

HISTORY OF SLCC

A BRIEF TIMELINE OF EVENTS

● **1972**

THE BEGINNING OF SLCC

SLCC was founded during a breakout session at a National Association of Local Councils (NALC) conference in the basement of Central Hall, Westminster on 2 November 1972

Originally, there were around 50 members working as a 'self-support' group

● **1973**

MEMBERSHIP INCREASING

Membership stood at 510

● **1974**

MEMBERSHIP ON THE RISE

Membership increased to 700 by July

● **1975**

FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Successful National Conference held in Scarborough, with a mixture of 'business sessions' and social events over three days

Membership stood at 1,300 by July

● **1989**

NEW BRANDING

New logo introduced on the membership magazine, which was called 'The Journal'

● **1997**

THE CLERK CHANGES

January saw a historic alteration to the The Clerk magazine, with the appointment of Mike Elliott as editor - the format changed from A5 to A4

● **2001**

SLCC'S FIRST CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The first full-time chief executive, Nick Randle OBE was appointed (2001 – 2013)

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT

In 2001, the National Executive Council's (NEC) decision to appoint professional officers and to invest in new services resulted in SLCC growing rapidly and membership increased to the point where members now serve over 5,000 councils

CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION (CILCA)

Launch of CiLCA

● **2005**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME FURTHER DEVELOPS

The first Larger Councils' Conference took place - now called Leadership/Management in Action

● **2006**

THE START OF SLCC ENTERPRISES

In December, the NEC agreed to create SLCC Enterprises Ltd 'to organise and run SLCC's extensive conference programme'

WORKING WITH YOUR COUNCIL (WWYC)

Launch of WWYC

● **2007**

INSTITUTE OF LOCAL COUNCIL MANAGERS ESTABLISHED

The Institute of Local Council Managers (ILCM) was established. Members were required to undertake ongoing training measured by Continual Professional Development (CDP) points in order to continue in membership. Members and Fellows of the Institute were entitled to use the letters MILCM and FILCM

Bryan Metcalf announced the launch of the mentoring project in the May edition of The Clerk, with the aim of reducing the turnover of clerks within the profession

The first Practitioners' Conference took place

● **2012**

JOINT WORKING

The first joint SLCC and One Voice Wales (OVW) event took place

● **2013**

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND WAYS OF WORKING

Howard Midworth became chief executive (2013 – 2015)

SLCC moved from a largely paper-based organisation to more sustainable electronic forms of communication with emails, memory sticks, and a new website

Working with your Council (WWYC) course updated, made available online, and re-launched as Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA)

The first students registered for Community Governance delivered by SLCC

2014

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

First strategic partnership document signed with NALC

2015

INCREASE IN MEMBER SERVICES

As member services increased it was determined that about 5% of those activities were deemed to be 'trade union' activities, principally (a) providing employment advice to members in dispute with their councils and supporting them at internal hearings; and (b) from time to time working with NALC and OVV to agree the model contract of employment or other national terms and conditions

Because SLCC provided these services, the certification officer deemed SLCC to be a trade union

SLCC was obliged to comply with the legislation on trade unions, including the need for its NEC and its chief executive to be elected by ballot of all members. However, SLCC was never affiliated to the Trades Union Congress (TUC), nor did it have any political affiliations, or take part in the annual pay bargaining for local government employees

SLCC received renewed legal advice that it was lawful for councils to pay subscriptions to a professional body which was also a trade union. However, the NEC identified a potential risk to SLCC's financial future, should some councils decide not to pay such subscriptions

Richard Walden FSLCC became the interim chief executive (2015 – 2017)

2016

CREATION OF A SEPARATE TRADE UNION

By January, it had become clear that the need for a chief executive to be elected, with no certainty of the result, was a major impediment to encouraging a wide range of applications for the vacant position

NEC therefore brought forward the consideration of proposed constitutional changes to establish SLCC as a purely professional body and create the Association of Local Council Clerks (ALCC), an independent trade union

2016

ONLINE BOOKINGS

'Your SLCC' launched - a new way to renew/apply for membership, book events, and log CPD points online. The innovation introduced a convenient, self-service website

2017

SLCC BECAME A LIMITED COMPANY

Following a resolution carried unanimously at National Conference, SLCC became a limited company on 25 January 2017, with a Board of Directors replacing the NEC

Rob Smith became chief executive (2017-present)

Signing of the second partnership document with NALC and the International Charters in the Brussels Symposium

Training began being delivered via webinar (the first topic being GDPR)

2018

PROFESSIONAL OFFER EXPANDS

Launch of a new venture - Local Council Consultancy (LCC), a consultancy arm drawing on a wealth of knowledge, experience, and talent in the sector to deliver a professional, accessible, and high-quality service

A new partnership with De Montfort University (DMU) delivers the Community Governance qualification

2019

A VIRTUAL WORLD

New SLCC website launched featuring a new 'responsive' design. It included a revamped advice library with over 600 advice, guidance, and model documents, as well as the e-forum

The ILCM was merged into SLCC to create the new Professional Development Scheme (PDS) featuring two new membership levels - Principal and Fellow

The first students complete the Community Governance degree through SLCC and graduate

2020

CONFERENCING VIRTUALLY

The first-ever virtual conference was held (National Conference) attracting over 670 delegates

2022

SLCC TODAY

SLCC continues as a vibrant and focussed organisation which helps local council officers to develop and grow professionally to better serve councils and the communities they support

The formation of the PDS and the comprehensive CPD structure further raises the profile of a profession, which plays an increasingly significant role in the local council sector