

LGA Liberal Democrat Group

Next Generation 2019/2020

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.



“I have genuinely enjoyed and valued every part of The Next Generation programme. It’s been fantastic to come together with a group of compassionate, dedicated and smart group of councillors, get to know each other and benefit from each other’s experience.

The training was invaluable – challenging me to think about what I want to get out of my councillor career, growing my skills and developing my understanding of how my role in local government plugs into the wider Liberal Democrat network.

I highly recommend anyone who wants to develop and grow their career as a councillor to join this training – the trainers were fantastic, knowledgeable and made it a lot of fun.”

Sarah Cheung Johnson, Liberal Democrat Councillor, Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe



“Being part of the Next Generation cohort helped me immensely as a councillor and a community and political leader. It taught me how to be a better councillor in a re-emerging group in Manchester.

I met incredible people who continue to inspire me every day. Friends that I can get advice from and socialise with.

If you are thinking of taking part in Next Generation you should not hesitate. You will become a better leader, you will be clear about your future in politics and you will meet amazing likeminded people from across the country.”

Richard Kilpatrick, Liberal Democrat Councillor, Didsbury West Ward

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 10 August 2019

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. The LGA is unable to cover travel expenses, however this can usually be recovered from your local authority.

Contact details

libdem@local.gov.uk 020 7664 3235 or

Terry Stacy terry.stacy@local.gov.uk 020 7664 3295

The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors has been commissioned to deliver the programme on behalf of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group.

Local Government Association

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For a copy in Braille, larger print or audio, please contact us on 020 7664 3000.

We consider requests on an individual basis.

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