

civic future.

Leading Change in the UK



*Able people of sensible views do not go into politics.
Western democracies have a talent problem.*

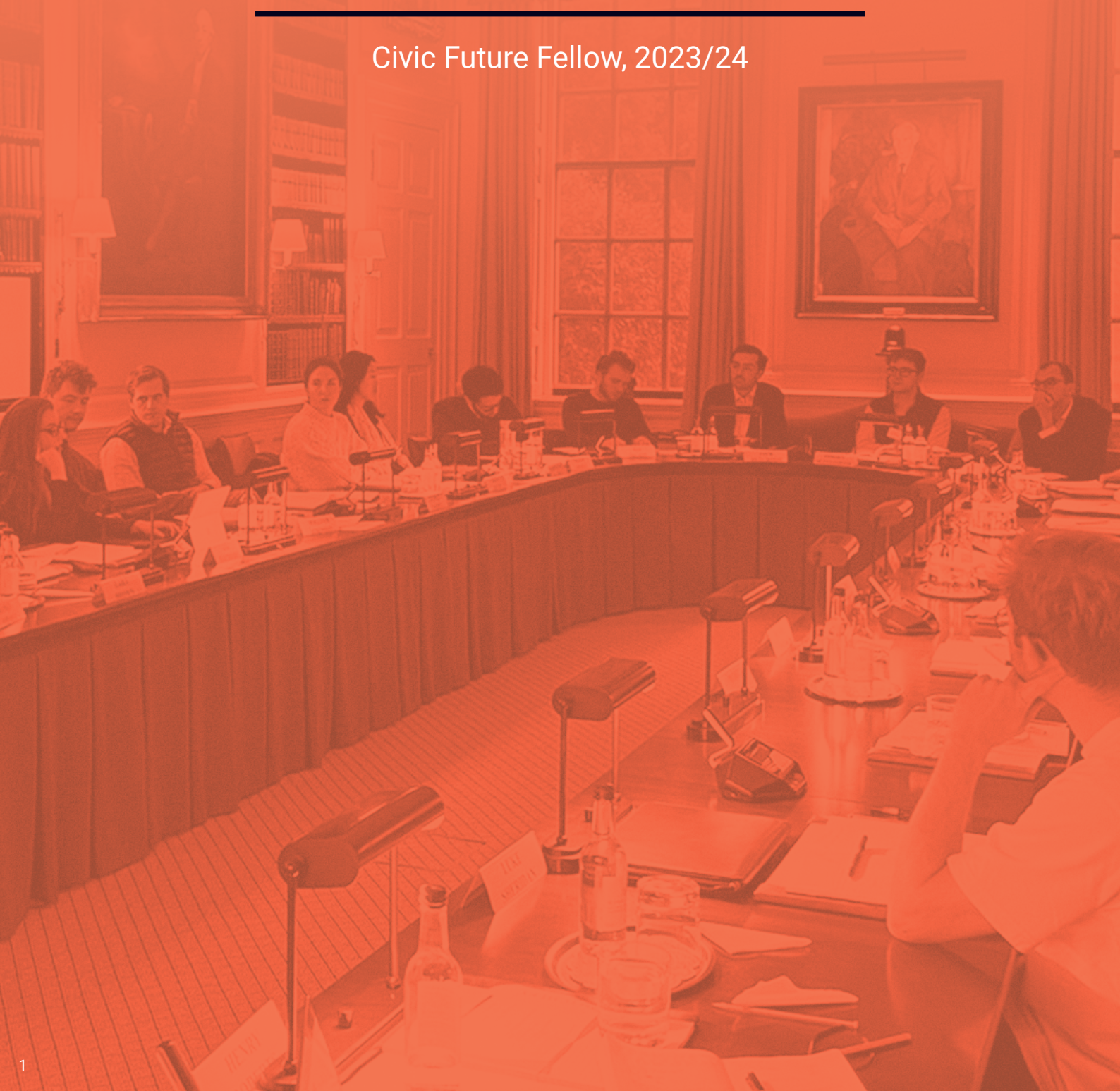
— Financial Times

Civic Future identifies, supports and trains
highly-talented individuals to enter positions
of public leadership



It's impossible to overstate the transformative impact the Civic Future Fellowship has had on me. Most fundamentally, it's left me with the certainty that I wish to pursue public life in some form, probably by seeking elected office.

