



Practical tools for Local Energy Action

23rd September 2026



About us

- Independent charity formed in 1979
- Focused on tackling the climate emergency & ending the suffering caused by cold homes
- 150+ staff across three teams on 100+ projects
- Based in Bristol but work UK wide supporting a variety of stakeholders
- Supporting communities to take action on energy locally





Agenda

Item	Time	Length
Welcome & introductions	13:00	5 mins
Background to the toolkit & learnings	13:05	5 mins
Overview of the stages / tools	13:10	30 mins
Questions	13:40	15 mins
BREAK	13:55	10 mins
Discussions	14:05	20 mins
Feedback & close	14:25	5 mins



How the toolkit came about

- Aim to understand each LAs starting point. Not about comparing or scoring
- Each LA has different ambitions, resourcing and local capabilities. Important to understand your starting point, what's realistic, deliverable for next steps
- NESO began to establish during the project opening up the wider "to LAEP or not LAEP"
- Changing policy landscape with NESO/RESP/GBE etc. What is the role of LAs & LAEPs?
- Tools designed to support LAs reach their own consensus of what are the next steps (to LAEP or not)



More jazz than Mozart

- The project (and subsequent toolkit) are about providing some simple reflective tools to help local authority officers tasked with delivering complex decarbonation solutions better identify where their (often limited) 'energy' can achieve the best value
- By the end of this session we hope to give you an overview of the different activities developed during the project and give you some confidence on how to use these within your own local authorities.

More jazz than Mozart

Our chief executive, Simon Roberts, on musical analogies for tackling the climate challenge. March 2020



Mozart and Miles Davis. "Jazz is the big brother of revolution. Revolution follows it around." (Miles Davis)

<https://www.cse.org.uk/resource/more-jazz-than-mozart/>



Key learnings

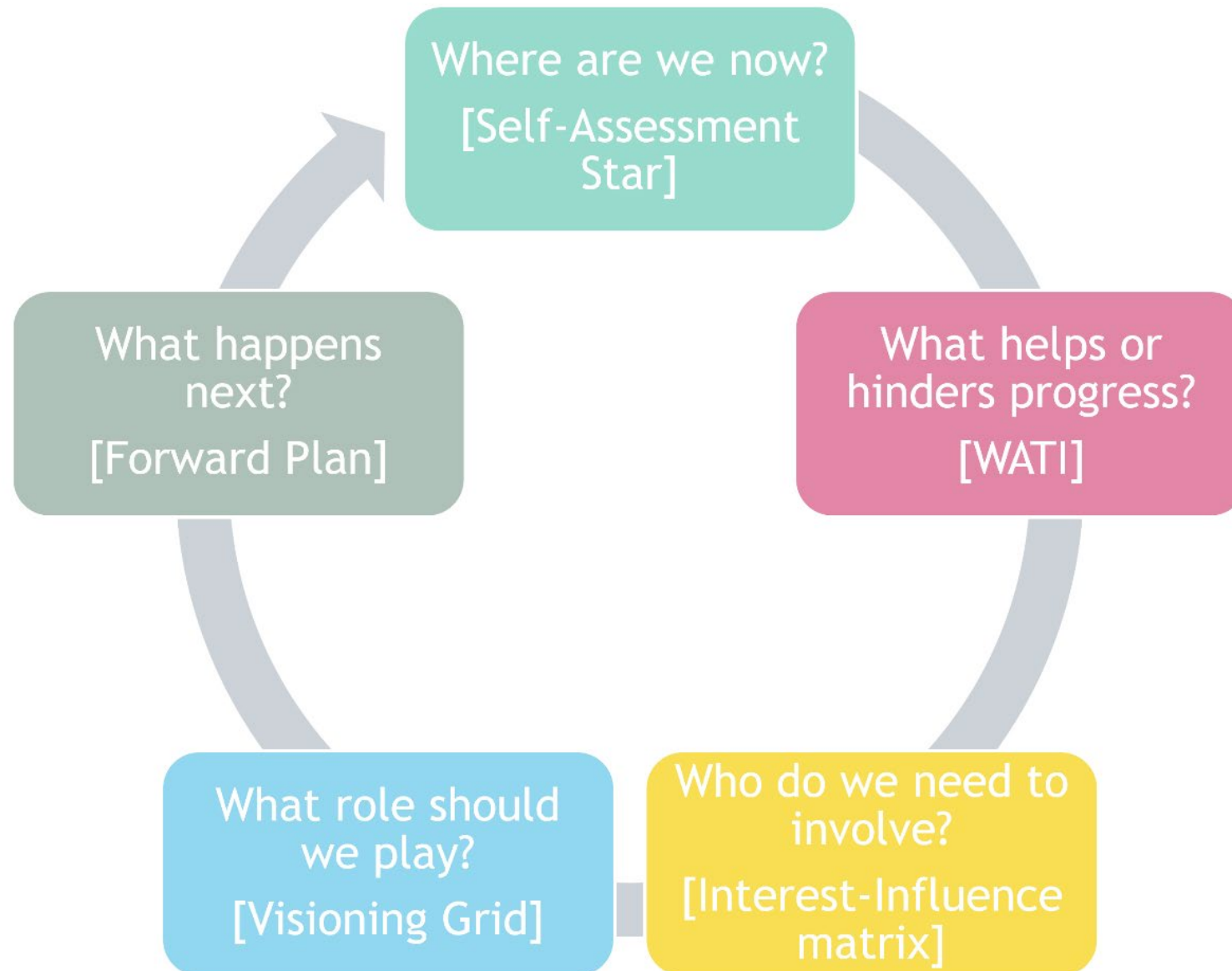
**Local
authorities
can do much
of this work
themselves**

