

# HIGHLIGHTING POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

THE LGA DEVELOPMENT OFFER  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



Leadership support for local politicians

A sector-led approach to improving local leadership

Community leadership is at the heart of modern local government. Councils work in partnership with local communities and other organisations – including the public, voluntary and community and private sectors – to develop a vision for their local area and to work collaboratively to improve services and quality of life for citizens. Councillors have a lead role in this process.

**LEADERSHIP**

**VISION**

**CONFIDENT**



## ABOUT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

As an integral part of the LGA's councillor development offer, Community Leadership provides a range of resources to support politicians in their role as community leaders, facilitators and brokers.

Offering a choice of different learning methods, our Community Leadership resources range from e-learning modules, self-guided workbooks and bespoke training events, available to be held at your council, on topics such as induction, effective ward councillor, chairing and social media.

The resources available are designed to enable all councillors, particularly those who are newly or recently elected, to develop a portfolio of skills which will equip them for their role as community leaders and effective politicians – building confidence and expertise in a range of areas.

The majority of resources are free to access and can be easily downloaded from the LGA website: [www.local.gov.uk/community-leadership](http://www.local.gov.uk/community-leadership)



“People can elect their councillor confident in the knowledge that they will be able to act on the issues they care about and have campaigned on.”

LEADERSHIP

AMBITIOUS

EFFECTIVENESS

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO YOUR ROLE

Once elected to your local council, the Councillors' Guide is designed to provide you with a wealth of information about the life of an elected member as well as a valuable insight into the work of the LGA.

The Councillors' Guide is available to download from the LGA website shortly before council elections every year.

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## POLITICAL SKILLS FRAMEWORK

This toolkit for councillors provides a means of identifying and highlighting the key skills needed for the role. It provides a self-reflective review learning tool used to identify the following areas:

- existing strengths
- opportunities for development
- opportunities available to work with your council officers to enable them to assist you with your learning and development needs.

The latest version of the framework reflects the fact that whilst councillors' responsibilities may remain largely unaltered from those of ten or more years

ago, they have evolved over time and the political and social environment in which you will carry out these responsibilities has changed fundamentally.

Revised version of the Political Skills Framework available on the LGA website:

[www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/read-revised-version-poli-243.pdf](http://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/read-revised-version-poli-243.pdf)

A fuller report into the development and use of the framework over the past 10 years can also be found on the LGA website:

[www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/read-fuller-report-use-fr-149.pdf](http://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/read-fuller-report-use-fr-149.pdf)



## COUNCILLOR WORKBOOKS

The LGA has produced a series of distance learning materials, covering a number of topics, in the form of workbooks. The workbooks are aimed at all councillors and will be particularly useful to new councillors.

Topics include:

- chairing skills
- community leadership
- community safety
- effective councillor/officer relations
- facilitation and conflict resolution
- handling casework
- health and safety in the council
- introduction to planning
- neighbourhood and community engagement
- scrutiny of finance
- stress management and personal resilience
- the effective ward councillor.

A full list of councillor workbooks can be found at:  
[www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbooks](http://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbooks)



## E-LEARNING RESOURCES

The LGA has an interactive e-learning portal for councillors to undertake self-directed learning. Accessed through the LGA website (<http://lms.learningnexus.co.uk/LGA/>) you can subscribe by e-mailing [e-learning@local.gov.uk](mailto:e-learning@local.gov.uk).

The range of topics include: influencing skills, community engagement, planning, scrutiny, licensing and induction

**More details can be obtained from Alison Edwards:**  
[alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)  
020 7665 3857

### In your place

If face to face learning in small groups represents a better way forward for you and your council, the LGA can provide training modules on a variety of topics utilising the services of experienced politicians and trained facilitators. Topics which can be arranged include:

- chairing skills
- community leadership and partnerships
- effective ward councillor
- facilitation and conflict resolution
- influencing skills
- media and communications
- social media
- councillor/officer relations
- local government finance.



## CHARTER FOR MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The LGA has worked with Regional Employers Organisations to establish and support the Charter for Member Development. The Charter signifies a commitment from an authority to introduce a policy that supports and encourages member development. All nine UK regions have signed up to the charter and increasing numbers of councils are pledging to introduce it for their members. The Charter itself and the materials that support its accreditation were revised in 2016.

The Charter for Member Development details can be found at:

[www.local.gov.uk/  
community-leadership](http://www.local.gov.uk/community-leadership)

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