

**A**re you a CII member in the UK? Then congratulations, you belong to a CII local Institute. As a UK CII member you automatically join a local Institute of your choice, typically close to where you live or work.

Local Institutes provide support to their members, week in, week out, in the local area and in the local market. Continuing professional development (CPD) events, training, networking opportunities and social gatherings – everything you need to establish yourself within your local insurance community, and beyond.

There are 59 local Institutes across the UK, Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Every one is different, but they share a common goal: to sustain, enhance and advance the careers of CII and Personal Finance Society members.

Most institutes have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the period between March and May, giving you an opportunity to apply to sit on its council in a general capacity or in a dedicated role. That might be as treasurer, secretary, or an officer responsible for education, membership or the organisation of the annual dinner (the first date people look for when the calendar is revealed).

You might have experience and skills in careers guidance, or you might fancy a crack at running the sports and social side of things. Or maybe you fancy being exams coordinator – why not? It is challenging and rewarding work.

But, of course, you do not need to stand for office. You can simply turn up to the AGM and hear first-hand reports from council members on previous and future activities and vote on the appointment of new council members.

That's democracy in action, CII-style!

# YOUR LOCAL INSTITUTE NEEDS YOU!

## (TO GET DOWN TO ITS AGM, THAT IS...)

*Getting involved with your local institute can offer a myriad of benefits, from developing new skills to raising your profile. Julie Hicks finds out more...*

### National strength, local presence


Each of the 59 local Institutes is run by a dedicated group of industry professionals, who volunteer their time to create and deliver local

career support services including:

- **CPD support** – Typically this is a mix of technical, regulatory and soft skill seminars, many free of charge;
- **Networking and social events** – Providing an opportunity to expand and enhance local business relationships;
- **Community engagement initiatives** – Institutes frequently support students at local schools, colleges or universities, as well as newcomers to the profession. They also maintain strong relationships with related bodies and employers in their region;
- **Delivering CII written examinations** – These are organised and invigilated by Institute volunteers who arrange and invigilate the April and October exam sittings and provide exam training, advice and support.

What these volunteers have in common is professionalism, a passion for insurance and financial services, and a desire to give something back to their profession.

Find out what it is all about and how you can make a difference. Visit [www.cii.co.uk/agmdates](http://www.cii.co.uk/agmdates) or call 0121 665 6900 to find out when and where your Institute's AGM is being held and what is being covered.

To maximise the value from its annual funding, your local Institute will typically communicate by email, so make sure the CII has an up-to-date email address for you and your data protection settings allow you to receive electronic communications. You can check and update your details online at: [www.cii.co.uk/MyCII](http://www.cii.co.uk/MyCII) 

*Julie Hicks is regional membership manager at the CII*

## SOME OF THE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS OF LOCAL INSTITUTE ENGAGEMENT FROM MEMBERS...

### Enhance your credentials

"Joining my local Institute means I've been able to network with senior insurance professionals in the local market, which has been invaluable to my career progression. Volunteering to support the Institute's events, helping create a Young Professionals Group and promoting the profession at local schools and colleges has broadened my experience and skillset."

*David Smith Cert CII, Young Professionals Group, the Insurance Institute of Chelmsford & South Essex.*

### Meet new people

"After almost 25 years of working in the Glasgow

insurance market I finally got involved with the local Institute 18 months ago. I've been blown away by the quality and quantity of events and activities run by volunteers on behalf of members. It's been an eye-opening experience that has allowed me to build new relationships and work alongside others I'd never otherwise have met."

*Andy Macfarlane ACII, President, the Insurance and Actuarial Society of Glasgow*

### Develop a new skill or interest

"Being a council member is a great way to raise your profile with your peers. You learn new skills

that enhance your day-to-day working life. You meet new people, and it's a great way to establish new business relationships."

*Cath Ball DipPFS, president, Nottingham Insurance Institute*

### Improve your confidence

"It's a wonderful opportunity to enhance your interpersonal skills. Volunteering for something new helps to develop your confidence and enhances your personal reputation. Ultimately, the more that you can give, the more you gain."

*Richard Scott BSc (Hons) Dip CII, president, Birmingham Insurance Institute*