



**Transforming UK Public Services: driving change**

19 July 2010

*The Prime Minister has promised to ‘completely change the way the country is run.’*

*The Chancellor has made it clear that – with the exception of health and international development – public services must cut their budgets by a quarter over the next four years.*

*These radical changes can only be achieved if publicly funded organisations:*

- ***Start with a far-sighted investigation of future challenges***
- ***Work with stakeholders to design radical delivery options for the future***
- ***Use objective, independent analysis as the basis for difficult decisions.***

*River Path helps clients address these challenges through a package of services that can be delivered to extremely tight deadlines, and within current HMT spending guidelines.*

# Driving Change

## Futures Analysis

*Analytical review* – exhaustive examination of existing evidence base

*Red teaming* – exploring strategic uncertainty and road testing responses

## Consultation

*Outreach* – online, telephone, face-to-face tools to reach large numbers of key stakeholders at high speed and low cost.

## Strategic Review

*Outcome analysis* – modelling historical track record of delivery against changing strategic need.

*Options for change* – ranked options for investment, reform, reduction or withdrawal.

River Path has extensive experience delivering research and strategic services to the UK public sector.

We act as a pathfinder for clients, combining foresight, consultation, and rigorous analysis – while working at high speed and to tight budgets.

We have tailored the following range of services to the challenges currently facing the UK public sector.

Our **futures analysis** brings together a small ‘red team’ to help clients clear the roadblocks they face as they attempt to plan – at high speed – for a strategic environment they do not yet fully understand.

Our **rapid-fire consultations** allow clients to reach out to their key stakeholders in a substantive, but cost effective, way.

Our accelerated **strategic reviews** help public bodies set priorities for ongoing investment, providing independent validation for their decisions.

# Delivery options

All projects are modular, with a series of elements brought together according to client need. We design projects using a blend of offline, online, and face-to-face techniques, with the aim of maximising reach and speed, while rigorously controlling costs.

## 1 Desk research

*A tailored digest of all existing data and evidence (published resources, market research, evaluation results, previous reviews etc).*

## 2 Online surveys

*Structured contributions from a wide circle of stakeholders and opinion formers, with analysis of quantitative and qualitative data.*

## 3 In-depth interviews

*Exploration of strategic challenges and options for change with senior internal and external stakeholders.*

## 4 Round tables

*Facilitated seminars with stakeholders and/or thought leaders to create a shared understanding of problems and solutions.*

## 5 Review and reporting

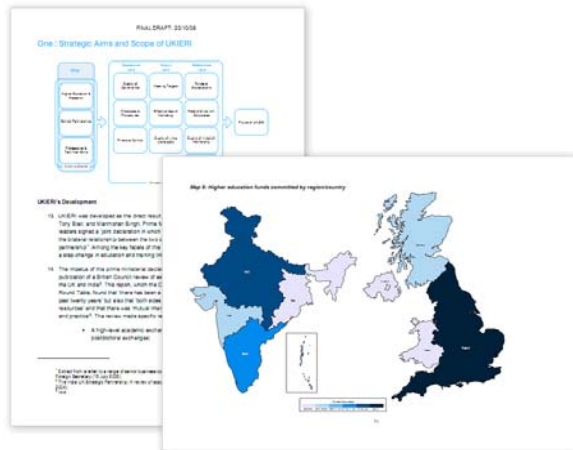
*A graphical review of analysis, findings, and recommendations, in a format tailored to facilitate decision making.*

## 6 StrategyLab

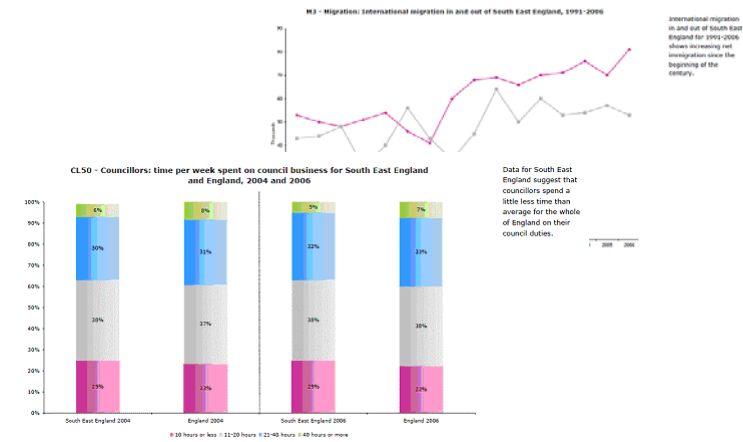
*An internal session based on a detailed presentation of results, with structured discussion of implications and action points.*

# Stylish reporting

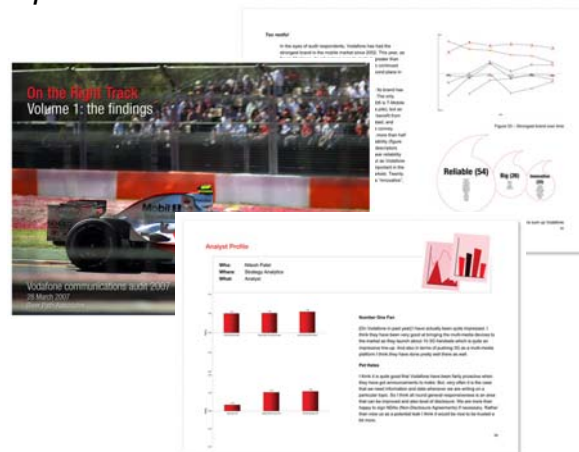
For the UK/India Education & Research Initiative



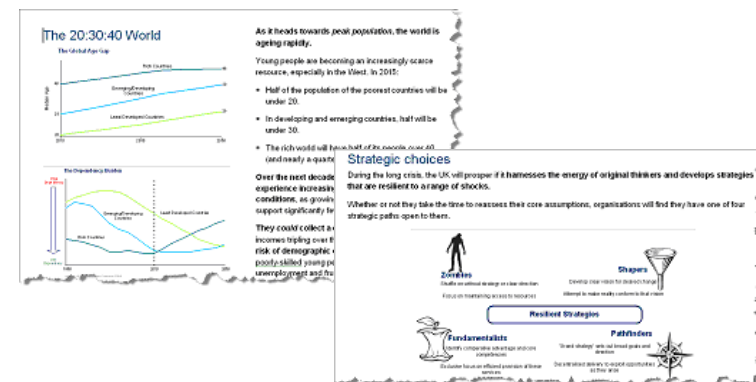
For the South East England Development Agency



For Vodafone plc



For the British Council



## **About us**

River Path is a knowledge consultancy that provides research, strategic counsel, and creative solutions to large organisations in the public and private sector.

**Victoria Collis** is River Path's Managing Director, and a highly experienced strategist and evaluator. **David Steven** is a River Path director and a non-Resident Fellow at New York University's Center on International Cooperation. **Alex Evans** is a River Path Associate, with extensive experience in the UK public sector.

## **UK public sector clients**

British Council, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for International Development, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Forestry Commission, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, Government Office for the South East, and South East England Development Agency.

## **Our most recent publications**

*Organising Online: what do digital social networking tools mean for engagement and cohesion in our societies?*  
Victoria Collis and Matt Kent, Government Office for the South East, 2010

*The World in 2020: geopolitical and trends analysis*, David Steven, River Path Associates, 2010

*Organizing for Influence: UK Foreign Policy in an Age of Uncertainty*, David Steven and Alex Evans  
Chatham House, London, 2010

**To discuss your project, please email [victoria@riverpath.com](mailto:victoria@riverpath.com) or call +44 1202 849993**

