- What public services may no longer be operating the same way?
- How do changes to public services as part of the pandemic response and recovery affect your project?
- Do public facilities have efficient, effective and flexible reuse plans for future crises? How can these be incorporated into new building projects?
- How can pre-fabricated, modular or 'pop up' building approaches be used to provide public services?

Community Safety (page 31)

Community safety is the overriding concern during a pandemic. While public health advice will dictate immediate actions to protect public safety, keeping our communities safe and functional in the long term can help protect from future epidemics.

- What are the changes to safety needs due to the pandemic response and recovery?
- How is your project affected by that?
- How can the project protect front-line services workers?
- What long-term hygiene safety solutions will be needed to protect public health? (e.g., hand-sanitizing stations, reduced seating capacity)
- What cleaning/safety standards need to be updated now so that long-term improvements are implemented? **See California**
- Can spaces be designed with more flexibility to accommodate physical distancing?

Active lifestyles (page 32)

It will be important to safeguard and support safe physical activity when physical distancing is recommended.

- How can planned and current infrastructure be adapted for active and distanced recreation and mobility? Can the environment along current walking/cycling routes be improved by planting or beautification? **See Christchurch**
- Can motor traffic be removed from residential streets and/or pavements be extended near shops, schools and parks to make walking safe and enjoyable for transport and exercise? **See Milan**
- Could more safe access routes on foot, bike and scooter from homes to parks and green spaces be introduced?
- Have the intended impacts of your project on active lifestyles changed in the pandemic response and recovery context? What adaptations are need to improve impact?

Housing (page 34)

Sheltering in place has highlighted the impact of housing on wellbeing. Poor quality housing and overcrowding increases vulnerability to infectious disease, and increases energy costs at a time when many people may struggle to pay their bills.

- How have housing needs changed due to the pandemic response and recovery? Are there new factors affecting housing needs?
- Is housing now a consideration in your project? (i.e. if more people work from home)
- How can building standards for housing be raised to create healthy and efficient homes?
- How can pre-fabricated and modular building approaches be encouraged to provide more housing? **See Almere**
- What needs to be in place to support those who struggle to maintain their accommodation (for financial, social or psychological reasons)?

Transport (page 33)

Measures to reduce viral transmission have had a profound impact on transport. Flexible working from home practices and uptake of walking and cycling may result in long-term behaviour change. If harnessed by investment, the health benefits of active transport can also be boosted.

- How has the pandemic impacted the transport considerations in your project?
- Can you change the approach to transport in your project to better align with the new pandemic response and recovery context?
- How can public transport systems be fortified and public trust rebuilt? (i.e. better hygiene, spaced seating, minimal touch payments)
- Can more, wider paths and slower, narrowed roads be used to provide safer ways to get around? **See Toronto**
- What technology could be implemented to reduce contact points and support physical distancing for pedestrians/cyclists?

Natural capital (page 36)

A healthy environment is essential to health and wellbeing. Nature and open spaces throughout a city also support resilience and wellbeing during an emergency.

- How can open spaces, waterways, forests and parks be prioritised during planning to safeguard their availability?
- Are green and blue network, and green technologies included as a core part of city infrastructure? **See Preston**
- Has equitable access to nature and open spaces been satisfactorily addressed?
- Has the importance of natural capital to your project changed due to the pandemic?

Resource sustainability (page 38)

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, a drop in air pollution and carbon emissions was observed in many cities due to the decrease in transport activity. We need to ensure that projects designed to accelerate the recovery do not lock in carbon-intensive urban and commercial development.

- Has the pandemic response changed the importance of sustainability to your project? What lessons about resource sustainability can be carried forward?
- How can transformational climate change investments be brought forward? How can incentives to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change be maintained or expanded?
- How do plans combine grey, green and blue infrastructure to support better health, better waste management and climate adaption and mitigation strategies?
- Does your usual waste management approach work in a pandemic response or recovery context? Will you need to store waste for longer periods in order to ensure it is recycled or recovered, rather than send to landfill? Can you take a new approach to managing waste in your project?

