UK GBC

THE MCS FOUNDATION

LOCAL AUTHORITIES RETROFIT FORUM

March 2025

The voice of our sustainable built environment

UK Green Building Council ukgbc.org
The MCS Foundation mcsfoundation.org

Agenda

9:30	Alastair Mumford: Introduction
9:40	Q&A
9:50	Helen Burridge: LARA Hertfordshire Pilot
10:00	Q&A
10:10	Val Mitchell: Retrofit Personas
10:20	Q&A
10:30	Close

The voice of our sustainable built environment

Introduction

Alastair Mumford

Programme Director, MCS Foundation

The voice of our sustainable built environment

Accelerating retrofit in the local area through stakeholder collaboration

Helen Burridge, HCCSP Manager

HCCSP
Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Baseline 2023

- Facing a climate and ecological emergency
- Cost of living crisis (fuel poverty increasing)
- Activity happening on improving building stock
  - Fragmented
  - Inefficient
  - Duplicative
  - Potentially misinformed/not optimal results

A resilient, energy-efficient Hertfordshire where all buildings—public, private, and residential—are retrofitted to meet the challenges of climate change, delivering healthier living environments, reducing energy costs, and creating green jobs

Current actions and funding

HCCSP
Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Public Estate

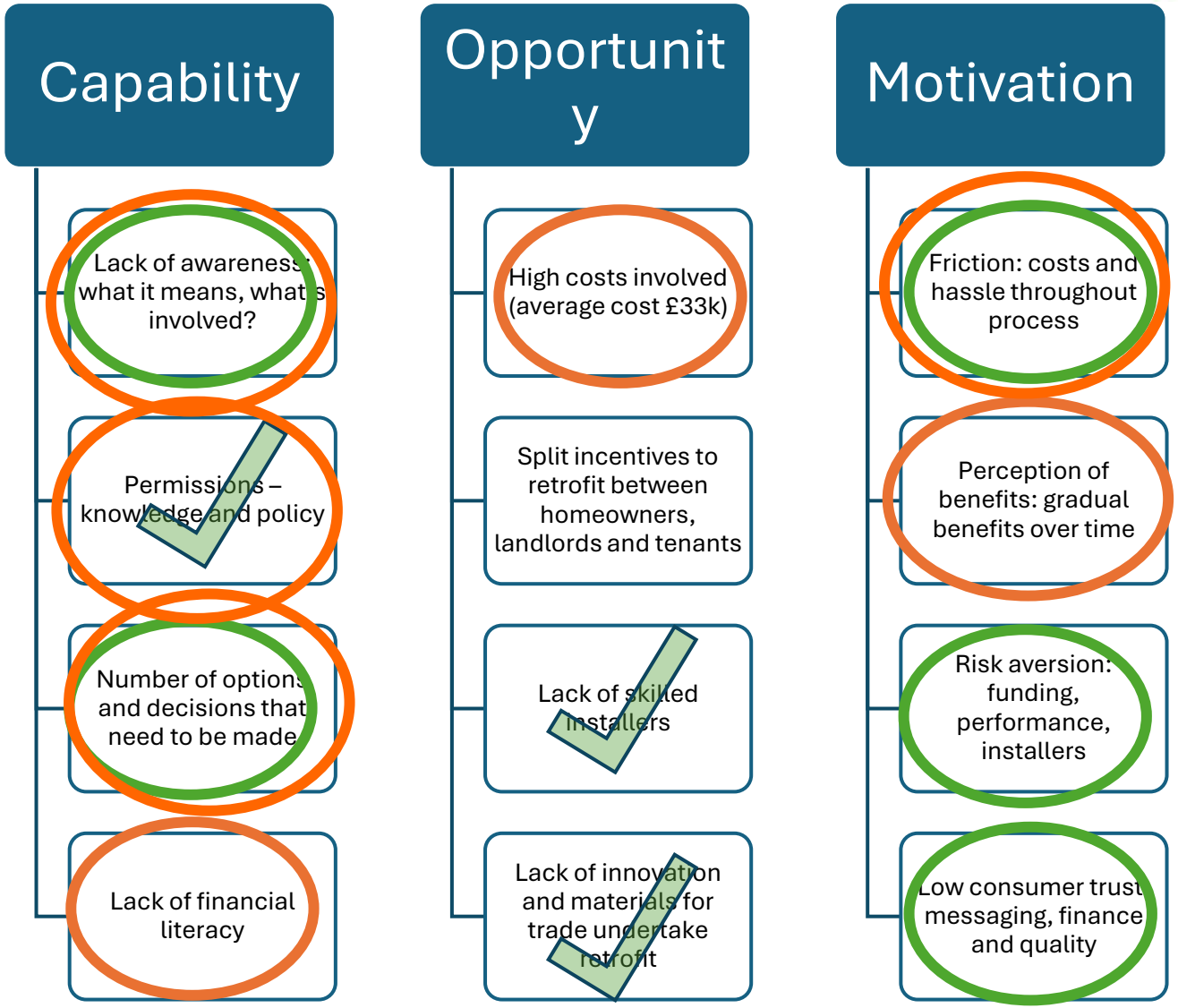
Commerical

Residential Tenants

Residential Owners

Behaviour Change & Retrofit

- What is the role of District and Boroughs?
- What is the role of County Council?
- What is the role of HCCSP?
- What are the county-wide actions and who needs to do them?



- Awareness / Options
- Concierge Service
