

Why Local Governance Matters?

Local Government Research Purpose

Effective local governance is the cornerstone of thriving communities. This research aimed to uncover the key attributes driving success in top-performing municipalities, providing a blueprint for excellence. The insights gained are integral to shaping interventions within Kagiso Trust's Local Governance Support Programme, ensuring tailored support that addresses specific challenges.

Targeted Municipalities

Sample Selection Criteria

A purposive sampling approach was adopted in this study, wherein five local municipalities were selected based on their audit performance records from 2017 to 2022. It is worth noting that a clean audit does not inherently imply exceptional performance of a municipality overall.



The rationale for focusing on the Administrative Leadership Teams (ALT) and the Political Leadership Teams (PLT) is that they are at the helm of and are tasked with steering the municipalities in the direction that meets the institutions' constitutional mandates.

Findings

Several recurring themes consistently emerged across all five municipalities. Table below summarises the themes that consistently surfaced throughout the study's examination of the municipalities.

Established institutional systems	To build internal capability & capacity internally instead of relying more on consultants.
Non-negotiable compliance to regulations	Regulatory compliance is non-negotiable (clean audits).
Community-centric	The municipality must be driven by community needs and implementation is community centricity.
No political interference	They display cohesion between politicians and administrators. There is clear understanding of role and responsibilities.
Cohesion between leadership teams	They display cohesion between politicians and administrators.
Robust policies and procedures	Focus on building robust sustainable systems Robust policies and procedures to prevent regression.
Financial Sustainability	To focus on financial stability as a platform for improvement.