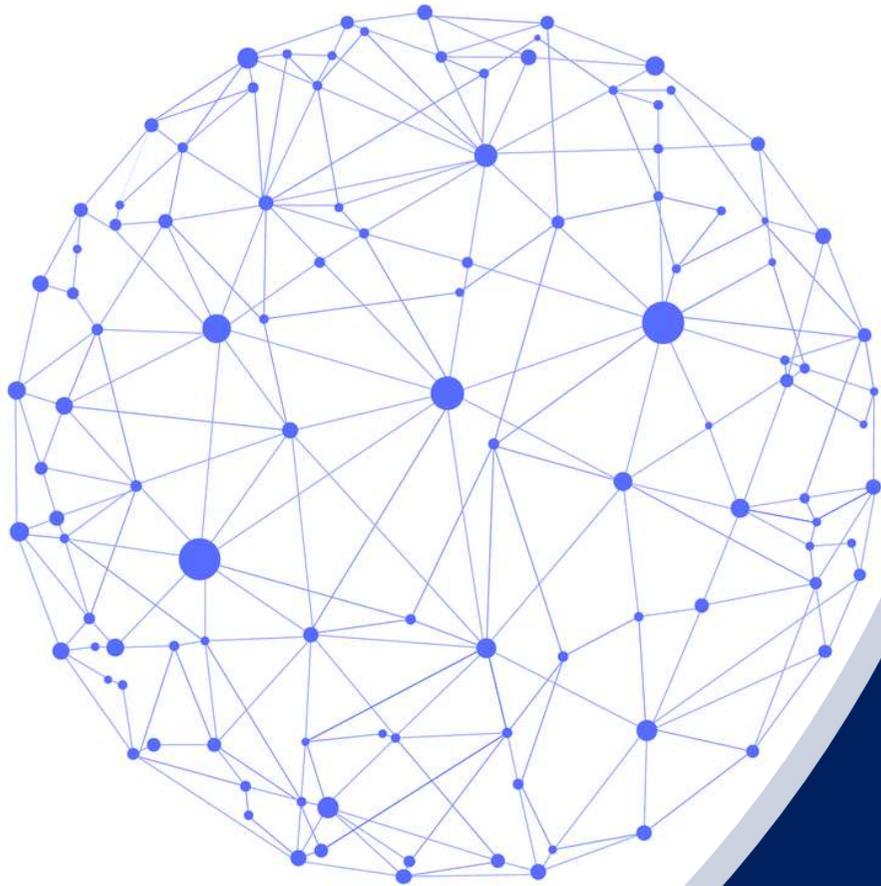


04/11/2021



# Democracy Hubs

An Introduction

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# Rationale

The level of political engagement in the UK is falling

Understanding of how government works is poor

People have no face-to-face place to discuss politics

Hard to 'learn' about politics if you aren't into book learning

Generational divides are growing

Online 'manufactured' culture wars are forcing us apart

# What is a Democracy Hub?

- A local neutral, non-party-political space
- A learning resource to understand how power and democracy operates
- Somewhere for discussion on
  - how we are governed,
  - what needs to change, and
  - how to make change happen.
- Somewhere to campaign
- A place to invite speakers to discuss both local and national issues

# Who Owns Your Hub?

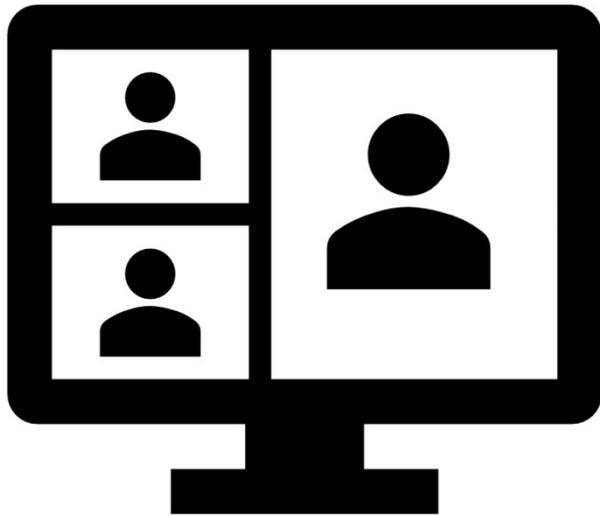
- Reboot is launching the concept of Hubs and we will support but your group 'owns' its own hub.
- You choose what you want to talk about.
- You choose who can visit and who can stay in the group.
- You choose what materials you want to offer.
- You choose which candidates to support and endorse.



## How to get going?

- Download the '**Democracy Hub Toolkit**' which covers:
  - The Rules of Engagement you need to adopt
  - How to recruit to start a hub
  - How to run your first meeting
  - What research do you need to start informing the hub on local affairs?
  - Find out about your MP (see our suggested great sources of information)
  - Ask your people what they feel comfortable to talk on
  - Share that expertise and allow people to ask questions
  - Agree on a common place to share research and information
  - Download the '*How to Register*' toolkit – Could you run a street stall?

# Sample: Meeting Agenda



- Catchup on local and national issues
- Key MP & Council actions review
- Review an article or video on the topic of the week
- Discussion on the topic
- Discuss how this information impacts on what the group does
- Planned actions, events and supporting what is going on nationally
- Any other business

A hand holding a pen pointing at a target. The target has concentric circles and numbers. The background is a gradient of blue.

# Potential Initial Work Streams

## Education

- What is an MP supposed to do?
- What is government supposed to do?
- What do political parties do?
- How do parties & manifestos work?

