



Paul Wheeler, BA, FRSA

Director, Political Skills Forum

Paul Wheeler is the founder of the Political Skills Forum. The forum will work with local councils, political parties, and national agencies to increase the profile of local political leadership and improve the skills of existing and future councillors.

Prior to this Paul was employed by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) as Assistant Director responsible for political governance issues in the Solutions directorate, which included enhancing and supporting the role of elected members in local government.

His responsibilities at the IDeA included:

- the Leadership Academy for members in leadership positions sponsored by BT and now attended by over 500 leading members
- the Modern Members programme which has provided in house development opportunities for over 5000 members
- the Good Employer Award to celebrate those employers who support staff in public service
- a national charter for member development - the first national recognition of the role of elected members.
- the Advanced Leadership Programme for senior managers of ambition and talent in local government
- sponsor of the Centre for Public Scrutiny, which exists to promote the work of scrutiny across the public sector.
- advocate for the Diversity Programme for Black and Asian Managers in Local Government Social Services in association with the Department of Health

Paul has extensive experience of local and central government as well as direct private sector management. He was selected for the 'fast track' Unilever Management Development Scheme and worked for Unilever companies in personnel management.

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Paul was nominated for the Business Education Programme at the London Business School and worked for NFC during its transformation into the largest employee owned private company in the early 1980s. He has direct experience of the political process as a constituency agent. Joint Author of ***In Defence of Councillors***, he is also a member of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's advisory group on political modernisation.

As a Director of the Public Policy Unit, his clients included Rolls Royce, Granada, and The World Bank. He also acted as a policy advisor to Deloitte & Touché, Public Sector Group, Shelter and the Town and Country Finance Issues Group. He has been a school governor and Board Member of One World Action.

A frequent speaker at national conferences Paul is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Freeman of the City of London.

He is also a qualified practitioner of MBTI at Step One and Two.

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