



The Democracy School exists to help clients develop the political leadership capacity needed to effectively address complex and often politically sensitive challenges. We do this through a combination of research, consultancy and capacity building which is delivered by our interdisciplinary faculty and supported by our project office which provides administrative and logistical assistance.

Since launching our first leadership development programme in 2007 we have worked across various levels of government. Our institutional clients in the UK include Cornwall Council, Crawley Borough Council, Essex County Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, The London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Waveney District Council. We are not affiliated with any political party and in the UK have worked with the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Our faculty reflects the political, social and cultural landscapes within which we operate.

We believe that political leadership is first and foremost about 'sense-making', because only if we can make sense of the world around us, can we begin to coherently address the many problems the world faces. Furthermore, we believe that the primary means by which political leaders make sense of the world is through 'storytelling'. It is also through the telling and retelling of stories that they are able to give voice to the people they represent and in so doing create a shared sense of purpose and direction – even during times of radical change. Our leadership development programmes build on these insights and utilise actual challenges participating politicians face as the context for developing the narratives and counter-narratives that will make it possible to address them effectively.

We usually build our programmes around specific thematic clusters and over time have accumulated substantial experience and expertise in a number of areas including human rights and the rule of law, community safety and human security, economic regeneration, growth and sustainable development. If a programme falls outside our core areas of expertise, we work with the client to identify advisers either externally or within the client organisation and invite them to join either our project team or an advisory committee.

Complementing our leadership development programmes, we provide a range of support services, including opinion and policy research, project and programme evaluations, political and educational consultancy, conflict management and consensus building, learning process design and facilitation, as well as institutional capacity building.

Additional information about the Democracy School, its philosophy, policies and work is available on our website (see details below). Case studies are available on request.