

MAKING LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!

Key insights harnessed from the Community Building Block session:

For communities

- Build relationships across the system (and maintain them)
- Identify your allies in governance and management and strengthen those connections
- Learn the language and mechanisms of local government - play the game
- Be useful - by showing up, sharing your knowledge and offering solutions
- Build collaborations, our voices are stronger together
- Tell and value your story, and think about who your audience is
- Be active in getting your questions into the design of a consultation, rather than waiting for the consultation to come to you
- Figure out how to align your priorities with council priorities, leverage these priorities
- Make an effort to understand the challenges of a slow-moving council machine
- Build relationships beyond council with key community allies - such as community funders
- Think about what it might take to shift from transactional to mutual relationships based on reciprocity

For councils

- Go on a tour of your neighbourhoods and really get to understand your communities
- Visit the Aunties (community leaders) and not just for 10 mins
- Scones not wine - take the scones to the hui and make time for the kōrero - be a great enabler of community (see [Be the Change](#))
- 1000 cups of tea and tea towel tanga (see [Atawhai Tibble](#)).
- Get your hands dirty to rebuild trust
- Clearly know what you need, have a clear ask of your community so they can back you
- Share resources whenever you can
- Think about what it might take to shift from transactional to mutual relationships based on reciprocity