

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 (DMU), Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4), Foundation Degree (Level 5), Honours Degree (Level 6) and MA in Public Leadership (Level 7)



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?

It will take two years to complete the Level 4, Certificate of Higher Education in Community Governance. The SLCC academic year runs from February – November each year. Community Governance is a distance learning programme – you study at home or at work and we will provide course materials and lots of pointers to help you study.

- Attend three, 24-hour study days during your study year to learn from other students and experienced tutors
- Join the online space to access resource and discussion forums
- Benefit from access to local tutorials and webinars
- Complete your coursework – usually one or two projects per module. Each module involves an average of 150 hours of study over the year (or approximately 3 hours a week). This includes private study time, attendance at teaching events and time spent learning from what you do in the workplace
- 120 CPD points per Level or 60 CPD points per year of study

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.

"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"

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The tuition fee for level 4 is £6,800* (£3,400 per year) normally paid in instalments over two years with an initial deposit of £400 (the deposit covers administration and registration process for starting the course and will be deducted from the first year's fees). There will be an additional charge (subject to change annually) towards residential study days. Charges are available to view on the website. *Fees usually increase annually. Unfortunately, student finance is not currently available for Level 4.