**Conversation
mattered
more than
the outputs**

**Flexibility
and
modularity
are key
strengths**



The tools

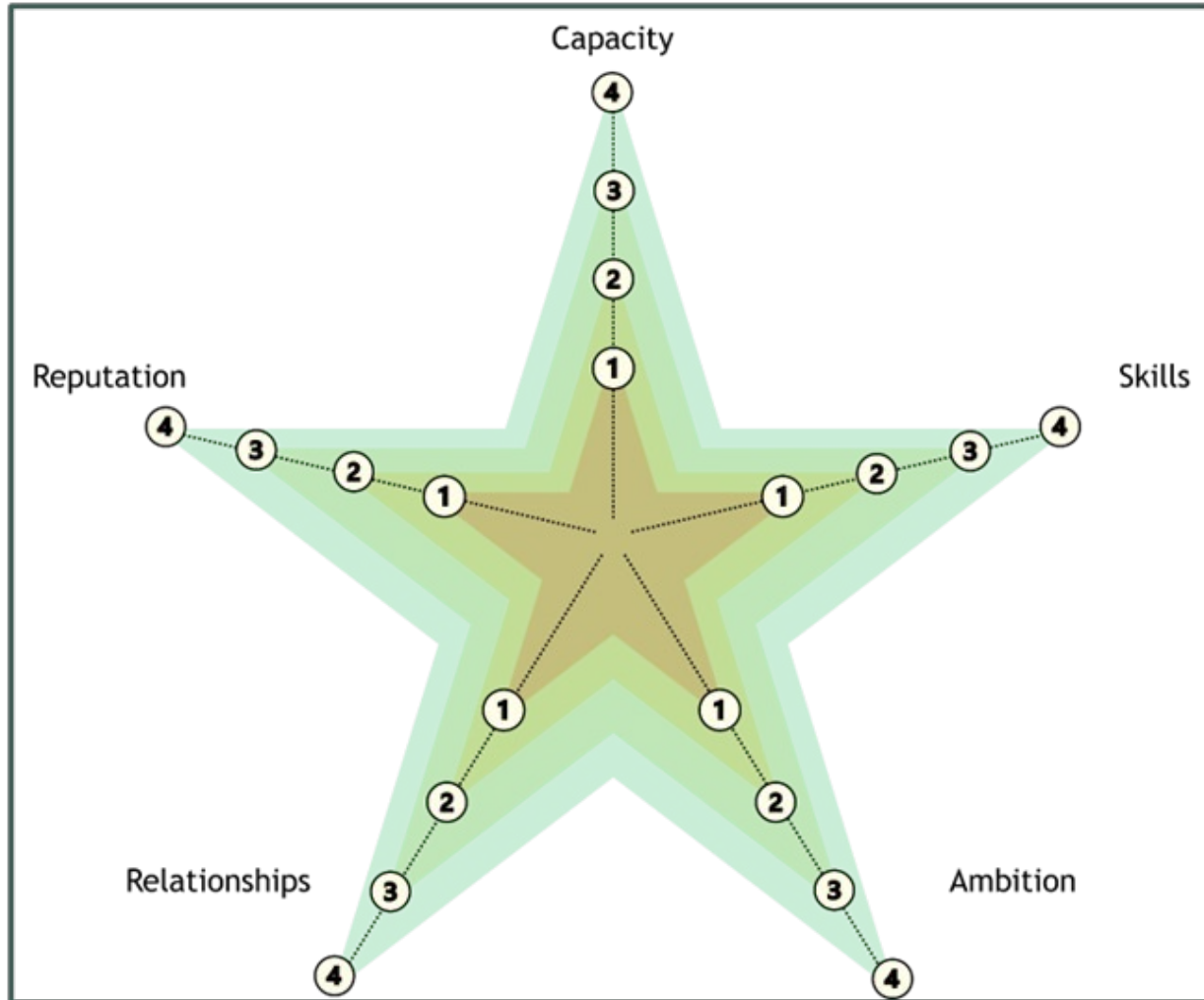




Q: Where are we now?

- A starting question to understand at what stage are you approaching energy planning
- Helps to focus on areas of success that can be celebrated and understand progress so far, as well as areas that need strengthening
- Build a picture an understanding of organisational readiness and identify priorities that are balanced against local circumstance and ambition
- Can be adapted to focus on just your local authority or wider considering partnerships and other governance structures

Self-assessment star



1. **Establish:** Capability does not currently exist.
2. **Develop:** Some capability but needs additional development
3. **Utilise:** Capability is well established and help move things forward
4. **Celebrate:** A particular strength that has been developed over time and can provide insights on how to build other capabilities.