- Financial Support

Behaviour Change & Retrofit

Retrofit Survey for Hertfordshire Homeowners

- Results link
- 1267 respondents – open 19 Jan to 11 Feb 2024

Research shows that there is a market for retrofit in Hertfordshire, but many residents don't know where to start, who to trust, or how to coordinate work.

Based on Hampshire Residents Retrofit work

Behaviour Change & Retrofit

HCCSP
Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Why consider retrofit?

Only **2%** consider **their home** to be very **energy efficient**

58% thought more about **energy saving** now, compared to 12 months ago.

The **most important considerations:**

- reduction in energy bills
- making the home warmer and more comfortable
- reducing carbon emissions protecting the environment.

The challenges

Whilst the cost of installation was cited as a barrier, **78%** had **some ability to self-finance retrofit measures** in their home.

30% stated they did not know what needs doing

27% stated they did not know where to start in their homes

Behaviour Change & Retrofit

The solutions

- **Over 65%** of those surveyed thought that an advisor who could help choose which measures to install would be the **most useful aspect** of a coordinated service for retrofit.
- **Guidance** in choosing a contractor or being able to **select a recommended contractor** was also important to homeowners.
- **Access to finance** at a good rate could help overcome potential barriers
- **4 out of 5 respondents** felt that a coordinated service backed by Hertfordshire County Council or their local council would make th[illegible] undertake retrofit.

