**Training And Development Of Community Councils**

Training may be provided in-person or online by the local authority. There is also a [training portal available on the Scottish Community Councils website](https://www.communitycouncils.scot/help-and-support/skills-and-learning), which gives community councillors free access to Open University courses on a range of useful subjects.

The aim of training and development is to enable community councillors to develop their individual skills, build their capacity to engage with public agencies and acquire new skills. This will enable each member to participate as fully as possible in the work of the Community Council, bringing added benefits to their communities.

Basic training needs can include roles and responsibilities, policy and procedure, licensing, planning and other relevant topics. Specific training needs can include chairing meetings, keeping financial records and writing minutes. Training must be delivered and targeted at the needs of the individual or the Community Council as a whole. Training could be delivered by:

• Community Council Liaison Officers.

• Individual local authority departments such as planning.

• Outside agencies such as third sector interfaces (TSI), Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), Planning Aid Scotland and the Scottish Community Councils project managed by the Improvement Service

• or by Community Councils themselves through peer support