Political buy-in

Project delivery

Access to
funding

Community
engagement

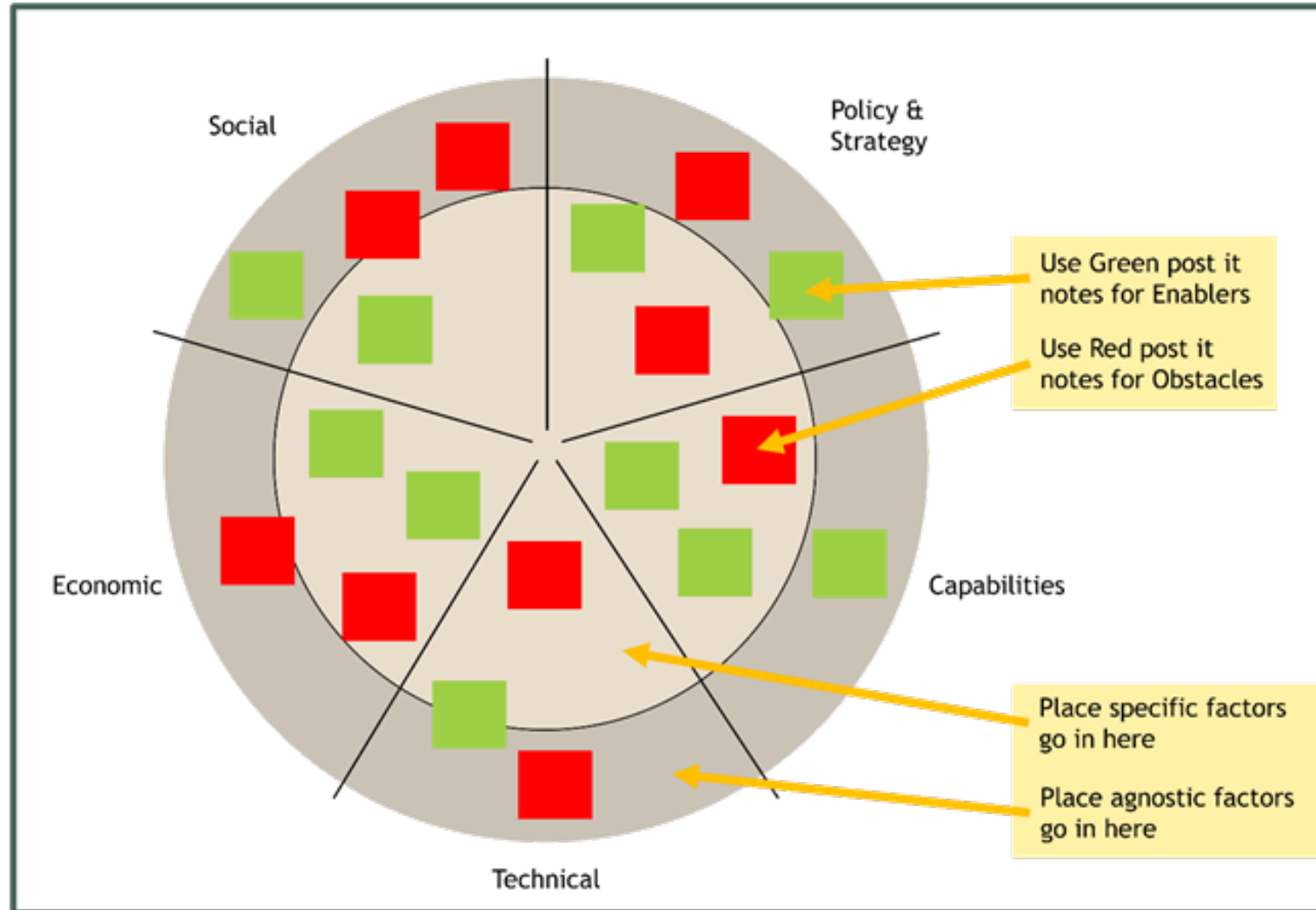
Community
energy sector



Q: What helps or hinders process?

- Once you've got a strong understanding of your own organisation or partnership. What does the wider landscape look like in your local area?
- Considered at both a local and regional level – what impacts local delivery from the surrounding region?
- Regen provided technical data on the local energy system but we wanted to capture the non-technical factors influencing local delivery such as governance structures, policy landscape, funding, public attitudes etc
- Kept as a central bank of knowledge that could be revisited and updated as more was learnt or things changed

Walking around the issues (WATI)



