

# Technology and Public Policy

Team and culture deck

## The Tony Blair Institute

We support political leaders and governments to build open, inclusive and prosperous societies in a globalised world.

We do this by developing policy and advising on delivery.

We are mission driven and operate on a not-for-profit basis.

## The Technology and Public Policy programme

We regard the tech revolution as the central political challenge of our time.

We believe progressive politics can only meet it with new thinking and new coalitions.

We are building a 21<sup>st</sup> century policy platform to achieve this goal.

# Context for our work on tech



Progress

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## The new progressive agenda

Turbulent times require a radical policy response



Chris Yiu

Aug 20 · 29 · 0

Hi, it's Chris from the [Tony Blair Institute](#). I'm excited to share our latest essay, which is all about the tech revolution and what it means for the future of progressive policy.

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by Tony Blair and Chris Yiu

## The new progressive agenda

The best way to understand where we're coming from is to [read our essay](#) on the tech revolution and what it means for the future of progressive policy.

## Further reading

You can find links to more reports, articles and interviews at [techpolicy.io](#)

# Structure of our tech policy programme

## 4 x Policy Units

We have four discrete tech policy units, each with a significant scope of work.

Each unit is responsible for delivering impact through policy products and influencing.

## 2 x Central Teams

Community Engagement grows our network of supporters around the world.

Strategy and Operations tracks and improves overall programme performance.

## Policy focus

The Internet has delivered huge benefits and shaken up many sectors for the better, but it has also given rise to new risks and policy challenges. We are developing a practical, 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to regulation that works with the reality of the Internet rather than trying to fight it.

## Key themes in our work

Information, news, freedom and responsibility in an online world without borders or gatekeepers

Progressive policy solutions for platform regulation, competition, tax and innovation

Global standards and cooperation, particularly between Europe and the United States

## Selected publications

[A new deal for big tech](#)

[Online harms: bring in the auditors](#)

[Digital policy for a lockdown](#)

[Covid-19 and changing attitudes](#)

## Policy focus

Technology gives governments a huge opportunity to deliver better outcomes for citizens, but only if there is a fundamental rethink of what the state is for and how it is organised. We are developing practical proposals to transform public service delivery, expand choice and promote innovation.

## Key themes in our work

Government as a Platform and new digital infrastructure: registers, APIs, digital identity

Using technology to enable radical public service reform in e.g. education, welfare, policing

Using technology to increase citizen engagement and strengthen representative democracy

## Selected publications

[Reconfiguring the state](#)

[Transforming government for the 21<sup>st</sup> century](#)

[Digital identity: where are we going?](#)

[How Covid-19 is accelerating digital democracy](#)

## Policy focus

Science and innovation are integral to economic and social progress. Despite significant advances over the past century, there are still major opportunities for improvement. We are developing policy proposals to accelerate solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing the world today.

## Key themes in our work

Health tech and bio tech to transform medicine for all and extend healthy human life

Ending the climate crisis and achieving a step-change in global environmental sustainability

Revolutionising our built environment, urban infrastructure and transportation networks

## Selected publications

[Revolutionising health: a human grand challenge](#)

[A coherent tech strategy towards China](#)

[Precision nutrition and public policy](#)

[The industrial revolution, politics and policy](#)

## Policy focus

With the right vision and policy, technology has the potential to transform the lives of people living in developing and emerging nations. We are developing thought leadership and practical proposals for how countries can work together to apply technology for the greater good.

## Key themes in our work

Closing the global digital divide and building out digital infrastructure e.g. cloud, identity

Applied technology to transform healthcare, education and other essential public services

Entrepreneurship and high-tech business growth in key sectors e.g. agriculture, energy, finance

## Selected publications

[The progressive case for universal internet access](#)

[Leveraging tech in the developing world](#)

[Tech and innovation in global education systems](#)

[Africa's development in the age of automation](#)



# Community Engagement Team

## Purpose

The Community Engagement Team broadens and deepens the network of people around our programme. We host events around the world, form partnerships to amplify our message, and generate opportunities for people who share our point of view to support our work.

## Key activities

Conceiving, organising and hosting a global events programme for people in tech, policy and politics

Seeking out and developing opportunities to showcase our policy insights to new audiences

Running an annual associate fellowship programme as a way for professionals to contribute to policy

# Strategy and Operations Team

## Purpose

The Strategy and Operations Team uses data-driven insights to increase the performance and impact of the programme. We do this by building and deploying shared tools, and by gathering and analysing a range of internal and external data to inform strategic decisions.

## Key activities

Guiding long-term strategy and ensuring that there is clarity about objectives and key results

Tracking our activities to generate a data-driven view of productivity, performance and impact

Streamlining our processes and building reusable, internet-first tools to help us get more done

# How we work

## Our philosophy

**Our edge is our ability to operate in both the tech and policy spheres.** Most people sit in one or other world; we deliberately position ourselves on the intersection between them, which gives us our distinctive perspective.

**Our niche is politically actionable policy and strategy.** We combine world-class policy analysis and insight with the practical communication and convening necessary to equip leaders in politics, policy and industry.

**We are builders.** We reject the temptation of superficial commentary and easy clicks in favour of mastering the complexity of each policy topic, opening up the debate and advancing practical solutions.

**Our foundation is exceptional people working together in pursuit of a common vision.** Every person we hire excites us and raises the bar; together we bring purpose to every task and are doing the best work of our lives.

