



Association of  
**Democratic Services**  
Officers

## **Board Member Profile**

### **Diane Sims: ADSO Director of Communications**

I'm currently Engagement and Communications Lead for Democracy and Place Based Working at Kirklees Council. I've worked in local government for over twenty years and I'm a strong advocate for local democracy.

I bring extensive experience that will help ADSO to grow, including experience developing web and digital communications, designing innovative approaches to engagement, planning strategic communications, and developing democratic innovations.

I had a significant role in the landmark [Kirklees Democracy Commission](#) (ADSO special award winner for outstanding work promoting local democracy). I'm proud to lead on [Shaped by People](#) – a shared strategic goal for active citizenship – and the pioneering [Democracy Friendly Schools](#) programme, which involves young citizens in civic life.

Through my strong commitment to working in the open, I've helped to highlight the vital work which goes on within councils (often unseen) to ensure everyone can participate in local decision making. I'm keen to engage with ADSO members and to highlight their valuable work.

My strong networks across the democracy sector will help ADSO to grow its profile and relationships. I'm co-founder of the [Notwestminster](#) network, creating connections between people who are working to improve our democracy. I'm also a member of the [UK Democracy Network](#) Steering Group.