

SLCC

For Local Council Professionals

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Develop your career, support your council and strengthen your community



DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER

PROSPECTUS 2022



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A CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE (LEVEL 4)

Choose your qualification – students are able to achieve the Level 4 qualification without pressure to proceed to Levels 5 and 6.

How you study: The course is part-time and distance learning but there are up to three face-to-face events each year and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

WHAT YOU STUDY:

YEAR 1

SLCC1010 Local Council Law & Procedures (30 points)

Study the law, procedures, powers and duties for the management of town, community and parish councils in England and Wales. Find out how other councils operate.

SLCC1002 Community Engagement (15 points)

Learn a range of principles and techniques for encouraging participation, recognising diversity, gathering community views and working in partnership.

OR

SLCC1003 Community Profile (15 points)

You study a local community in depth. The features of a specific community of place are investigated and the characteristics of the locality (place) and community (people) are described.

Modules 1002 & 1003 may be combined to create a new module 'SLCC1012 Build Community' - tbc

SLCC1006 Managing People (15 points)

Consider formal aspects of managing people such as employment law, recruitment and human resource policies. Explore ways of developing staff or councillors and reflect on the impact of personalities and the management of conflict.

OR

SLCC1007 Managing Projects (15 points)

Learn about project management for people working in local communities. You consider a practical project management lifecycle and tools for managing and evaluating the process.

YEAR 2

SLCC1001 Community Governance (15 points)

Focus on community leadership, community engagement and democratic processes. Consider the structures, functions and values of community governance, and the practices of stakeholders and policies affecting local communities.

SLCC1011 Local Council Finance (15 points)

Learn about the financial management of councils in England and Wales according to statutory proper practices. Consider the management of risks to public money and the statutory requirements for transparency.

SLCC1004 Community-led Planning (15 points)

Explore different techniques for community-led planning with emphasis on statutory neighbourhood plans and non-statutory plans. We suggest a range of tools for consultation, participation and collecting evidence.

OR

SLCC1005 The Planning System (15 points)

Learn how the planning system in England and Wales impacts on local communities. Identify how the system works and examine power and influence in the system.

SLCC1008 Organisational Governance (15 points)

Your aim is to strengthen the governance of your chosen organisation. You focus on two topics such as governance models, organisational structure, performance management, decision making processes, policies and communications strategy.

OR

SLCC1009 Reflective Practice (15 points)

You evaluate what you learn from a CPD experience or from activities undertaken in your paid or voluntary work. You then show how your learning will be applied to your work or community activity in future.

The tuition fee for each qualification is £6,300 (£3,150 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £375 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course) which will be deducted from the final invoice. Unfortunately, student finance is not currently available for Level 4.

A FOUNDATION DEGREE IN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE (LEVEL 5)

How you study: The course is part-time and distance learning but there are up to three face-to-face events each year and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

WHAT YOU STUDY:

YEAR 1

SLCC2001 Communities in the Political System (30 points)

Strengthen your understanding of the place of local communities in the political system. Examine the concept of a liberal democracy and the nature of community-based localism. Learn theories explaining power in the political system to help you analyse power and influence affecting local communities.

SLCC2003 Sustainable Communities (15 points)

Review complex, interrelated aspects of sustainability in a specific community. Take a strategic view of ways in which the competing demands of economic, social/ cultural and environmental factors affecting the community can be reconciled.

SLCC2005 Learning in a New Setting (SLCC2006 Learning from a Workplace Project is a last resort alternative) (15 points)

Investigate the principles and practices of community governance in a setting that is significantly different from your own. Analyse and compare community governance in the destination country with your understanding of the UK (a field visit, normally outside the UK, is organised over three to five days.)

YEAR 2

SLCC2002 Community Research (15 points)

Develop investigative skills using questionnaires, interviews and focus groups. Examine the benefits and pitfalls of different research methods to find out what people think.

SLCC2004 The Manager's Role (30 points)

Investigate and evaluate the strategic role of a manager working with one or more local communities. Draw up a management plan for a local community project.

SLCC2007 Community Governance Book Review (15 points)

Discover a deeper understanding of community governance through reading and learn the basis for informed debate about current issues.

