

1.20

Member Induction and Training

Training sounds a chore but in fact Community Councils in the past have felt the benefit of attending training.

Training is an opportunity for members to build their own individual skills, for the community council to acquire new skill as a collective and also add to their capacity to engage effectively with other organisations for the benefit of the community.

During the term of office there may be several training events that you are asked to attend, these could include Planning and Licensing, conflict resolution and mediation, promoting your community council and it's work, community engagement, listening and responding to your community, funding, local development plan and general advice on Community Councils, to name but a few.

It is important that you try to attend these training events to better serve your communities and also to enhance your personal development.

Training opportunities can be made available on a 1:1, Group, or Community Council basis and will be appropriate to the needs of the individual or group.

If you are working with other groups, agencies or partners in your Community you may identify a need for support and training. If you have any training requirements please speak to the CCLO in the first instance.

Training and support opportunities will be sent out on an ongoing basis as part of this section of the handbook. In addition, national events may be available which highlight specific topics or issues relevant to Community Council.



Scottish Community Councils Website

The Scottish Community Councils website <https://www.communitycouncils.scot/> is a valuable resource to community Councils across Scotland. The website is managed by Improvement Services on behalf of the Scottish Government.

A short video on [what is a Community Council](#) provides a short overview of Community Councils and their statutory purpose. Further information on the website covers the following topics

- [Being a Community Councillor](#)
- [What are the Roles in a Community Council](#)
- [The Community Council Framework](#)
- [Consultation on Planning](#)
- [Community Engagement](#)
- [Digital Engagement](#)

Find a Community Council

An interactive map locating Community Councils across Scotland and which local authority area they are in.

The Work of Community Council

The work of community councils varies across the country, each organisation is different and the work they carry out is very much dependant on the needs of the communities they serve. This section showcases the work of Community Councils by including information on community council led projects.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 we have seen the great resilience work that community councils have been involved in, many examples of their support for their communities has been included on these pages.

Improvement Services are keen to showcase the work of as many community councils as possible so please let them know about your community council projects, your work during COVID-19 or anything else you think we should know about, you can e-mail to scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk.

News

This section covers the latest news that may be of interest to Community Councils from Scottish Government and Partner Agencies. This can include funding sources, consultations, Awards and much more.

Events

This section highlights events and activities that community councils may be interested in and that are relevant to Scottish community councils. If you know of an event that might be relevant to community councils and you would like to add it to this calendar, please email scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk.

Ideas

In this section you will find useful guidance and showcases that highlight the great and varied work of community councils. No two community councils are the same so what works for one might not work for another. This space is for finding inspiration and for collecting ideas and advice.

If you have something to contribute to this section, please email scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk.

Help and Support

There are many organisations which can provide advice and support for community councils and other voluntary groups. There 5 categories in this Help and Support section, all with relevant and approachable organisations that may be useful to community councils.

It is important that community councils engage effectively with their community. The [Engagement](#) section has links to organisations that have helpful guides, training courses, and other advice on how to encourage community involvement and participation.

Gaining funding can be a great way to get a project rolling and can help you make a real impact in your community. Look at the [Funding](#) section to see funding opportunities for community councils and links to organisations that frequently have grants available.

As the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland, it is important that community councils are aware of the work done by the different governing bodies in Scotland. The [Governance](#) section links to governing bodies that community councils should know.

Community councils have the right to be consulted on planning applications and the right to comment on licensing applications. The [Planning and Licensing](#) section can help you find organisations that can support and advise you on planning and licensing matters.

There are also [Other Community Resources](#) which could be useful to you and your community council. They provide varying services, from being able to put you in contact with Development Trusts and social enterprises in your area, to offering advice and training opportunities.

Free Online Courses for Community Councils



The Improvement Service and the Open University (OU) in Scotland are working together to offer all community council volunteers the opportunity to upskill and reskill using OU courses.

Throughout the pandemic the Improvement Service's Community Councils (CCs) project supported by Scottish Government has been trying to find ways to support CCs as they adapt to new ways of working and the OU was one of the organisations we reached out to and asked how they could help.

We asked Scotland's CCs what skills they would find helpful to have or improve on and we are delighted to present these free online courses which the OU have tailored to suit the needs of Scottish CCs.

Many CCs have fully embraced the digital journey during the pandemic and there are courses here to help you continue that journey such as using Microsoft Teams and succeeding in a digital world. In addition to digital skills there are also courses on a range of other topics that community councillors have suggested including finance, fundraising, community and business skills.

These courses are totally free - all community councillors have to do is **register for a free account** and then you can begin your learning journey with the OU.

The OU has many courses to choose from but if you would like to suggest additional topics for training not covered that would benefit CCs in Scotland please let us know by e-mail: scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk

So what are you waiting for? Brush up on your skills or learn some brand new ones with the OU, just click on the link below to begin your journey:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-supportOU-CC>