

ModernCouncillor

working smarter for your community

Introduction to Modern Councillor

Modern Councillor is a new service for elected Members to enable them to develop their skills through e-learning.

This innovative online service from Learning Pool, the public sector e-learning specialist, provides high quality, flexible e-learning for today's elected Members, whether they are new to local government or experienced campaigners.

SECE, on behalf of the South East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, has entered into a 2 year agreement with Learning Pool because:

- member engagement is critical to the future success of the partnership and member development is a key element of Partnership programmes
- the South East region has a number of new Councillors who will benefit from easy to access training
- we can take a collaborative approach and benefit from shared content development
- we will achieve economies of scale through procuring Modern Councillor regionally

Benefits of Modern Councillor

Councillors benefit from:

- Guidance on policy and the latest initiatives
- Any time, any place, any pace learning
- Learning in privacy
- Bite sized learning that can be revisited
- Dedicated helpdesk available 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday

Councils benefit from:

- Increased access to councillors
- Ability to provide blended learning programmes
- Tracked and evidenced learning
- Reduced classroom time
- Cost efficiencies, even for small councils

Course Programme

Modern Councillor is a module based learning environment and will include the following courses.

May 07	Your role as a Councillor	Nov 07	Negotiation and Influencing
May 07	Intro to Local Government	Dec 07	Risk Management
June 07	Overview of the Code of Conduct	Jan 08	Overview of Local Government Finance
June 07	Community Leadership	Jan 07	Partnership working
July 07	IT in Local Government	Feb 08	Using Mobile Technology
July 07	Working with the Media	Mar 08	Equality and Diversity
Sept 07	Scrutiny Skills	Mar 08	Data Protection and FOI
Sept 07	Public Speaking	April 08	Planning Legislation
Oct 07	Licensing and Regulation	April 08	Community Call for Action
Oct 07	Chairing Meetings	May 08	Corporate Parenting

Shaded boxes denote courses already released

Designed to be easy to use, Modern Councillor's courses are short and engaging, typically lasting 30 minutes and consisting of a few separate modules. The content is structured in this way to allow Councillors to dip in and out of a course as their schedules permit.

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The courses have been produced with the help of experts from the Local Government sector and include examples, case studies and scenarios specifically relevant for today's Elected Representative.

Released monthly, the courses will remain permanently available so that Members can revisit the material as often as they wish.

Sub regional focus

Because SEIEP takes a bottom up approach to its Programmes, giving a very local focus, each sub-regional Partnership will support the implementation of Modern Councillor in their area.

Applicable Users

- All elected members in the region, plus 2 nominated officers per local authority
- Fire & Rescue elected members, plus 2 nominated officers per Fire & Rescue authority
- Nominated officers from SEIEP as agreed

What does the sub region get?

- Bespoke virtual learning area
 - private section of the Modern Councillor website that's tailored each sub-region
- Courses and content on rolling basis
 - private section of the Modern Councillor website that contains the courses plus other L&D material already released
- Ability to add own content
 - this private area can also contain other L&D material produced by the sub region
- Awareness workshops
 - one per sub region with dates, locations and venues planned in conjunction with the RIEP Programme Managers
- Built in Learning Management System
- Regular reports

Nationwide swap shop

Like all good things Modern Councillor will improve over time. Coming soon we'll have an online forum for Member Support and Democratic Services officers from around the country to share ideas, good practice and suggestions about learning and development for elected Members.

This forum will be accessed via main Modern Council website and, because over 70% of all local authorities have now bought Modern Councillor you will be in touch with the MSO's for over 14,000 councillors.

Next Steps – Getting Started with Modern Councillor in your Sub Region

RIEP Programme Managers will be the key point of contact between their sub-region and Learning Pool.

Role of Programme Managers:

- Identify Member Support Officers in their part of the region and inform Learning Pool*
- Brief MSO's about Modern Councillor and ensure Learning Pool* is introduced
- Manage the engagement process
- Tell councillors about the Modern Councillor service and how to access it
- Encourage their Partnership to use the service
- Monitor uptake and usage of the service
- Identify a date, location and venue for your sub-region Awareness Event
- Work within the SEIEP programme managers group to develop shared content

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Role of MSO's:

- MSO's to send names and email addresses of all applicable users to Learning Pool*
- Get involved in launch events, maximising attendance
- Raise awareness of Learning Pool with their Councillors
- Learning Pool will set up login access and advise MSO's of individual log in details
- MSO's then provide log in name and passwords to applicable users for immediate access to the service.

*Your Learning Pool contact is Aine Bradley. Email aine@learningpool.com or call 02871 295 914 with any questions or queries.

We can provide you with some presentation slides and other literature to help you brief others, please ask Aine.

