

ABOUT THE TOWNS LEADERSHIP NETWORK

WHAT IS THE TOWNS LEADERSHIP NETWORK?

Many towns across England and Wales face similar challenges to each other when it comes to resilience and cohesion. In some places, narratives of decline have taken hold. Others have seen rapid demographic change. Elsewhere there are public realm issues. These types of challenge can lead to local tensions, rising hate crime, or the unwanted attentions of the far right.

The Towns Leadership Network (TLN) is a new initiative by HOPE not hate Charitable Trust as part of our Hopeful Towns project. It will enable a more joined-up approach between towns, so it is easier to share good ideas and scale up best practice in making our towns confident, optimistic and welcoming places.

WHY JOIN?

Membership of the TLN is completely free. It will allow you to access events and tools, to learn from practitioners and experts on tackling resilience as well as successful interventions and policies. The network will link you with stakeholders in other towns facing similar challenges and will give towns a greater say in national policy, too.

Members of the TLN gives access to the following:

- A **series of online events** throughout 2021, run by national expert practitioners, on topics ranging from place identity to interfaith to tackling the far right;
- **Resources and tools**, which will help community cohesion; you will also have the opportunity to contribute tools of your own;
- An e-library of neighbourhood-level **case studies**, giving examples of successful methods for building resilience;

- An immediate **data read-out** for your town, along with **provision of more extensive data** where necessary, helping members to benchmark their area and to identify places that are working in a similar context;
- Ad hoc advice from **experts and practitioners**, on topics ranging from message design to infrastructure to the use of empty shops;
- A regular **fortnightly newsletter**, 'Talk of the Towns', raising awareness of key policy changes, funding announcements, case studies and research;
- Receipt of our **weekly blog** on towns and cohesion.

WHO CAN JOIN?

It is free to be part of the TLN. All you need is an email address.

- The network is open to all interested stakeholders who are working in a public, private or third sector role, in one or more of English and Wales' 862 towns. There is no limit to the number of members from each town.
- Members consent to be contacted by HOPE not hate Charitable Trust to receive our Talk of the Towns newsletter and other related information.
- The TLN exists to connect, but we will always ask permission before we introduce you to other members.

HOW TO JOIN

- To find out more and join the TLN, visit our website <https://www.hopefultowns.co.uk/network>
- For any further information, email Chris Clarke: clarke@hopenothate.org.uk