

Taituarā Leadership Programmes

At Taituarā we offer a suite of leadership programmes for local government leaders, designed to equip you with the knowledge, skills and networks to navigate the unique complexities of the sector.

From \$5,375 + GST

Leaders

in Local Government

Experienced **functional/operational people leaders** with significant influence over a business function or unit.

6.5 days | 3 Months

From \$7,400+ GST

Senior Leaders

in Local Government

Group/executive leaders with a large span of control who manage **multiple functions** or business units.

9.5 days | 4 Months

Generic leadership training doesn't cut it in local government - at Taituarā we know leading in local government is different. Our leadership programmes address the unique challenges and opportunities of local Government in Aotearoa. Offering a sector-specific focus combined with high-level leadership theory, real-world case studies, and peer-to-peer learning.

Taituarā have supported the sector for 35+ years – we know local government inside and out, and our programmes reflect our deep knowledge. We live and breathe the sector, ensuring our content stays current, relevant, and grounded in real local government challenges.



Unmatched Sector Expertise

Taituarā is the only organisation delivering local government leadership development at this scale, depth, and value, consistently nationwide.



World-Class Facilitators

Our facilitators bring deep expertise in the realities of local government as well as evidence-based leadership practice.



Real Leaders, Real Lessons

Each programme features respected local government leaders and expert practitioners. We focus on making the learning relatable and immediately applicable.

Master the unique challenges of leading in local government – take charge of your career today with Taituarā Leadership Programmes



Leaders in Local Government



Members \$5,375 + GST
Non-members \$6,025 + GST



Who should join

Experienced functional or operational people leaders with significant influence over a business function or unit.



6.5 days over 3 Months

Key Course Topics



- Change leadership
- Finance essentials
- Governance & democracy
- Political acumen
- Partnerships & collaboration
- Risk & Legislative knowledge
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Facilitated by Mat Kearney, Partner at Hum Consulting. With over 20 years' experience in leadership development, change management, organisational design, and people and culture strategy, Mat brings both expertise and genuine care for people. He helps leaders build high-performing teams, navigate change with humanity, and deliver transformative results.



Thank you for your enthusiasm and thoughtful engagement throughout the course. It's been an awesome journey and I have a lot to consider, reflect on, and continue learning.



The course has been well run, well facilitated, and has given me time to pause and reflect. I have found myself putting things into place I have learned with new confidence.

Block One: Connection and Purpose

In this first block, you'll connect with your cohort, explore the critical attributes of effective local government leaders, and reflect on your own leadership strengths. You'll build a shared sense of purpose, develop a growth mindset, and shape the emotional culture you want to create in your team. We will delve into the core principles of democracy and governance in local government and develop techniques for being open to a diverse range of perspectives.

- Online connect & programme overview
- Guest speakers
- Case studies



Key Learning topics

- Shaping our culture for success
- Fostering a growth mindset
- Understand leadership in a local government context
- Democracy and governance in local government
- Serving a diverse public





Timing

2 in-person full-days

Block Two: Navigating Relationships

In this block, you'll strengthen your political acumen and confidence in navigating the relationship between elected members and management. It begins with a Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Local Government workshop – a focused four-hour session that explores what Te Tiriti means for leadership in council contexts. You'll also build skills in partnership, influence, and negotiation to work effectively with iwi, community, and sector stakeholders.

 Guest speakers

 Case studies



Key Learning topics

- Developing political acumen
- Understanding the relationship between elected members and management
- Partnership building in local government
- Influencing and negotiation skills
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Local Government





Timing

2.5 in-person days

Block Three: Navigating Change

In the final block, you'll strengthen your ability to make sound, transparent decisions through good governance and risk management. You'll build practical confidence in local government finance, learning how to navigate budgets and trade-offs. You'll also explore how to lead your team through change, and develop the resilience and adaptability to sustain yourself and others in complex times.

 Guest speakers

 Case studies



Key Learning topics

- Governance and risk in local government
- Key financial principles
- Leading change in local government
- Building resilience and adaptability



Timing

2 in-person full-days



2026 Course Options

April - July 2026

Wellington Movenpick Hotel Wellington

- Block One: 29 & 30 April 2026
- Block Two: 9,10 &11 June 2026
- Block Three: 22 & 23 July 2026

June - September 2026

Rotorua Bay of Plenty Rydges Rotorua

- Block one: 24 & 25 June
- Block two: 28, 29 & 30 July
- Block three: 2 & 3 September



Senior Leaders in Local Government



Members \$7,400 + GST
Non-members \$8,220 + GST



Who should join

Group leaders or executive leaders with a large span of control, managing multiple functions or business units. Most participants will be Tier 2 - reporting directly to the CE.



