



Senior Leaders in Local Government



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



Who should join

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



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.

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

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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 - 19 February
- Block 2: 10 - 12 March
- Block 3: 15 & 16 April
- Block 4: 13 & 14 May