Masterclass Outlines

Choose ONE Masterclass to attend on Thursday, 19 November @ 2.30pm – 3.15pm

Masterclass 1: Creating a Respectful Member Environment: Practical Approaches for Local Government

Facilitators:

- Katie McSherry, Head of Programmes, Elect Her
- Julie Drybrough, Executive Coach
- Councillor Kelly Parry, Resources Spokesperson, COSLA

Building directly from the conference seminar exploration of women's experiences, barriers to participation and the responsibility of colleagues and leaders, this workshop moves the conversation from identifying the problem to considering practical solutions. Delivered by Elect Her, it focuses on measures that local authorities and individuals can use to foster a more respectful and inclusive political culture and strengthen the everyday member environment.

Masterclass 2: 10 Years On. Are We Ready for What Comes Next?

Facilitators:

- Martyn Wallace, Chief Officer, Local Government Digital Office
- Colin Birchenall, Chief Technology Officer, Local Government Digital Office
- Councillor Gail Macgregor, Environment and Economy Spokesperson, COSLA

Every Council is facing the same challenge: delivering better outcomes with finite resources while navigating rapid change in technology, society , public expectation and service reform

As the Digital Office celebrates ten years of supporting Scottish Local Government, join us for a thought provoking session that looks beyond the anniversary and focuses on the opportunities and decisions that will shape the next decade.

Discover the impact achieved through national collaboration, hear about the commitments being made to support councils in the years ahead, and explore how digital innovation can help address some of the sector's biggest challenges.

Most importantly, we will tackle the question on everyone's agenda: what does Artificial Intelligence really mean for Local Government?

Bring your toughest questions. Hear practical examples, explore emerging opportunities and risks, and gain a clearer understanding of how AI and digital transformation could affect your organisation, your communities and your leadership role in the years ahead.

Masterclass 3: Fair Work and Local Government: Delivering fairer workplaces and stronger communities

Facilitators:

- Patricia Findlay, Distinguished Professor of Work and Employment Relations and Fair Work Convention Co-Chair
- Dawn Roberts, Chief Executive of Dumfries and Galloway Council and Fair Work Convention Member
- Peter Hunter, UNISON Regional Manager for the North of Scotland and Fair Work Convention Member

Local Authorities have a unique and influential role in advancing fair work across Scotland. As major employers, commissioners of services, procurers of goods and services, and drivers of local economic development, Councils have significant opportunities to shape fairer workplaces and stronger communities.

This interactive masterclass will explore how fair work principles can be embedded across the full range of Local Government activity, highlighting practical approaches, challenges and opportunities. The session will share insights from policy and practice and provide delegates with an opportunity to discuss how Councils can use the principles of fair work to strengthen their organisation while contributing to Scotland's fair work ambitions.

Masterclass 4 Fostering Cohesive Communities

Name of Facilitators:

- Dr. Sabir Zazai, Chief Executive, Scottish Refugee Council
- Catriona Paton, Assistant Chief Constable, Police Scotland
- Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Community and Wellbeing Spokesperson, COSLA

In this Masterclass our speakers will draw on their significant personal and professional experience to explore some of the key markers of cohesive and integrated communities, and to discuss the current challenges we face as the bonds and bridges within and between our communities become increasingly fragile.

Delegates will be encouraged to contribute their own thoughts and experience, with a particular focus on drawing out learning and examples of approaches that have proved successful in building solidarity and collective belonging, whether in Scotland, the rest of the UK or further afield.