

LGA Liberal Democrat Group Next Generation 2017/18

Development programme for aspiring leaders



Politics is the lifeblood of local government. At their best, politicians know and understand their communities personally, create aspirations out of local desires, draw compelling pictures of the future and bring people together to achieve great things. But, inspiring local communities and creating a better future for the people and places we represent takes ambitious leadership.

The Local Government Association (LGA) Liberal Democrat Group Next Generation has been developed within the traditions and values of the Liberal Democrat party, drawing on a range of experts to create an unparalleled political development opportunity for participants.

Who this is for?

Next Generation is a programme for talented and ambitious councillors who have demonstrated potential and would like to build on their skills to progress in a political career.

To apply your council must be in membership of the LGA.



“For me, the best thing about the Next Generation programme is that you build a strong support network of people facing similar issues around the country. It has been really useful to be able to talk about challenges I face as a councillor in my own local authority, and learn how colleagues elsewhere have dealt with them. It’s also an excellent training course in nationwide best practice – for example, I’m already following one of my cohort’s examples for recording my casework, and another’s tips about building and maintaining a network of deliverers and volunteers”

– Councillor Niall Hodson, Sunderland City Council Next Generation Cohort 11

What we offer

The programme will consist of three residential training modules over the course of two days each.

The modules aim to:

- raise awareness of the different styles and approaches to political leadership
- help participants understand a distinctive Liberal Democrat approach to policy and governance
- enable participants to define their ‘vision’ for their council/ward/group
- increase confidence and awareness of the importance of communication and media skills
- help participants know more about their own personal strengths and weaknesses as a community and political leader
- develop participants’ understanding of the practical strategies to policy-making and best practice in Liberal Democrat groups and councils.

How to apply

We offer a limited number of places per year and application is by way of a competitive process.

To apply, visit the Next Generation page on our website www.local.gov.uk/lga-libdem-group and follow the link to the online form.

Deadline for receipt of applications is 4 August 2017

As part of the application, we ask applicants to explain why they would like this development opportunity. We also ask for one reference from a political colleague or councillor and for applicants to commit to attend all three modules and undertake all programme work.

Next Generation residential training is available free of charge thanks to funding from the LGA Leadership and Localism Programme. Councillors are asked to cover their travelling costs.

Contact details

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