

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

AN INTRODUCTION FOR COUNCILLORS

Develop your career, support your council and strengthen your community

Community Governance covers the ways in which people and organisations work together and independently, making decisions for the benefit of a local community. A range of qualifications are available awarded by De Montfort University, Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4), Foundation Degree (Level 5) and Honours Degree (Level 6)



HOW WILL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE (LEVEL 4) BENEFIT YOUR COUNCIL?

Ensure your council is operating according to the law

Your council can be more confident that it is operating according to the law with sound procedures and financial practices.

Innovative ideas to better support your community

Students bring new ideas back to your council to support its role in serving its communities and working with the planning system.

Tailored to your council

Students can specialise in subjects of particular concern to your council.

A qualification recognised in law

The advanced knowledge builds on the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), is recognised in law as a qualification for clerks and offers your council significant returns on its investment.



WHO CAN TAKE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE?

Any officer whose council would benefit from a deeper understanding of how local councils work – especially officers with CiLCA or new officers coming into the profession. The qualification is also open to councillors.

VISIT WWW.SLCC.CO.UK/COMMUNITY-GOVERNANCE OR
EMAIL COMMGOV@SLCC.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

SLCC
For Local Council Professionals

HOW DOES COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE WORK?

Level 4 takes two years of part-time study from February to October each year. It is studied by distance learning with three 24-hour study days a year and a range of online tutorials led by our team of fully qualified and experienced professionals.

Assignments are designed to help students learn and are practical and directly relevant to your local council. Students take four 15-credit modules a year on the following topics.

- ➔ Community Governance
- ➔ Local council law & procedures (double module)
- ➔ Local council finance
- ➔ A choice of two community modules
- ➔ A choice of two planning modules
- ➔ A choice of two management modules
- ➔ A module offering a specialist choice

HOW CAN THE COUNCIL HELP?

As an employer, the council can help to support a student taking Community Governance.

You can:

- ➔ Motivate your student; being motivated is a key to success.
- ➔ Understand that the cost is an investment; it is rewarded from the outset.
- ➔ Help your student to manage their workload; too many demands can hinder achievement.
- ➔ Provide and protect study time if the employee's hours allow it.
- ➔ Encourage your student by showing an interest in their progress on the course.
- ➔ Respect your officer's advice; the aim is to help your council do its best for the community.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The annual fee is £3150 making a total of £6300 for Level Four. This is excellent value for money at two thirds of the cost of most university courses. The SLCC also offers courses at levels 5 and 6.



*"In order to fully support a parish council and to make sure that it fulfils all of its obligations and duties whilst staying completely within the law and code of ethics a level of training in Community Governance for the clerk is **not a luxury it is a necessity.***

By their very nature parish councils are generally made up of lay people with good intentions but little knowledge of the legislative and financial framework in which their council operates. I certainly believe that in Earls Barton we have benefitted greatly from the clerk's training and qualifications in this area. The clerk is the only paid official that a parish has and therefore a lot of responsibility is placed upon that post holder. To ask them to do it without training would be unreasonable.

Additionally, the clerk provides continuity where councillors come and go after elections and whilst some members may be very experienced and knowledgeable in the ways of local government they will not always be there so that level of training from their clerk to underpin their decisions is vital. It has regularly proved to be so in Earls Barton.

*We would recommend every parish council to encourage their clerk to take up Community Governance training year on year. **It is an investment in the clerk as well as a benefit to the council.***

Cllr Nick Chapman, Earls Barton Parish Council

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