

REPORT TO PERSONNEL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COURSE



Report Reference	P-21-05
Meeting Date	21 st September 2021
Agenda Item	7
Prepared by	Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

Community Governance is an advanced qualification awarded by De Montford University and delivered by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). It has specifically been designed to provide professional development and further learning for those working within the local council sector.

The committee has previously supported the Town Clerk undertaking the first and second levels of the qualification; he completed the Level Four qualification in 2016 and 2017 with Distinction and the Level Five (Foundation Degree) qualification in 2018 and 2019, again with Distinction. At Level Four the Town Clerk also received a prize for an outstanding piece of work on his module on organisational performance management and charity governance. At Level Five he also received an award for the best performing student.

After completing Level Five, the Town Clerk decided to take a break from study but is interested in commencing again to complete the Level Six (Degree) qualification in 2022 and 2023.

The Town Clerk found the levels 4 and 5 extremely rewarding and felt he learned a great deal from the qualifications. In earlier levels this included a greater understanding of the planning system, improved understanding of organisational governance and community engagement. The overall theme of the qualifications is community governance which centres on developing strong and resilient communities.

2.0 LEVEL 6 QUALIFICATION

The Level 6 qualification covers four modules:

- **Power & Politics in Community Governance** – examines the political context and impact on community governance.
- **Management and Leadership** – development of management and leadership through the vehicle of organising a learning event for the sector.
- **Delivering Public Services** – effective delivery of public services for a community, exploring purpose, funding, communication and perception.
- **Community Governance Research Project** – undertaking an original piece of research relevant to the town and parish council sector.

The Town Clerk undertakes all study in his own time so it would not affect workload.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the qualification is £6,300. A £315 deposit would be paid in the current financial year and £2,992.50 payable in the 2022 and 2023 financial years. At Level Five, the council funded £5,000 of the course and the Town Clerk paid the difference. The Town Clerk purchased his own books/materials.

If the committee support the qualification, the Personal Development budget would be increased accordingly.

4.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider supporting the Town Clerk in undertaking the Level 6 Community Governance qualification.