'Not 'just another qualification', Community Governance (CG) develops your ability as a professional clerk to lead and advise your council, generating confidence to move forward to meet new challenges. The modules are structured to expand previous legislative and procedural knowledge at Level 4, and to develop critical thinking, analytical, and leadership skills at Level 5.

The tutors understand the life/work/study pressures on the CG student, are always supportive and answer queries in a timely and detailed manner. If you/your council are concerned about the cost, consider it an investment that will repay way beyond monetary value!

Angie Hurren PSLCC, Broadclyst Parish Council

The tuition fee for each qualification is £6,300 (£3,150 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £375 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course) which will be deducted from the final invoice. Level 5 students can apply for student finance (if they have studied Level 4.) Contact commgov@slcc.co.uk for more information.

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AN HONOURS DEGREE (LEVEL 6)

How you study: The course is part-time and distance learning but there are up to three face-to-face events each year and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

WHAT YOU STUDY:

YEAR 1

SLCC3001 Power & Politics in Community Governance (30 points)

Examine the intricate political context that has an impact on local community governance and questions the effectiveness of the UK's representative democracy at all levels. Focus on the complex and varied relationships between different tiers of government. Explore the tensions between a centralist government and localism and between confrontational party politics, consensus and coalition.

SLCC3003 Management & leadership (30 points)

Obtain a practical experience of management and leadership. Students work in a team to organise and manage a thought-provoking training seminar relevant to the work of parish, community and town (or local) councils. Present your interim findings from your research project.

YEAR 2

SLCC3002 Delivering Public Services (30 points)

Examine the detailed and complex knowledge and planning required for the effective delivery of public services for a local community. It explores the meaning, purpose, funding and perception of public services. Consider how to explain public services to a public audience.

SLCC3004 Community Governance Research Project (30 points)

Examine a specific community governance topic that has an impact on the local community or the parish, town, community (local) council sector. Complete a major piece of research that shows originality within the local council sector.

"I have just completed year 1 of Community Governance Level 4 and have learned so much already. Whilst CILCA gives you a great grounding in the role of the clerk, this takes it to another level. I feel much more confident about the advice I offer councillors and how best to support them in running the council. I was hesitant about starting this, but have no regrets – whilst it is hard work it has been thoroughly enjoyable. Meeting fellow clerks on the same journey has been an enormous support, and continues to be with the day to day queries that are part of our normal day in the office."

Samantha Heynes PSLCC, Cuckfield Parish Council

'The Community Governance courses are a must for any professional clerk. They have been invaluable in building my skills, experience and confidence, and have also been a great way to meet other clerks.'

Sheridan Jacklin-Edward PSLCC, Burnham Parish Council

'Having been a town clerk for 15 years, I naively thought that I knew about most council business and procedures but this course has been enlightening, interesting and rewarding. I have learnt so much in the past 18 months and have used this to improve business and policies at my Town Council. I have actively put into practice new skills, examples being the introduction of a new employee and councillor training policy along with a review of the Council's community engagement programme. Don't be under any illusion, it is hard work, if it were easy, the degree would be handed out like smarties. You have to put in the time and energy but the reward is a more knowledgeable, informed and professional clerk.'

Lisa Courtney, Saffron Walden Town Council

"Having undertaken a degree straight out of sixth-form, the last thing on my mind would be to do another. However, with the flexible learning style of distance learning and subjects directly related to my job I thought – why not? At Level 4 of the Community Governance Degree, the Local Council Law & Procedures Module has enabled me to tighten up on our processes. As a fairly new manager, the Managing People module has been me feel more confident in tackling staff issues whilst at the same time making sure we do right by our staff. No one could have predicted the Covid-19 pandemic but I think everyone, from us students to the teaching staff have adapted really well and despite not being able to meet in person, we have had access to them through virtual tutor groups and module seminars and even managed the odd couple of virtual socials (without the hangover!) – if anyone has the chance to start their Community Governance journey and are hesitant – don't be – the support you get, the friends you make and the knowledge you gain is second to none!"

Andrew McKenzie PSLCC, Town Clerk, Dawlish Town Council

The tuition fee for each qualification is £6,300 (£3,150 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £375 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course) which will be deducted from the final invoice. Level 6 students can apply for student finance (if they have studied Level 4 and 5.) Contact commgov@slcc.co.uk for more information.

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