## Our approach

We set quarterly OKRs for each unit, and its members have collective responsibility for achieving them

We try to limit dependencies, so that decisions get made and each group has as much freedom as possible

We work openly, preferring public channels and live links to emails and attachments

We use agile techniques to maintain momentum and stay responsive to external events

We have a common approach to problem solving, so that it is easy for any combination of us to collaborate

We capture data wherever we can and use insights from it to continuously improve our performance

We give and receive feedback early and often, and conduct retrospectives as a matter of course

# The things we value in our people

## Teamwork

- You always act in the best interests of the team
- You give and receive candid, constructive feedback
- You share information openly and proactively

## Integrity

- You are self-aware and authentic at work
- You admit mistakes freely and openly
- You treat everyone with respect, no matter what

## Impact

- You accomplish exceptional, important work
- You have a bias for action
- You demonstrate consistently strong performance

## Courage

- You take smart risks and are open to failure
- You are not afraid to ask for help
- You speak truth to power

## Communication

- You express yourself clearly, out loud and in writing
- You listen well
- You ask questions that move things forward

## Inclusion

- You work well with people from different backgrounds
- You use our diversity to make better decisions
- You step in if someone is being marginalised

## Passion

- You believe in the power of politics to transform lives
- You care intensely about our mission
- You inspire the people around you

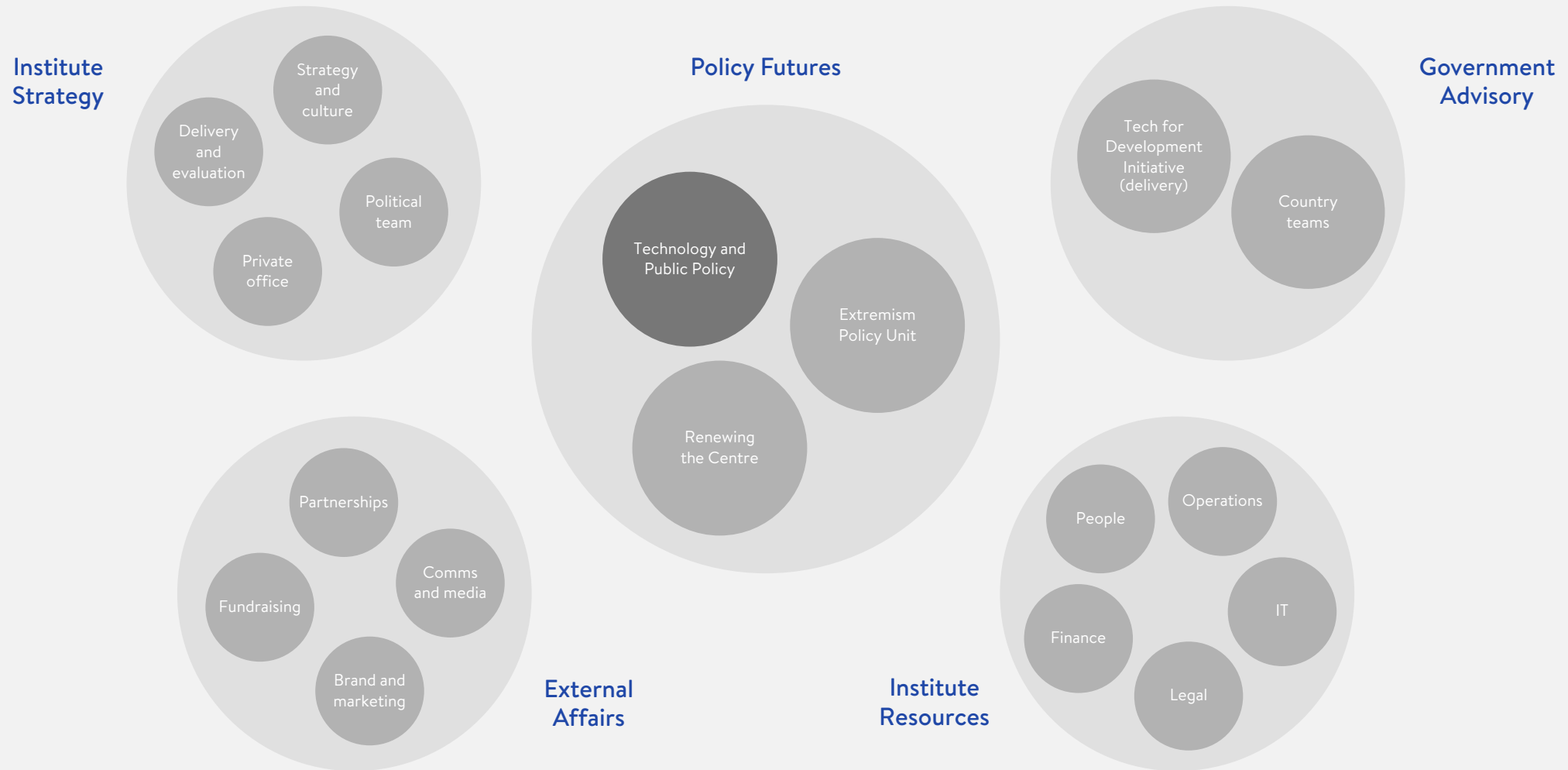
## Insight

- You seek out new ways to solve old problems
- You do the hard work to make complex ideas simple
- You are relentlessly curious

## Determination

- You are resilient under pressure
- You do what it takes to achieve your goals
- You thrive on change

# Where we fit in the wider organisation



# Further information

## Current opportunities

Visit our [careers page](#) for information on current opportunities with us in tech policy.

## The Tony Blair Institute

Visit [institute.global](#) to find out more about the Institute as a whole.