Civic Future Fellow, 2023/24



Introduction

I firmly believe that one of the most important things we can do as a country is cultivate a generation of excellent public leaders. Too many people have lost trust in our political system, in government and our institutions. Yet, there is no shortage of talented individuals with expertise in Britain - we only need to encourage them.

Civic Future began in October 2022 as an idea, but has evolved into a movement of people who want to enter public life and believe we can do better.

Our Fellows - 14 individuals selected carefully each year - have the capability, skills and values to improve Britain.

They spend an incredible year with us and our expert faculty, learning about policy, Britain's relationship with the world, and how to be effective in public life. From teachers and prison officers, to start-up founders and military personnel, I've been amazed by the quality of the people we've selected, and they have been hugely grateful for our help in kickstarting their journey into public life.

Furthermore, since 2022 over 1,000 people have attended our events and training sessions, giving glowing feedback, and many seek out public roles afterwards as a result.

As a charity, we are pleased to work cross-party and with both elected officials and civil servants. Most importantly, we're grounded in the values of liberal democracy and the conviction that Britain can turn the corner with good leadership and open, well-informed public debate.

Within our first two years, I am proud of how much our team has achieved. We have recruited 28 Fellows, met 2,000 attendees at 27 events and 3 major conferences, and influenced the national debate with dozens of mentions in the media. We've built important new relationships with MPs and those working in Government. It's heartening that they too are enthusiastic about our mission.

Looking ahead, we're excited to embark on our five-year-plan: recruiting 100 Fellows by 2030; expanding our training offer and public and private programme; building out our larger network; initiating a new fellowship for older people, and more.

None of this would be possible without our generous supporters, who enable us to keep our Fellowship and events entirely free, and our training free or at minimal charge. With so many young people bearing enormous student debt, this support means we can make routes into public life accessible for those who lack social connections or wealth. I am truly grateful to all our donors for their far-sighted support.

Together we can improve government, raise the quality of public debate, and vastly improve people's lives.

Munira Mirza

Chief Executive, Civic Future

January 2025

Why we're needed

Trust deficit + talent gap

Public trust in the UK government (ONS, 2023)



Public trust in politicians (IPSOS, 2023)

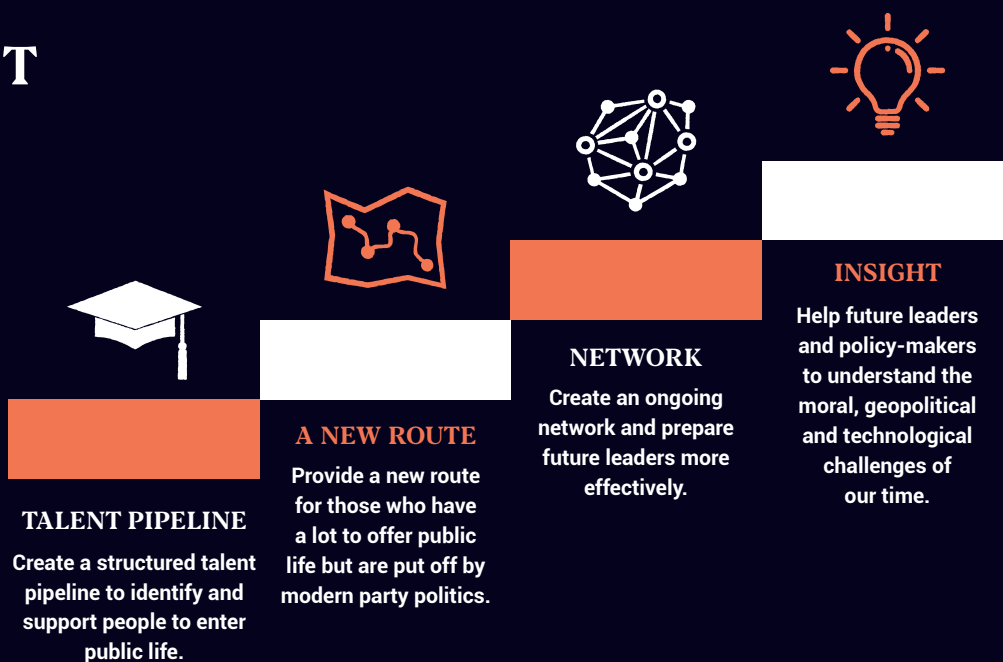


MPs need more training

- Less than a third of MPs think their newly elected colleagues receive enough training.
- Newer MPs were twice as likely as those elected before 2010 to say that training and preparation for new MPs was insufficient.
- Nearly 40% believe there is a need for more training in basic economics and domestic policy challenges.

