|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Low | Medium | High |
| Technical | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Policy | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Community | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Financial | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Delivery | 3 | 2 | 1 |

**York Building Retrofit Roundtable – July 2021**

**Action Areas:**

1. Support local pilots/demonstrators to showcase new technology and provide consumer confidence
2. Lobby for tighter standards and guidance in National Planning Policy Framework
3. Provide local clarity through policy documents and their consistent application for building retrofit on heritage/conservation assets
4. Provide local, independent and trusted advice/brokerage service for property owners
5. Deliver communications that provide public with the knowledge and motivation to act
6. Establish local/regional partnerships to pool financial resources, talent sharing and to take advantage of economies of scale
7. Work with local training providers and businesses to increase training and apprenticeship schemes.
8. Embed upskilling/apprenticeship requirements into procurement process

**Technical**

* Technologies that have reached maturity are now trusted and widely accepted (PVs), newer technologies still treated with scepticism and suffer from high cost. Heat pumps need financial subsidy to stimulate market until economies of scale drive down price.
* Technical challenges for deep retrofit of older buildings. Space constraints and visual impact need consideration.
* Complicated systems that underperform can generate negative reactions. Only appropriate solutions should be specified with local demonstrators/pilots to showcase new technology
* Increased technical expertise and knowledge required to support smaller organisations to bid for national funding.

**Policy**

* Approach to decarbonisation of conservation/heritage assets is insufficient and inconsistent. National policy (NPPF) needs to reflect climate emergency priorities, local policy (The Local Plan) needs to provide conditions, standards and guidance for heritage retrofit and planning practice needs a consistent, joined up approach that reflects council priorities
* Northern Powergrid Business Plan and future policy direction may not be able to meet the ambitions for a high-electrification scenario in York by 2030. Need to increase infrastructure investment and back innovative supply/demand balancing technology.
* Few organisations are pursuing high hydrogen as a mechanism for delivering decarbonisation of heat. National hydrogen plans and resources could be re-directed towards electrification.
* Need to balance decarbonisation with fuel poverty ambition – prioritise demand reduction

**Community**

* Broad awareness of need for change has increased significantly, but there is an evident behavioural gap when it comes to uptake.
* Inconvenience, lack of simple independent information, complicated list of suppliers and pricing all add hassle factors to retrofit. Role for independent and trusted brokerage service and local pilot/demonstrators.
* Complicated systems that reduce resident control has low acceptance. Solutions need to be easy to use and standardised.
* Need to reinforce the link between people’s homes as sources of carbon emissions.
* Change the language (comfortable house standard), make it aspirational and incentivise it (stamp duty)

**Financial**

* Cost increase with heritage buildings (but only 2000 listed buildings in the city – plus conservation areas). Need to address resourcing issues that come with building applications for heritage assets (both in the LA planning department but also accredited status for trusted developers/architects).
* Property values mean more scope to repurpose and retrofit
* Government subsidies for low carbon heating solutions have not been effective. Gas is too cheap and so a greater financial incentive is needed switch to electricity.
* Financial offers can be complicated and initial capital outlay may be prohibitive for some organisations/households. Role for specialist independent advice.
* Existing able-to-pay market could be mobilised to act – creating demand and driving down prices.
* Eliminate business rates from small business, 0% VAT on decarbonisation retrofit.
* Joint initiatives that pool resources (e.g. large scale solar PV) and look to leverage regional scale.

**Delivery**

* Limited availability of specialist consultants (particularly for heritage buildings). Highly skilled project co-ordinators/managers also needed in construction sector. Potential for area-based skill sharing schemes for Clerk of Works/Building Inspectors.
* Gas sector still drives the installation supply chain – opportunity to repurpose this towards heat pumps.
* Need to provide suitable training, skills and market development but high level of inertia in trainers/education. National curriculum change will be slow so need to promote local apprenticeships and integrate into purchasing policy of local organisations. Internal upskilling also required, with the potential to create local/regional partnerships to develop a local talent pool.
* Lack of skills in certain specialist areas (e.g. dry-lining) but could be overcome through increasing use of modular/prefabricated solutions.
* Incentivise retraining and career paths into building retrofit sector (promote pay, hours, training, mobility etc…)

**Next steps**

1. Building retrofit workshop in September focussing on delivery of the action plan and solutions to barriers, covering;
   1. Supply chain
   2. Skills gap
   3. Financial solutions
   4. Brokerage service
2. CYC to review policy documentation and future application (September)
3. CYC to speak with Y&NY LEP and LGA about joint lobbying letter supporting our ambitions (August)
4. Initiate partnership discussions to identify opportunities for scaled/pooled resources (e.g. talent pool, combined solar investment etc…) – September