

# SLCC

For Local Council Professionals ®

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Develop your career, support your  
council and strengthen your community



DE MONTFORT  
UNIVERSITY  
LEICESTER



# PROSPECTUS 2026



X #SLCCCommGov

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🌐 [www.slcc.co.uk/community-governance](http://www.slcc.co.uk/community-governance)

# CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (LEVEL 4), THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

**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 with up to three face-to-face events each year, and many opportunities to meet your tutors and fellow students online.

**Start date:** 1 February 2026

## WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

### **SLCC1001 Community Governance (15 credits)**

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.

### **SLCC1006 Managing People (15 credits)**

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 credits)**

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.

### **SLCC1004 Community-led Planning (15 credits)**

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 credits)**

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 credits)**

Reflect on current practice to strengthen the governance of an organisation such as a community group, charity or local council. Investigate new ideas and recommend improvements.

### **SLCC1010 Local Council Law & Procedures (30 credits)**

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.

### **SLCC1012 Building Communities (15 credits)**

Study a local community in depth and identify the community's social, environmental and economic assets. Discuss the principles, practices and benefits of community development for local democracy before considering how to build on these assets to strengthen community.

### **SLCC1011 Local Council Finance (15 credits)**

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.

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.



## FOUNDATION DEGREE (LEVEL 5), LEADERS IN THE SECTOR QUALIFICATION

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

**Start date:** 1 February 2026

### WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

#### **SLCC2001 Communities in the Political System (30 credits)**

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.

#### **SLCC2004 The Manager's Role (30 credits)**

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.

#### **SLCC2009 Professional Development (30 credits)**

Develop personal and professional skills including independent and critical thinking, negotiation skills and reflective practice. Link the review of a book relevant to community governance to an associated activity undertaken in a local community or workplace setting. A field visit of up to five days may be organised to facilitate studying in a new setting.

#### **SLCC2008 Researching Sustainable Communities (30 credits)**

Examine the theory and practice of sustaining local communities including community development, local democracy and climate action. Develop investigative skills and practise participative democracy by carrying out research in a local community.

## HONOURS DEGREE (LEVEL 6), LEADERS IN THE SECTOR QUALIFICATION

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

**Start date:** 1 February 2026

### WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

#### **SLCC3004 Community Governance Research Project (30 credits)**

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.

#### **SLCC3002 Delivering Public Services (30 credits)**

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

#### **SLCC3003 Management & leadership (30 credits)**

Obtain a practical experience of management and leadership. 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.

#### **SLCC3001 Power & Politics in Community Governance (30 credits)**

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.

The tuition fee for levels 5 and 6 is £6,800\* (£3,400 per year) with an initial deposit of £400 deducted from the first year's fees, and an additional charge (subject to change annually) towards residential study days. Charges are available to view on the website. \*Fees usually increase annually. Level 5 and 6 students can apply for student finance (if they have studied previous level(s)). Contact [qualifications@slcc.co.uk](mailto:qualifications@slcc.co.uk) for more information.

For more information please visit [www.slcc.co.uk/community-governance](http://www.slcc.co.uk/community-governance)

# MASTERS IN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP (LEVEL 7)

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

**Start date:** See website for intake date

## WHAT YOU WILL STUDY OVER TWO YEARS:

### **SLCC5001 Leading Change (30 credits)**

Delves into the complexities of organisational transformation in public service delivery. It evaluates the challenges arising from the evolving governance of the public sector, while investigating the drivers of change. It examines the toolkit available to leaders and its application in organisational change. Students explore steps in leading change, from proposals and implementation to delivery. They consider how to build the values, behaviours, and culture that drive innovation and change. Students critically reflect on the appropriateness of different models of leadership in a variety of contexts, questioning debates over transactional and transformational leaders, while investigating the demands of adaptive and pragmatic leadership.

### **SLCC5002 Empowering Communities (30 credits)**

Evaluates the complexities of working with local communities, considering how to translate the principles of community empowerment into practice. Students explore theories of community leadership, sustainable communities, and empowerment, investigating how public authorities act as stewards of place. They engage with tools for participation, reflecting on how to design co-production and citizen control. They explore overcoming inequalities and boundaries across communities; mobilising community assets; determining levels of engagement across different communities; undertaking effective communication; and enhancing democratic community governance. Students reflect critically on conditions for effective community participation, while evaluating the potential for empowerment to engender forms of municipalism, community wealth generation and local resilience.

### **SLCC5003 Collaborative Innovation (30 credits)**

Provides the opportunity to evaluate collaborative governance. Harnessing multiple perspectives, resources and interests is an approach for delivering transformation and place-leadership. Yet, the outcomes of collaboration are contested with concerns about consensual spaces of decision-making. This module engages with debate and explores the challenges of collaboration and collaborative leadership. Students reflect on forms of collaboration in the changing landscape of public service delivery, while evaluating different theoretical approaches. They investigate the cycle of collaborative innovation and the demands of everyday practices. Students assess the strategies and tactics of network formation; different styles of network leadership; management of collaborative outcomes; and questions of accountability and political anchorage. They investigate the skills essential for collaborative practitioners.

### **SLCC5004 Designing Public Services (30 credits)**

Invites students to consider the meaning of public services in society and the breadth of service delivery models. Students are introduced to a range of models of service delivery, different arguments contained within them and their application in practice. Consideration is given to how public leaders design service delivery, involving different sectors and responding to the changing pace of service delivery. This module engages with the 'visioning' of new services including options appraisals and project delivery. Students examine commissioning and procurement; insourcing and outsourcing; partnerships and joint ventures; shared services; mutuals and cooperatives; hybrid organisations; co-production; and services as structures and processes. The module considers public value creation and public services. Students reflect on how services provide value to the community and society.

### **SLCC5005 Policy into Practice (60 credits)**

An opportunity to undertake an individual policy development project. Students are introduced to problem-based policy development, exploring the processes of designing and carrying out an evidence-based inquiry into an identified policy issue facing an organisation or a community of practitioners. Students investigate the key processes of research into practice, investigating problem-definition; undertaking an independent review of existing evidence; ensuring ethical guidelines; collecting, analysing, and interpreting different types of data; generating recommendations; and writing for policy. Students commence self-directed study and with the supervision of an advisor undertake an individual project. Students generate evidence to support the writing of a policy briefing, leading to recommendations for policy development in an organisation or across a specific policy sector.

**The tuition fee for level 7 is £7,300\* (£3,650 per year) with an initial deposit of £400 deducted from the first year's fees, and an additional charge (subject to change annually) towards residential study days. Charges are available to view on the website. \*Fees usually increase annually. Contact [qualifications@slcc.co.uk](mailto:qualifications@slcc.co.uk) for more information.**

For more information please visit  
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