YouGov survey, Jan. 2025

IMPACT



Our mission is to create a wider and deeper talent pool for public life, and ensure effective government and policies that work

Programme Overview



Civic Future Fellowship

A unique 12-month programme for 14 early career individuals, with weekly evening seminars, two residential weekends and one-week trip overseas to Singapore. Fellows meet politicians, policy-thinkers and academics, ambassadors, business and military leaders and journalists. All Fellows are offered mentors and some have the opportunity of a paid professional work placement. Current acceptance rate: 4.67% (2/3 near misses). In 2025, we are introducing a Public Leadership Programme, aimed at those with at least a decade's career experience.



Events

Over 30 public and private events since 2022, with leading figures in public life addressing a diverse range of topics - from economic growth to tackling extremism, geopolitics to free speech. A growing network of 1000 people attend, with extensive coverage of our annual conference in the media, including the BBC, Financial Times, The Times, New Statesman, UnHerd, The Spectator, Bloomberg, LBC, and The Daily Telegraph.



Training and skills

Over 125 participants have attended our popular, CPD-accredited *Foundation and Applied Economics for Government and Politics* training courses. Recently, we expanded our training portfolio with the addition of *Education Policy 101*. Additionally, we have hosted an informal series of events on Roles in Public Life, engaging approximately 100 senior professionals considering public appointments.



Impact

30+ private and public events,
50+ media mentions, **1000+** events
participants, **1800+** network

15+ major donors and supporters
recruited since launch



“The Civic Future Fellowship has been, without a shadow of doubt, one of the most formative, and valuable experiences of my life.”

“The Economics for Government course was incredibly valuable. We were fortunate to have a host of economists who skilfully simplified and contextualised the subject.”

“This conference gave me hope for the future of civil discourse in this country – a new generation of people eager to debate serious questions in a spirit of friendship and fun.”

“The Senior Fellows retreat is the most powerful event I've attended for many years. It's a huge achievement to bring together such a talented group and to create the atmosphere and trust to allow so much and such valuable thinking so quickly.”



Civic Future event speakers

Lord Blunkett...Rt Hon Michael Gove...Baroness Stuart...Lord Adonis
Lord Goodman...Lord Vallance...Lord Sainsbury...Lord Glasman...Lord Hintze
Sir John Jenkins...Sir Nigel Sheinwald...Sir Trevor Phillips...Professor John Bew
Professor Diane Coyle...Professor Deirdre McCloskey...Professor Tyler Cowen
Professor David Edgerton...Professor Mark Pennington...Professor Alexander Evans
Professor Richard Jones...Jon Cruddas...Rt Hon David Laws...Yascha Mounk
Dominic Cummings...Matt Clifford MBE...Marc Warner...Liam Halligan...Cindy Yu
Michael Lind...Sam Bowman...Daisy Christodolou...Henry Oliver...John Myers
Phil Collins...Samo Burja...Elisabeth Braw...Grayson Perry...Walter Russell Mead
and more...



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We are extremely grateful to our donors and supporters:

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who wish to remain
anonymous.

Civic Future is a registered charity.

If you would like to support our work, please contact info@civicfuture.org

Partners and supporters

We've been delighted to work with so many partners on our programmes, including Kings College London, the Bennett Institute for Public Policy (University of Cambridge), Worcester College (University of Oxford), Local Global, TxP, British High Commission in Singapore, Singapore High Commission, Wellington Barracks Horseguards, University of Manchester, Britain Remade, Boom, Reaction magazine and many more.

2030

2030

Support us

To explore how you can support our work and help us achieve our goals, through a private charitable donation or a corporate partnership, please contact fundraising@civicfuture.org

1

Identify and train 100 talented young leaders. Plus many more engaged through our private and public events.



2

Build a strong and durable network of confident and competent people, who care about improving government.



3

Enhance public debate and public policy with stronger advocacy of liberal values.



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