9.5 days | 4 Months

Key Course Topics



- Enterprise leadership
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Stakeholder dynamics
- Influence & negotiation
- Democracy & governance
- Ethical leadership
- Long-term planning & risk
- Legislative frameworks
- Finance & stewardship

Facilitated by Dr Paul Wood, a leadership expert and bestselling author who specialises in building emotional intelligence, resilience, and mental fitness. Drawing on his remarkable personal journey, Paul brings authenticity, energy, and evidence-based tools that help leaders thrive in complexity and lead with courage.




Probably the best training session I've encountered in 30 years of local govt in the UK and NZ!





I think Paul's approach made a huge difference. I got so much value from his perspectives and knowledge he imparted around the psychology of people. This is what set the training apart.

Block One: Enterprise leadership strategy

Step up from business-unit management to enterprise leadership in local government and sharpen strategic and governance thinking. Work out how to best partner with your CE to balance portfolio priorities with organisation-wide outcomes while reading culture, power and stakeholder dynamics. Learn from guest speakers as you embed everyday ethics, transparency and open communication into real decisions. Pressure-test choices through fireside Q&A with guest speakers and hands-on scenario labs. Reflect on your critical-attributes through self-assessment and sharpen your development goals. Leave with a toolkit to apply an ethical framework to your everyday work, and a peer-coached action plan to apply between blocks.

 Online connect & programme overview

 Guest speakers

 Case studies



Key Learning topics

- Democracy in local government
- Governance in local government
- Ethical leadership



Timing


3 in-person full-days

Block Two: Stakeholder dynamics

Build practical influence and political acumen by mastering stakeholder dynamics in local government. You'll map key groups, agencies, and private partners, identify leverage points for progress, and apply tools to your own challenges. Together we'll explore the neuroscience of influence, pressure-test real scenarios, and hear from keynote guests on decoding the political landscape and building strong relationships. Through case-based workshops, Q&A, and peer check-ins, you'll practise navigating risk, neutrality, conflicts of interest, and transparent communication – leaving with a clear action plan and targeted follow-ups for future sessions.

This block also includes a focused Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Local Government workshop – a four-hour session that builds leaders' knowledge and confidence to explain what Te Tiriti means for their leadership role. Designed around real council contexts, it explores the practical implications of Te Tiriti in everyday decision-making.

 Guest speakers

 Case studies



Key Learning topics

- Understanding stakeholder dynamics
- Influencing & negotiation
- Political landscape
- Navigating political challenges
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Local Government



Timing

2.5 in-person days


*Full day 10 & 11 March 2026 and half-day on 12 March 2026 (9am - 1pm).


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The course gave me insights in relation to how people have navigated the Local Government environment, where they've achieved success, where they've experienced challenges, but also how they've overcome some of those challenges. It's given me a great network of peers with whom I have been able to share ideas, thoughts and approaches, and a great network of people that I can now use to support me as I continue my journey and going forward.

Block Three: Long-term planning and risk management

Turn strategy into delivery by linking your council's Long-Term Plan (LTP) to measurable outcomes. Clarify roles, decision making and governance. Build your knowledge around risk management, key types (operational, financial, reputational, compliance), and look at risk identification. Pressure-test with case studies and a guest-led scenario to surface risks and response plans. Lift your legal savvy with core legislative frameworks and learn to spot red flags. Leave with a series of tools, techniques and actions to trial and report back on for the next block course.

 Guest speakers

 Case studies



Key Learning topics

- Long-term planning
- Risk management
- Legislative framework





Timing

2 in-person full-days

Block Four: Finance and Mental Fitness

Anchor your leadership in financial fluency and resilience. Master core local government finance principles, budgeting, planning and funding models. Convert insight to action with both group and individual reflections. Build your mental fitness using Te Whare Tapa Whā, while adding the neuroscience of wellbeing, motivation and resilience to your kete. Sharpen your storytelling and presence as you build skills on audience-led framing, clear purpose and a tight narrative. Finish with a plan to sustain momentum.

 Guest speakers

 Case studies



Key Learning topics

- Finance in Local Government
- Mental Fitness
- Storytelling for influence
- Revisit challenging topics
- Graduation



Timing

2 in-person full-days



2026 Course Dates

February - May 2026

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington
Port Nicholson Yacht Club

- Block 1: 17,18 &19 Feb
- Block 2: 10, 11 & 12 March
- Block 3: 15 & 16 April
- Block 4: 13 & 14 May