

## Strategic Thinking (Virtual Learning)

Strategic thinking is an essential core skill for Senior Executives, as establishing a culture of innovation and developing positive future outcomes requires those overseeing or accountable to projects to think strategically and anticipate change.

This course is designed to offer delegates the chance to explore the concept of strategic thinking and practise using the different tools that would enable them to think tactically in the face of various possible futures.

Strategic Thinking is a trending online course within our [Leadership & Management](#) series. At the [Civil Service College](#), we tailor our courses to each attendee's role and organisations, ensuring that each delegate gets the most out of the training. Our courses and trainers are continuously updated and evaluated to ensure that we are always delivering the best service possible.

Please find below more information indicating the aims, our training approaches and a sample of the structure of the programme.

### Methodology

The training approach to be used, which governs the design and delivery of the training is based on the following principles:

- To involve the participants actively throughout the training
- To enable participants to share their thoughts and enquiries
- The training is designed based on the needs and expectations of the participants which are reflected in the pre-training questionnaire

## Workshop methods and tools

In order to achieve the objectives of the training, the following tools and methods will be utilised:

- **Presentations:** presentations will be used in order to provide the background to each subject and stimulate discussion and questions.
- **Discussions:** throughout the training, participants will be encouraged to contribute to discussions, and share their experiences and thoughts with the rest of the group. The discussions will be facilitated and coordinated by the facilitator in order to maintain the focus in the key areas of interest
- **Case studies:** case studies will be used so as to facilitate and trigger discussion, as well as allow external benchmarking so as to achieve competitiveness
- **Group work:** group work will be used in order to facilitate practical understanding of the issues and to enhance team working, team building and cooperation amongst participants

## Sample programme

- 10.00** Introductions and welcome  
Aims & Learning objectives for the day
- Session 1** **How to analyse the external environment**
- Stakeholder analysis
  - PESTLEID (Political, Economic, Social, Technology, Environment, International, Demographic)
  - Scenario Development
- Refreshment break**
- Session 2** **How to analyse the internal environment**
- SWOT analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
  - Apply SWOT results as a TOWS analysis
  - Scenario development
  - VMOST (Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategy, Tactics)
  - Resource based capacity review
  - Knowledge based capacity review
  - Value chain review
- Lunch**
- Session 3** **How to combine external and internal analysis to identify the organisation's strategic sweet spot**
- EVR (Environment, Values, Resources)
- Refreshment break**
- Session 4** **Option Generation**
- Porter's generic strategies
  - The Ansoff matrix
  - Behavioural insight
  - 5 option types
  - Putting it into practice
  - Action plan
- 16:00** **Conclusions & Close**