



Liveable Cities Method Tool

No. 1

A method for making sustainable and resilient decisions in the face of future uncertainty

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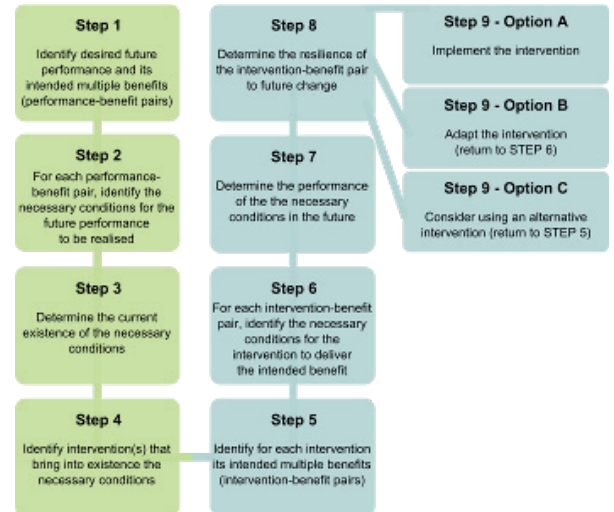
The Liveable Cities Method is a systematic, decision-making process that identifies potential barriers to achieving a city's future aspirations by making explicit how strategic ambitions (i.e., the desired future performance of a city) link to current operational activities (i.e., those things in place today) and how vulnerable new interventions (whether a policy, a practice or something constructed) are to future change. The Method employs aspirational visions for determining strategic direction and future scenarios for pressure-testing operational activities. It enables users to explore possible changes to a city and its systems as opposed to being a deterministic process targeting quantifiable results.

Tool Contents

The Liveable Cities Method comprises nine steps that link desired future performance (strategic decision-making) with operational activities. It incorporates in Step 1 the Liveable Cities Five Cities Model and Aspirational Futures Method for envisioning liveable and sustainable urban futures (see Tool 4 the Aspirational Futures Tool and Tool 12 the 5-Cities Model Tool) and in Steps 5 to 9 the Designing Resilient Cities Method for designing interventions that are resilient to future change (see www.designingresilientcities.co.uk).

How has it been delivered?

The Liveable Cities Method has been used to understand how the extension of Birmingham's light rail (Metro) system contributes to the Local Authority's future aspirations for the city, the potential multiple benefits it affords, how vulnerable it is to changes in the future and how it can be improved to deliver additional benefits in a more resilient way.



The Liveable Cities Method

Where has it been published?

Rogers CDF (in press). Application of Foresight in Engineering Future Sustainable, Resilient and Liveable Cities. Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Civil Engineering.

Who participated?

The Liveable Cities Method was developed from a comprehensive review of the sustainability, liveability and city performance, measurement and assessment literature; a series of consultations with local authorities, urban designers and planners and other urban experts from the private, public and third sectors (including academics); and, testing in the city of Birmingham, UK.

Levels of Usability/Testability

The Liveable Cities Method presents only the very essence of the decision-making process and strips away the inevitable messiness and iterative nature of decision-making within urban environments. Doing so, however, creates a robust and repeatable decision-making method that can be started at and iterated from any one of the nine steps.