Behaviour Change & Retrofit

HCCSP
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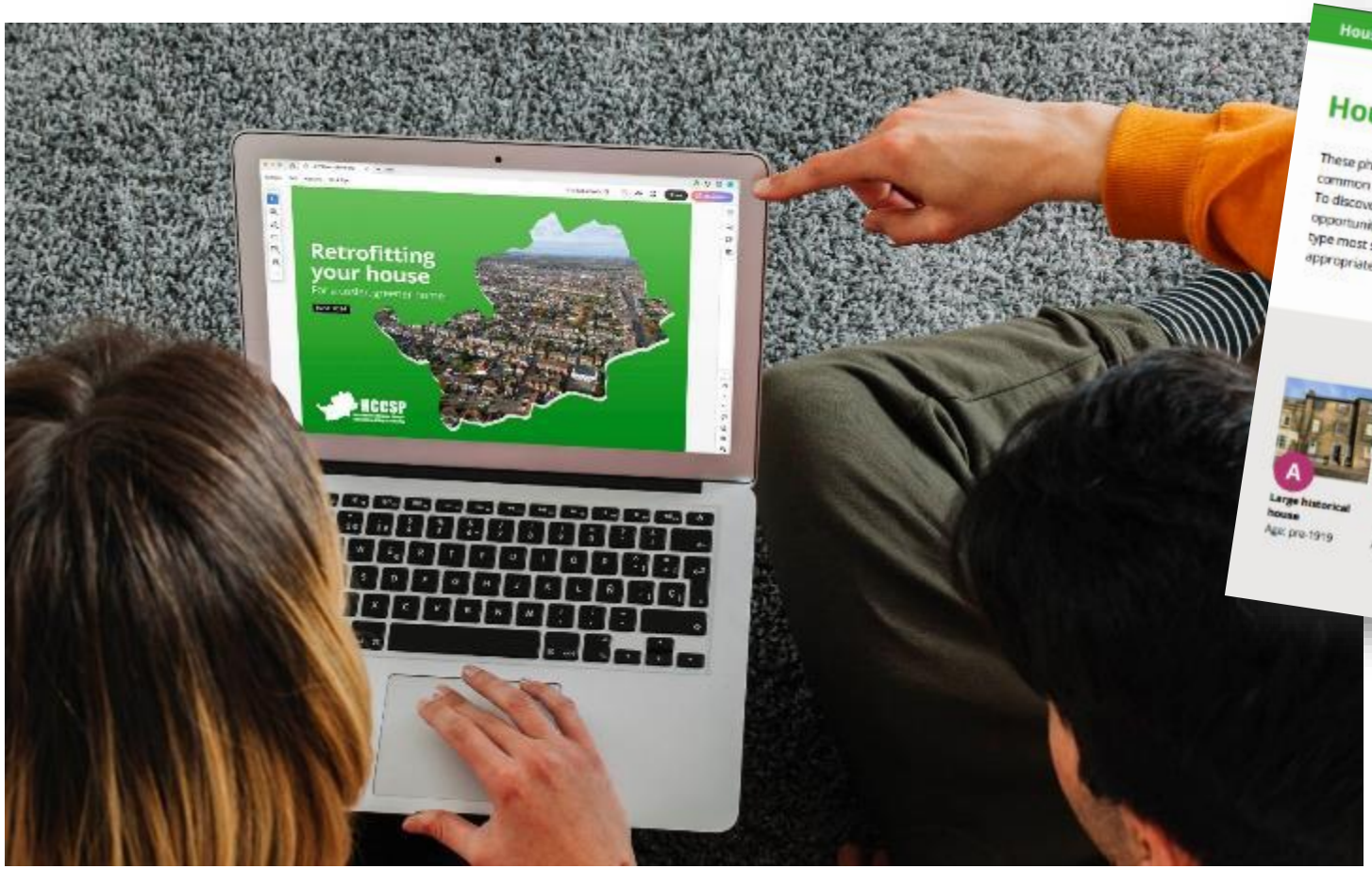

hccsp.org.uk/retrofit

Piloting the Pilot:
Local Area Retrofit Accelerator

HCCSP
Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Ashden
Climate Solutions in Action

BE—ST
Built Environment — Smarter Transformation

CATAPULT
Connected Places

NATIONAL RETROFIT HUB

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What will a successful Local Retrofit Strategy look like?