Economic development (page 39)

Economic challenges and opportunities are not even in a pandemic. During the recovery there is renewed opportunity to ensure that economic development supports resilience, social and environmental wellbeing, and sustainable development outcomes.

- What support do businesses need to safely operate, protect jobs and build resilience to future disruptions? **See Dunedin**
- How will the impact of the pandemic on economic development influence your project? How can your project contribute to economic development in a pandemic response and recovery context?
- Does this change the impact your project will have (e.g., providing employment)?
- Do investments in projects help build resilience against future shocks and look after both people and nature?
- Which aspects of the economy could be localised to enable opportunities for consumption of local goods?
- How can essential services or activities be maintained with high numbers of staff absence over an extended period? How can alternative work practices be implemented?
- What are alternative supply chain options? Does the project or end product have the agility to withstand a three-month disruption?
- Does your procurement policy provide the opportunity to assess the resilience of suppliers?

Food security (page 40)

A healthy diet plays a vital role in supporting a well-functioning immune system. Our food supply chains are easily disrupted. Strong local and regional food systems can better support the local economy and provide an important buffer when needed.

- Does a pandemic response create new food security concerns for your project? How can your project improve food security in a pandemic recovery context?
- How can urban food growing and foraging (e.g. mahinga kai, growing at home, school, parks and community gardens) be encouraged to increase access, self-sufficiency and food sharing? **See Singapore**
- How does a pandemic impact on the ability to safely grow, prepare and share food? What are the impacts of this for your project?
- How do plans ensure healthy and affordable food options (e.g. supermarkets, green grocers, fruit/vegetables in corner stores, delivery services, or farmers markets) are readily available and accessible to all residents?
- An economic downturn places more demand on food banks, community pantries and food rescue services. How can these be better supported in time of high demand and longer term?
- How can transparency and coordination across value chains be increased to ensure that food is efficiently and equitably distributed?

Engagement (page 21)

Community engagement is key to effective epidemic control, be it delivering trusted messages, carrying out surveillance, or limiting movement. With so much communication moving to online resources, it is important to understand that often the most vulnerable or affected communities might not have the means to access or engage with the latest information. In addition to the questions on page 21 consider:

- How can available data collection and analysis tools and techniques be used to ensure that the full potential of these powerful tools will become available to address future crises? **See Mercer**
- How can we ensure equity in engagement so that a diverse range of voices are heard? What mechanisms need to be developed?
- How can engagement plans be more sensitive to changes in the pandemic response and recovery levels?
- What are the appropriate ways to engage communities that are in various pandemic response and recovery phases?
- How can access to the internet or digital platforms be supported for those without existing connections?

Examples of city responses – full link addresses

Almere - https://selfbuildportal.org.uk/case-studies/homeruskwartier-district-almere/

Buffalo - https://www.buffalony.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=542

California - https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/covid-19.html

Christchurch - https://newsline.ccc.govt.nz/news/story/funding-for-temporary-physical-distancing-measures

Dunedin - https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/dcc/dcc-adopting-%E2%80%98buy-local%E2%80%99-policy

Edinburgh - https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/12843/museums-galleries-edinburgh-launch-covid-19-contemporary-collecting-drive-with-public-call-out-for-items

Edina - https://www.bettertogetheredina.org/covid-19/news_feed/community-impact-survey-results

Helsinki - https://www.hel.fi/uutiset/en/kaupunginkanslia/temporary-digital-service-point-to-be-opened-inkallio

Melbourne - https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/pages/international-students-supported-200000-shopping-vouchers-.aspx

Mercer - https://letstalk.mercergov.org/

Milan - https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/milan-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-reducing-car-use/

New York - https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2020/04/29/stay-busy-while-quarantined

Preston - https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SGS-Economics-and-Planning_communitywealth-building_Pat-Fensham.pdf

Senamiestis - https://amp-theguardiancom.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/28/lithuanian-capital-to-be-turned-intovast-open-air-cafe-vilnius

Singapore - https://news.trust.org/item/20200408062120-9zn5k/

Toronto - https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-launches-curbto-plan-to-address-more-than-100-hot-spots/