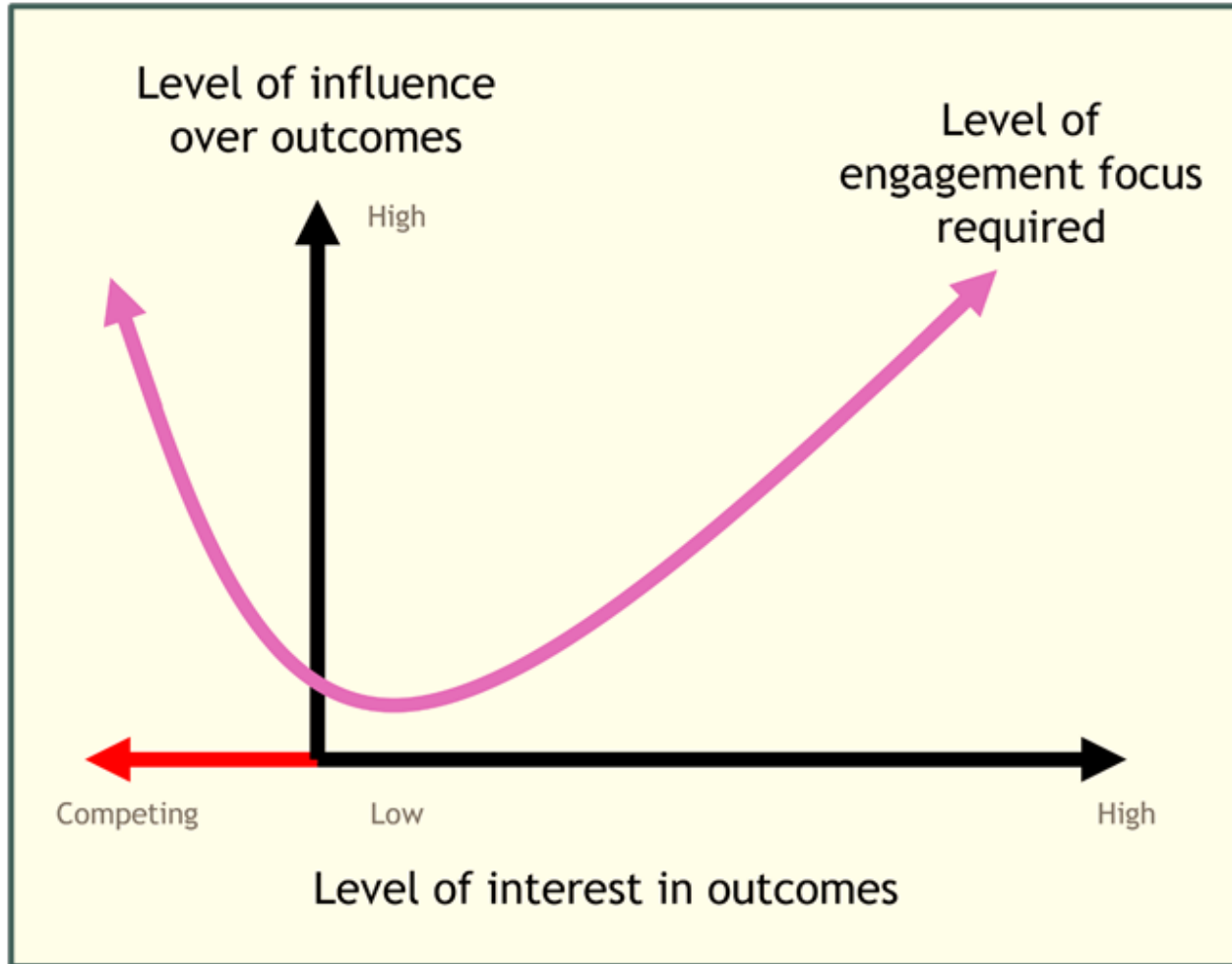
Policy & Strategy: Local and national policies, plans or strategies that enable or constrain

Capabilities: Skills, knowledge, capacity and experience in the local area

Social: Local attitudes, behaviours and levels of support amongst communities and stakeholders

Economic: Financial and economic conditions that influence delivery

Technical: Infrastructure, technology opportunities and technical constraints



Q: Who do we need to involve?

- Intentionality
- Breadth vs depth
- Focussing resource



Complex (unpredictable, self-organising, emergent)			
Complicated (predictable, controllable, designable)			
Simple (clear cause, “easy” solution)			
	Own (manage/ deliver in- house)	Influence (shape, partner, pilot)	Empower (build capacity, publicise, simplify)

Q: What role should we play?

- You've gathered a huge amount of information on what the strengths and challenges are for your area and who the key stakeholders may be...
- Important to prioritise and maximise impact in the areas you are best place to do so.



Q: What happens next?

- Hopefully now at the stage of understanding organisational readiness, wider opportunities, key stakeholders and preferred delivery roles
- Now need to focus on what happens next identify key actions or priorities that have emerged from your findings
- Think about if this can be done in house, by a partner or require additional resource

Category	Purpose
Do first	Actions that can begin immediately using existing capacity, relationships & resources
Prepare opportunities	Activities that require additional development, evidence, engagement or funding before they can progress
Explore solutions	Longer term opportunities where further investigation or partnership-building is required before decisions can be made



Break



Breakout discussion

- Do any of these tools (or ideas) stand out to you?
- What barriers / problems are you struggling with in your area?
- How could you apply one of these?



Centre for Sustainable Energy

We're a charity (298740) supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

cse.org.uk