HCCSP
Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Content

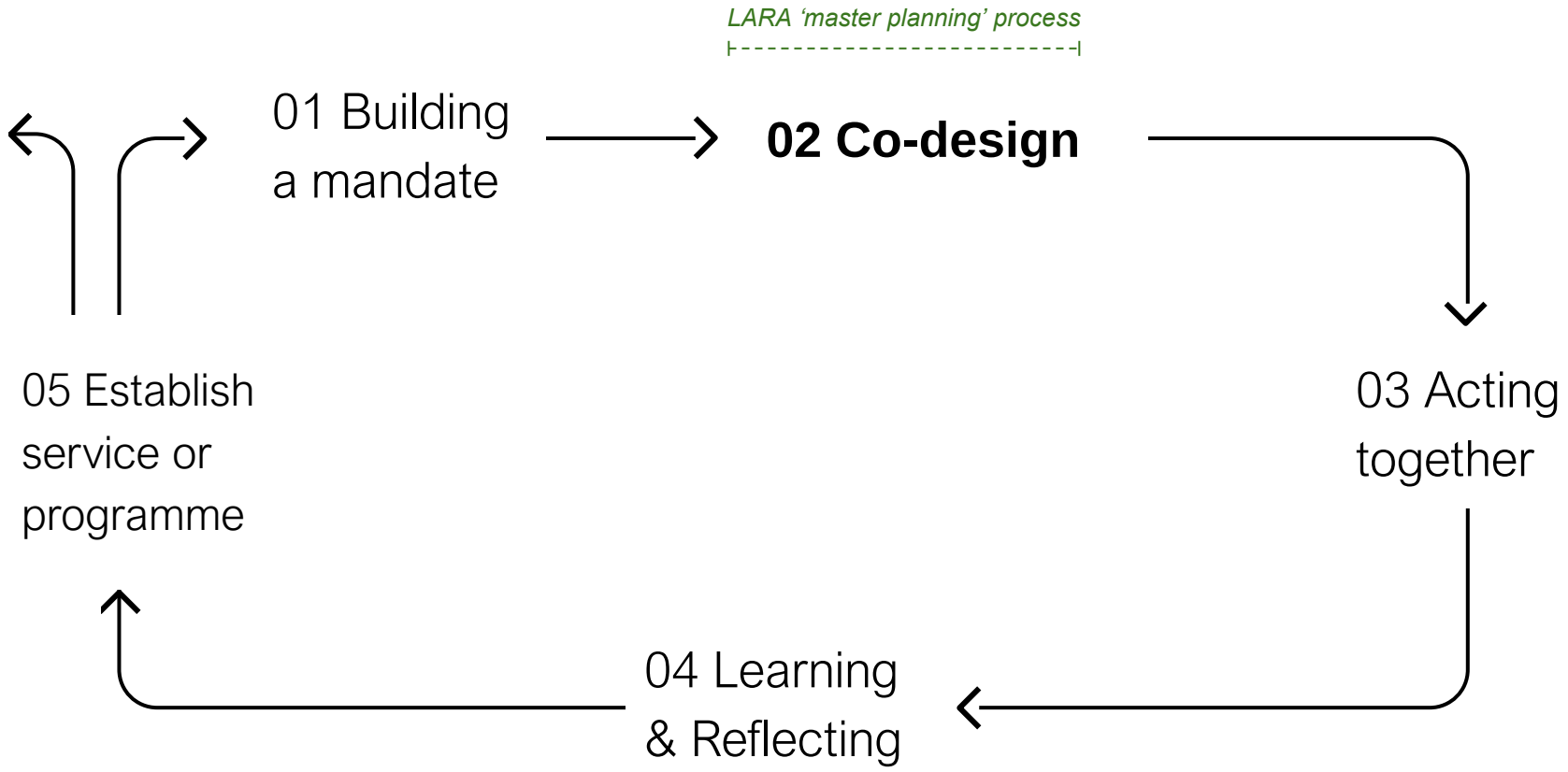
1. Has an overall **vision**, captured in a combination of words and diagrams
2. **Prioritises** the key retrofit **aims** and how these relate to selected targets and **outcomes**
3. Is clear on the long-term **systemic changes** that are needed
4. Sets out the **immediate actions** and how these will be resourced
5. Sets out how the stakeholder partnership will **work together** to deliver outcomes

