

Public dissatisfaction with politics, parties and democracy is no secret. Hundreds of people and organisations are working on new ways to participate and developing tools to bring together active, fully engaged citizens. DemocracySpace is the place that connects them with each other, to citizens and with our institutions of parliament and government.

Together we can build more effective, relevant and trusted tools for better democracy. Tools that work with each other rather than solving the same problems in a hundred different ways. DemocracySpace does this by being a hub for open, collaborative innovation and coproduction:

- a physical **hub for democracy** to meet, explore and innovate;
- an **ideas and events space** (popping up wherever it's needed) where the sector can talk and learn about what works with a focus on practical action; and
- a **virtual network** connecting the democratic sector across the UK, Europe and globally.

It's about connecting, growing and strengthening democratic innovation, addressing three key challenges:

Innovation It can be difficult to get traction for new democratic tools and processes, we want to create a new ideas and action space to explore, nurture and grow democratic innovation and coproduction, then connect it into our network to make the ideas real.

How we do it: A physical space that can be used both as an ideas hub and accelerator for democratic projects as well as an open venue for democratic conversations and events; we bring together a range of users, thinkers, designers and doers through a curated programme of listening, exploring, innovating and acting (think democracy pop-ups and the d-school at Stanford!).

Network There are a lot of (often small) groups doing fantastic, innovative things with participation and democracy. But there's an imperfect market, where knowledge gets lost, people don't connect and ideas fail to fly because they're pitched in the wrong place at the wrong time. We want to connect up like minds and share democratic innovation, building capacity and developing opportunities for collaboration and active learning

How we do it: We know the network is needed but can be hard to ignite so we start by connecting up our partners around the world through a series of online curated events, we link these in to the Democracy Space so that remote partners can contribute and share too. This quickly adds value to both sides.

Learning We believe that active learning is missing from too many democracy projects, often because of time or resources. This means we're missing out on capacity

building, knowledge transfer and opportunities to scale, share and understand how new participation tools and techniques are impacting on democracy.

How we do it: Everything we do is part of a reflexive action learning process, its designed into the core DNA of the project. We'll encourage an open reflexive culture but also want to learn from what works, connecting researchers into the space and taking what we learn out to the rest of the UK and beyond.

A neutral, open and collaborative space for innovation, experimentation and coproduction, DemocracySpace will build connectedness across the democratic sector.

We accelerate the resonance of ideas and innovation and reduce the friction for the adoption of new democratic tools and processes.

We can't do this from the centre alone, we have to build networks and increase outreach and local presence: we can do this by building short-term Democracy Space pop-ups with strategic partners around the UK (and beyond) – this might be with the UK Parliament in London, the NHS in Birmingham or an academic host in Orkney – where we run curated innovation programmes that are designed to feed back into their communities, to partners and into the host organisations.

DemocracySpace is a collective of organisations and individuals who share a passion for democratic innovation and transformation.

It's about building a social infrastructure for democratic innovation, it's about people, as much about education and capacity building as it is digital and data.

The core team is Democratiser, a leading voice on collaborative democracy, open parliaments and innovation, and the Democratic Society, a network for participation and democratic experiments, which is behind initiatives such as NHS Citizen and Collaborative Government in Scotland. Our partners include the UK Parliament.

We want DemocracySpace to be your space, open to anyone whose work is open and non-partisan. DemocracySpace will have strong global focus and welcome members and collaborators from around the world. We already have a significant expressed interest from a number of potential partners.

What we want you to do:

- **Back us by endorsing what we're doing.**
- **Join us and be there at the start of a new wave of democratic innovation.**
- **Make it happen with in-kind support, sponsorship and funding.**

Visit democracyspace.co.uk or talk to us and find out more:

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