

Leadership designed for local government leaders

A suite of programmes designed to equip you with the knowledge, skills and networks to navigate the unique complexities of the sector.

IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leaders

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

From

\$5,995 + GST

7 days
over 3 months

IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senior Leaders

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

From

\$8,450 + GST

10 days
over 4 months

Leading in local government is different. Your leadership development should be too.

At Taituarā we know leading in local government is different. Our programmes address the unique challenges and opportunities of local government in Aotearoa, combining a sector-specific focus with high-level leadership theory, real-world case studies and peer-to-peer learning.

35+

Years supporting the sector. We live and breathe local government, so our content stays current, relevant and grounded in real challenges.



Designed for local government leaders

Sector-specific content, case studies, speakers and challenges.



Build and apply practical skills

Practical leadership development participants can apply immediately in their own mahi.



Grow your network

Develop alongside peers across local government creating relationships beyond the programme.

Leaders in Local Government

INVESTMENT

Members **\$5,375** + GST

Non-members **\$6,025** + GST

DURATION

7 days over 3 months

WHO SHOULD JOIN

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

KEY COURSE TOPICS

Change leadership

Finance essentials

Governance & democracy

Political acumen

Partnerships & collaboration

Risk & legislative knowledge

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

FACILITATOR



Mat Kearney Partner, 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.

2027 course options

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington

Port Nicholson Yacht Club

Block One **23 - 24 February**

Block Two **22 - 24 March**

Block Three **4 - 5 April**

Kirikiroa Hamilton

Ruakura Conference Centre

Block One **9 - 10 March**

Block Two **6 - 8 April**

Block Three **18 - 19 May**

01

Connection and Purpose

2 FULL DAYS

Wellington

23 - 24 February 2027

Hamilton

9 - 10 March 2027

Connect with your cohort and explore what effective leadership looks like in local government.

You will reflect on your leadership strengths and development priorities, consider the culture you help create and build your understanding of the environment in which councils operate.

KEY LEARNING TOPICS

Leadership in a local government context

Self-awareness and leadership development

Democracy and governance

Team culture

Growth mindset

Serving a diverse public

2 in-person days

Guest speakers

Case studies

02

Navigating Relationships

3 FULL DAYS

Wellington

22 - 24 March 2027

Hamilton

6 - 8 April 2027

Learn how to navigate relationships through an understanding of the shared goals of communication, respect and values.

Explore the political, organisational and community relationships that shape leadership in local government. Across the block, you will consider Te Tiriti o Waitangi in a local government context, political acumen, partnership-building, influence, and negotiation. You will also practice turning changing council priorities into clear decisions and direction for your function and team.

KEY LEARNING TOPICS

Te Tiriti o Waitangi leadership
Political acumen

Partnerships with iwi,
community and stakeholders

Elected members and
management

Influence and negotiation

3 in-person days

Guest speakers

Case studies

03

Navigating Change

2 FULL DAYS

Wellington

4 - 5 April 2027

Hamilton

18 - 19 May 2027

Build on the learnings from the previous blocks and deepen your ability to build resilience and flexibility within the sector.

Strengthen your ability to make sound, transparent decisions through good governance and risk management. Build practical confidence in local government finance, learning how to navigate budgets and trade-offs. Explore how to lead your team through change, and develop the resilience and adaptability to sustain yourself and others in complex times.

KEY LEARNING TOPICS

Governance and risk in local government

Leading change in local government

Key financial principles

Building resilience and adaptability

2 in-person days

Guest speakers

Case studies

Build the judgement to lead through change.

Join the 2027 cohort.

Senior Leaders

in Local Government

Master the unique challenges of leading in local government. Build the knowledge, judgement and relationships needed to lead across a council, not only within your own area. Work with experienced facilitators, guest speakers and peers to examine the practical challenges of senior leadership in local government.

KEY COURSE TOPICS

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

INVESTMENT

Members	\$8,450 + GST
Non-members	\$9,350 + GST

10 full days

over 4 months

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington
Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club

WHO SHOULD JOIN

This programme is for group and executive leaders with a broad span of responsibility, including leaders who manage multiple functions or business units. responsibilities.



FACILITATOR

Dr Paul Wood · Leadership expert and bestselling author

Paul specialises in building emotional intelligence, resilience and mental fitness. Drawing on his remarkable personal journey, he brings authenticity, energy and evidence-based tools that help leaders thrive in complexity and lead with courage.

What to expect

- Four intensive, interconnected, in-person learning blocks in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington
- Experienced local government guest speakers and specialist practitioners
- Structured reflection and peer learning between blocks
- A dedicated full-day Te Tiriti o Waitangi leadership module
- Realistic scenarios, case studies and practical leadership tools
- A valuable network of peers, across Aotearoa

SECTOR INSIGHT

Experienced local government leaders and specialists

PRACTICE

Real scenarios, case studies and practical tools

TRANSFER

Reflection, peer learning and action between blocks

01 Enterprise Leadership, Strategy, and Te Tiriti Leadership

16 – 18 FEBRUARY 2027

3 FULL DAYS

Shift from simply managing your team to thinking and acting as an enterprise leader within the wider council system.