+

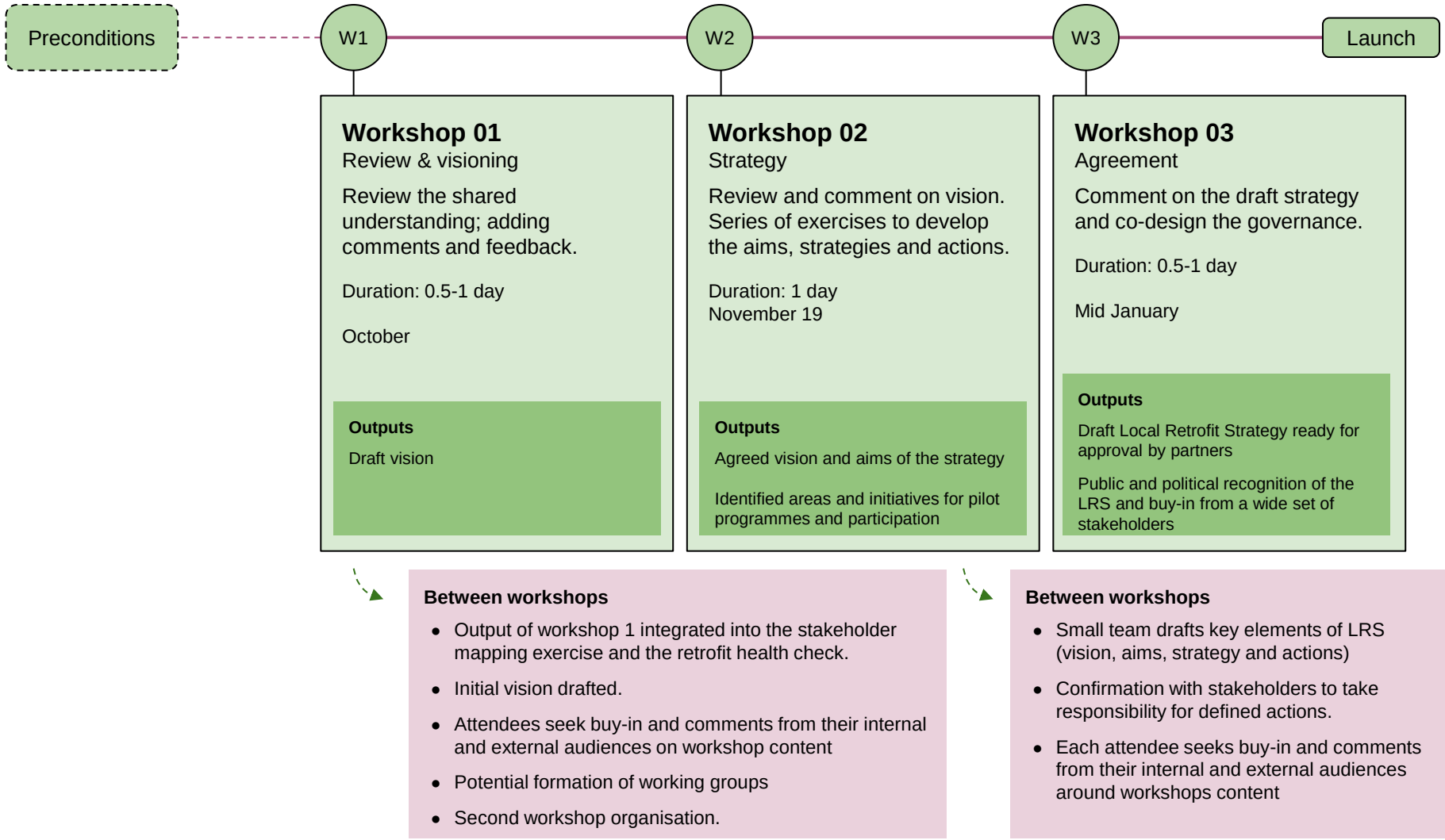
Process

1. Developed through a genuinely **participatory** and inclusive **process**
2. Focus on coalition and **partnership** working
3. Recognises the critical role that the **civic sector** and residents play
4. A focus on **people- and place- centred approaches**
5. Includes **connections** to other policies, planning, budgets, initiatives etc.