## Local

- Needs Analysis – what's missing?
- Your Council Assessment – what should be the priorities?
- Your MP Assessment – how do they vote? Do they listen? What do you want them to work on?

## Engagement

- Design a local 'Register to Vote' campaign – what are the best places to catch people?
- Who is the 'best' PPC candidate – what do they need to get elected?
- Bring out the vote on polling day

# Focus Options

## National

- What do the parties think on your key topics?
- How did your constituency vote last time?
- Do you know the party representatives in your region?
- Are the parties competing or working together locally?

## Local

- Is your MP serving the community?
- Do they reflect the views of voters or their party?
- Do they vote and attend the House of Commons regularly?
- Are their expenses reasonable and well spent?



# Topics to Discuss

Make your own list of hot topics



# Democracy Q & A

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What do the levels of government do? – Local, National & UK

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What type of democracy do we have?

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What voting system do we use? Are there alternative options?

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What is the role of the House of Lords?

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How is a government formed?

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Can you get rid of a corrupt government or MP?

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What are the expected Standards in Public Life?

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How is tax-payers money spent?

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Who is allowed to vote at each level of government?

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How are political parties funded? How many members do they have?

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What is the relationship between the UK Parliament and the Devolved Regions?

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Do we have a written British Constitution?

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# Big Questions to Discuss

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Why do Scotland and Wales have Parliaments but England doesn't?

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How do Britain and the nation states work together?

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What should our relationship with the European Union become – competitive? Friends and allies? Closer?

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Why is there no way of removing a corrupt Prime Minister?

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What are the rights of British people and where can I find out about them?

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Why do we need such a big House of Lords? Who appoints the Lords?

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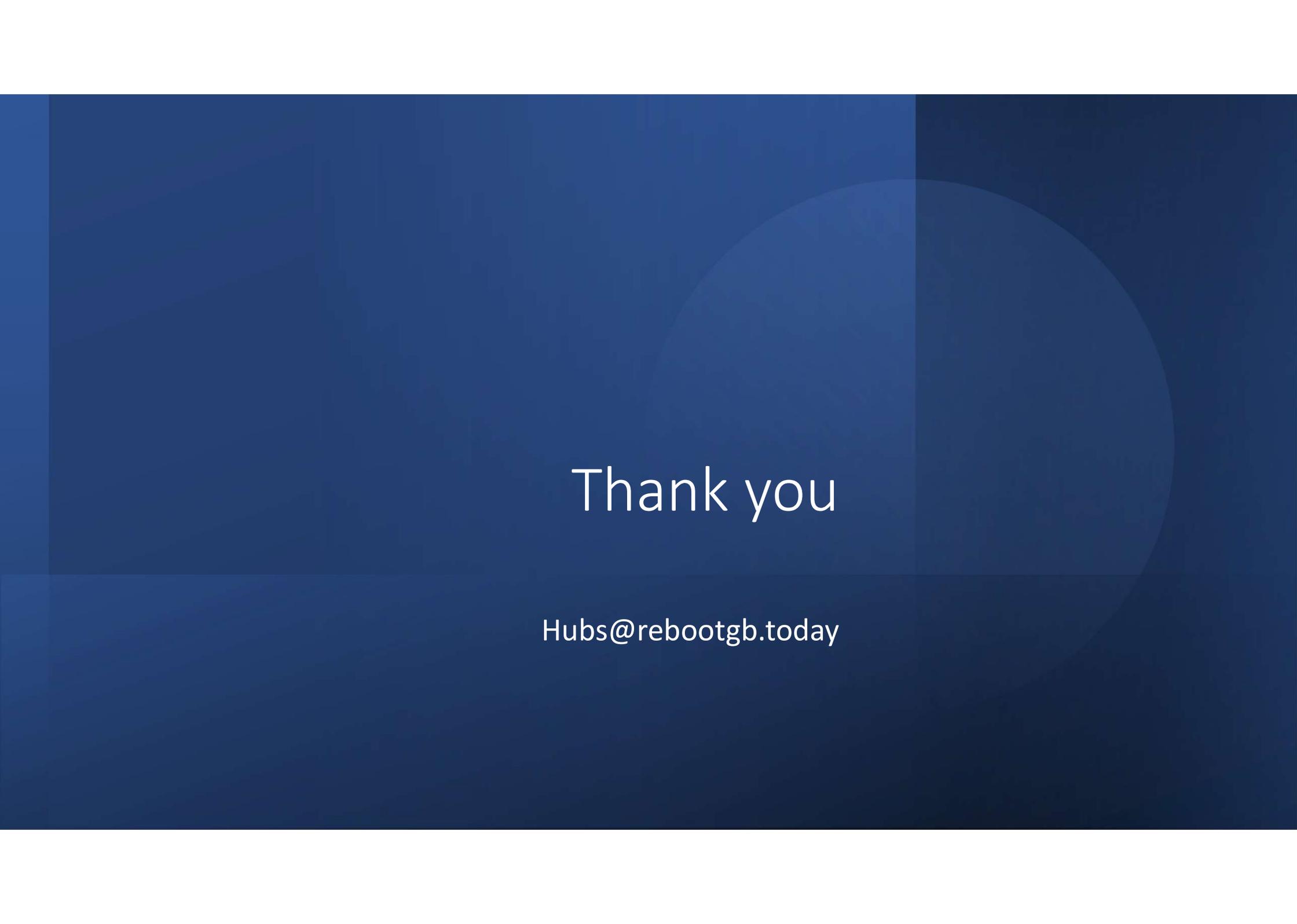
What is the real role of the monarchy?

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Why do we have a First Past the Post voting system?

# Summary





Thank you

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