Explore the shift from leading a business group to contributing to the leadership of the whole council. Topics include enterprise and strategic thinking, working effectively within an executive leadership team, democracy and governance and leading through change and uncertainty.

Leading through change and uncertainty is especially relevant now as local government leaders are being asked to maintain delivery, support their people and make sound decisions while significant reform and future operating arrangements are still unfolding. In this block, we also explore practical Te Tiriti leadership, te ao Māori perspectives, expectations of council leaders, and how Te Tiriti can inform leadership decisions, systems and relationships.

Learn from experienced local government leaders and subject-matter experts, then apply the learning through real scenarios and structured reflection.

KEY LEARNING TOPICS

Enterprise and strategic thinking

Leading through change and ambiguity

Growth mindset and adaptive leadership

Te Tiriti o Waitangi leadership in local government

Leadership decision-making and relationships

“ This course has been quite incredible – really life changing I think. And not like your typical course where you come along for a week and make meet a few people. We’ve had a real opportunity to build relationships with people across multiple councils across New Zealand and all doing similar work. I’ve loved every minute of it, built some great relationships and connections, which I really hope will continue beyond the course. ”

“ 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, challenges and approaches, and a great network of people that I can now use to support me as I continue my journey. ”

Lead across the whole council with confidence.

Join the 2027 cohort.

02

Stakeholder Dynamics and Political Acumen

3 FULL DAYS

Tuesday 16 –
Thursday 18 March 2027

Build the judgement and influence required to lead across the complex relationships that shape local government.

Explore **how to develop** strong stakeholder relationships, understand where trust and agreement sit, and choose the right approach when interests diverge. Apply practical tools for influence, negotiation, stakeholder mapping and relationship management.

Strengthen your political acumen by examining the relationship between elected members and management, power dynamics and the leadership behaviours needed to remain credible, impartial and effective in politically charged environments.

Work through realistic local government scenarios, learn from experienced sector leaders, and leave with practical actions to strengthen the relationships and political dynamics that matter most in your role.

KEY LEARNING TOPICS

Stakeholder dynamics and partnership building

Political landscape and political acumen

Stakeholder mapping, trust and agreement

Maintaining neutrality, credibility and ethical judgement

03

Long-term Planning, Risk, and the Legislative Environment

2 FULL DAYS

Wednesday 7 –
Thursday 8 April 2027

Move from strategy into delivery by exploring the senior leader's role in turning long-term priorities into co-ordinated action.

Examine **what good** Long-Term Plan leadership looks like, what is your role in this and how does it impact your decisions.

Build confidence in identifying and managing the broad range of risks facing local government, including operational, financial, reputational and compliance risks. Apply risk thinking to realistic scenarios and consider how governance arrangements support effective oversight.

Explore the legislative environment senior leaders operate within, including how legislation, delegations and legal risk shape organisational decisions. In this block, we will also consider leadership through crises and emergencies, including maintaining clarity, trust and wellbeing under pressure.

KEY LEARNING TOPICS

Long-term planning

Legislative frameworks and delegations

Crisis and emergency leadership

Risk in Local Government

04 Financial Leadership, Mental Fitness, and Communication

12 – 13 MAY 2027

2 FULL DAYS

Strengthen the financial, personal and communication capability required to operate effectively at senior level.

Develop a practical leadership-level understanding of local government finance, including financial stewardship, budgeting and planning, funding models, financial risk and the trade-offs involved in making sound organisational decisions. The focus is not on becoming a finance specialist, but on knowing how to engage confidently with financial information, advice and due diligence.

Build practical approaches for maintaining your own mental fitness and supporting others through sustained pressure, using Te Whare Tapa Whā and evidence-based approaches for recognising and responding to stress and fatigue.

Finish by strengthening your ability to communicate and tell compelling stories at senior leadership level, then consolidate your learning into a practical plan to sustain momentum beyond the programme.

KEY LEARNING TOPICS

Finance in local government

Mental fitness and resilience

Storytelling and communication for influence

Leading through sustained pressure

The programme at a glance

Senior Leaders in Local Government is an intensive, sector-specific development programme for experienced leaders with a large span of control who manage multiple functions or business units. Over 10 in-person learning days split into four learning blocks, participants will strengthen the judgement, strategic capability and practical leadership skills needed to operate effectively within the complexity of local government in Aotearoa.

BLOCK	DATES	DURATION
1 Enterprise Leadership, Strategy, and Te Tiriti Leadership	Tue 16 – Thu 18 February 2027	3 days
2 Stakeholder Dynamics and Political Acumen	Tue 16 – Thu 18 March 2027	3 days
3 Long-Term Planning, Risk, and the Legislative Environment	Wed 7 – Thu 8 April 2027	2 days
4 Financial Leadership, Mental Fitness, and Communication	Wed 12 – Thu 13 May 2027	2 days

Lead across the whole council with confidence.

Join the 2027 cohort.