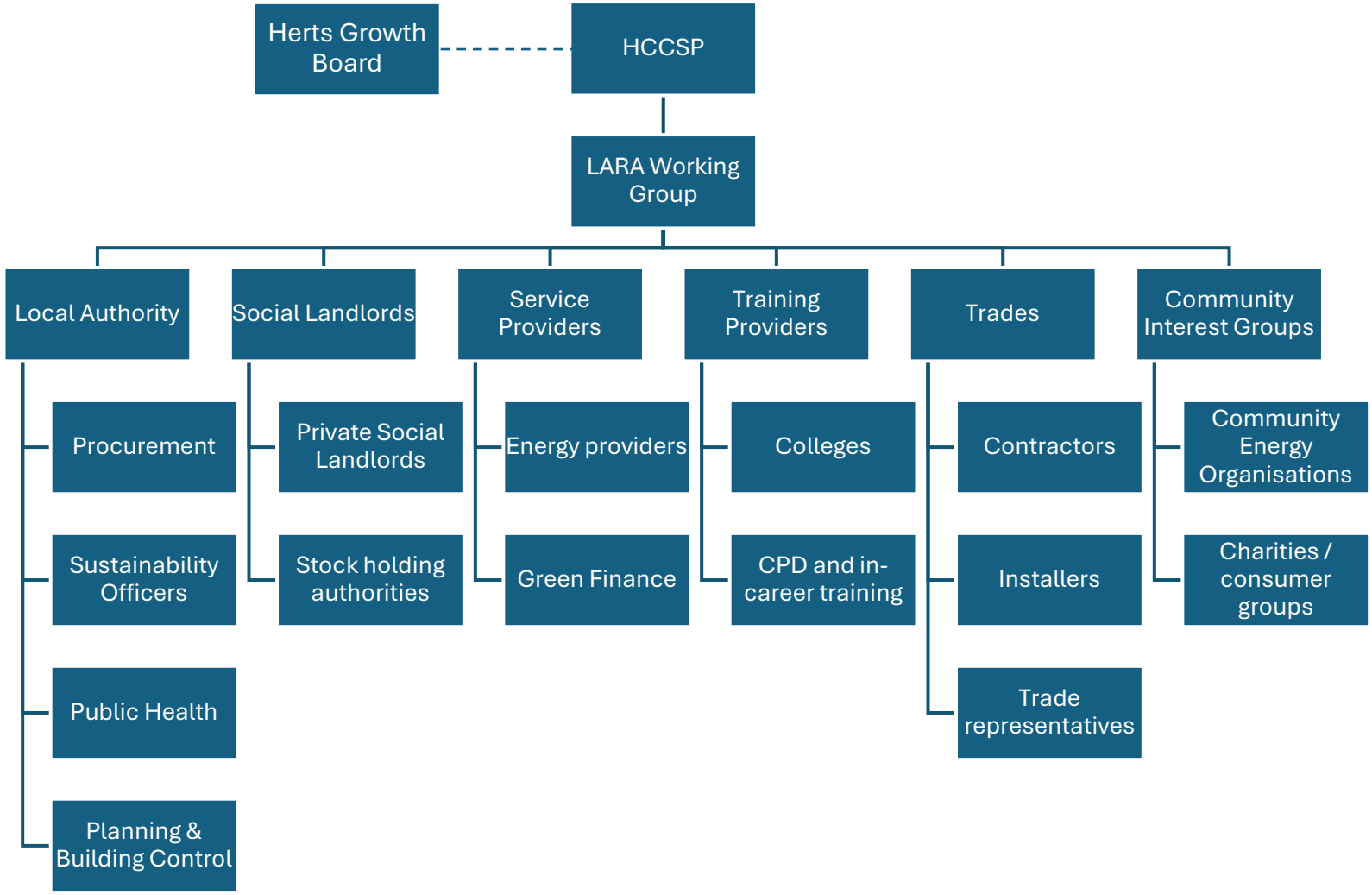
LARA Overview



LARA Overview



Stakeholders



Stakeholder considerations

- Ensuring right level of authorisation in the room: strategic oversight but also willing to commit three full days to single subject progress.
- Establishing contacts with businesses esp. construction and social housing
- Consistent attendance
- Managing contributions and louder voices
- Self vs sector interest representation
- Level of local authority ownership / direction in the room and taking it forward
- Clarifying future commitments and expectations

Outputs: SWOT

S Collaborative networks Leadership support Green Skills programmes Value alignment Pilot projects HCCSP's Role	**W** Lack of clear priorities Unclear public engagement Lack of interested learners Limited resources Complexity of project Procurement reticence
O Strategy development Funding alignment Policy alignment Innovation and knowledge sharing	**T** Funding inconsistencies Capacity strain National policy delays Climate urgency

Outputs: Vision and Mission

Vision:

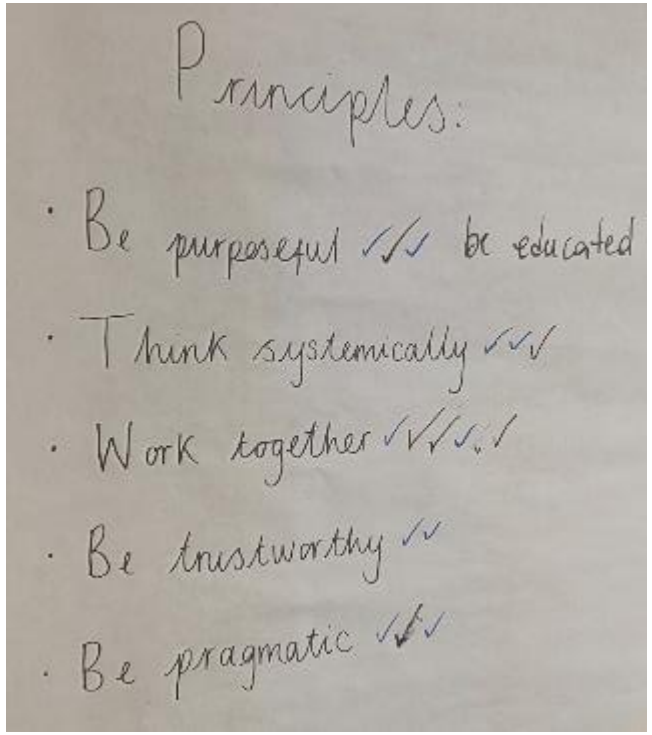
"Everyone has a home fit for now and for our future".

Mission:

"Collaborate in Hertfordshire to retrofit all homes, so that we enhance our environment and climate resilience, address fuel poverty, improve health and support local jobs"

Outputs: Working Principles

- Work together
- Evidence-led
- Sustainably minded
- Realistic and ambitious



Outputs: Key goals

HCCSP
Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Goal 1: Increase demand for/ delivery of retrofit measures

- Increase retrofit investment in private housing
- Increase investment in social housing
- Increase access to trusted advice and guidance

Goal 2: Increase benefits of retrofit to locality

- Increase local economic benefits
- Increase health and wellbeing benefits of retrofit
- Increase environmental benefits of retrofit

Outputs: Key goals

Goal 3: Increase local supply chain capacity and quality

- Ensure adequate training capacity and quality
- Increase demand for training
- Increase use of local SMEs for retrofit work
- Increase quality of retrofit work

Goal 4: Create a supportive environment

- Ensure local policies are supportive of retrofit
- Develop suitable LRS governance arrangements
- Increase capacity for collaboration to deliver retrofit actions
- Increase sharing of data and learning to support delivery

Next steps beyond LARA…

Next Steps

Date	HCCSP Task	Stakeholder Task
Thurs 20/02/25	MCS strategy shared with HCCSP. Review and amend.	
Thurs 27/02/25	HCCSP to share Copy Round 1 with stakeholders	Review, Amend, Return (27/02/25 – 09/03/25)
Mon 10/03/35		9am deadline for email amends to HCCSP
Thurs 13/03/25	HCCSP to share Copy Round 2 with stakeholders	Final comments **In principle support secured through necessary internal governance mechanisms** (13/03/25 – 20/03/35)
Thurs 20/03/25	Final proposed text shared in HCCSP Papers	9am deadline for email amends to HCCSP
Thurs 27/03/25	Recommendation for approval by HCCSP	

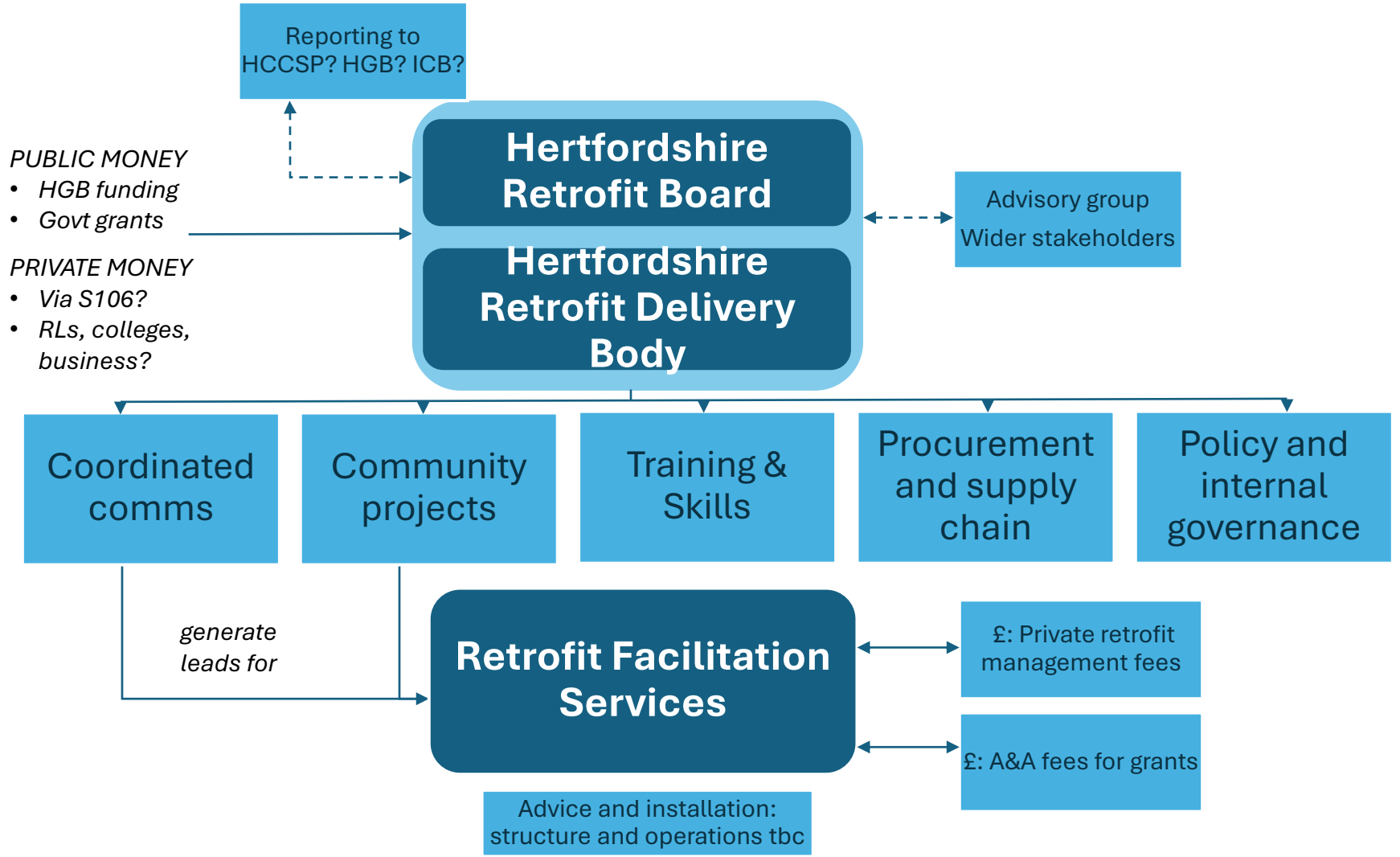
Governance: Possible Model (Retrofit Facilitation)

each member to clarify own reporting lines / responsibilities

SPV comprising public, private, NGO representation

<u>example</u> system stewarding groups

separate governance and legal status: SPV? Specialist Contractor?



Next Steps

- Approve the outlined approvals schedule to enable HCCSP to endorse the Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy (the “Strategy”) on 27 March, facilitating the prompt publication of the final designed document.
- Support in-principle adoption of the Strategy text within their respective authorities and encourage appropriate internal stakeholder participation.
- Allocate internal review time to ensure timely feedback within the proposed deadlines.

Reflections

- Trust the process
- Time commitment pays off
- Stakeholder engagement
- Personal/personnel investment
- ‘Order of operations’:
  - LAs draft a strategy → engagement and consultation
  - Establish engagement → collectively draft strategy

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