



# ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Policy for the management of assets has been designed to assist management and officials of the Garden Route District Municipality with the description of management procedures for Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property, Agricultural Assets and Intangible Assets. It also should assist with the capacity to differentiate between activities, which are acceptable in terms of general authorization, supervisory responsibilities and limits of authority to the management of assets and functions of the organisation.

This Policy will provide certainty with respect to the handling of asset management procedures undertaken within the organization and will ensure that management and employees understand their respective responsibilities and duties.

There is a separate fixed asset property policy which resides under the Property Manager in the Department of Planning and Economic Development.

**For the purpose of this policy, assets exclude inventory and monetary assets such as debtors.**

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THIS POLICY

The objective of this policy is to ensure that assets of the Municipality are properly managed and accounted for by: -

- The accurate recording of essential asset information;
- The accurate recording of asset movements;
- Exercising strict physical controls over all assets;
- Treating the assets correctly in the Municipality's financial statements and fixed asset register;
- Providing accurate and meaningful management information;
- Compliance with the Council's accounting policies and Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP);
- Adequate insuring of assets;
- Maintenance of Council's assets;
- Ensuring that managers are aware of their responsibilities with regard to the assets; and the responsibility of any custodian to whom assets are allocated.
- Setting out the standards of management, recording and internal controls so as to safeguard the assets against inappropriate utilisation or loss.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**Accounting officer** means the municipal manager appointed in terms of section 82 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998) and being the head of administration and accounting officer in terms of section 60 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000).

**Agricultural Activity** is the management by an entity of the biological transformation of biological assets for sale, into agricultural produce, or into additional biological assets.

**Agricultural Produce** is the harvested product of the entity's biological assets.

**A Biological Asset** is a living animal or plant.

**Assets** are resources controlled by the municipality as a result of past events and from which future economic benefit or service potential are expected to flow. However for the purpose of this policy exclude inventory and other monetary assets.

**Biological Transformation** comprises the processes of growth, degeneration, production and procreation that cause qualitative or quantitative changes to a biological asset.

**Carrying amount** is the amount at which an asset is recognized after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

**Chief Financial Officer** means an officer of a municipality designated by the municipal manager to be administratively in charge of the budgetary and treasury functions.

**Class of property, plant and equipment** means a grouping of assets of a similar nature or function in a municipality's operations that is shown as a single item for the purpose of disclosure in the financial statements.

**Community assets** are defined as any asset that contributes to the community's well-being. Examples are parks, libraries and fire stations.

**Cost** is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire an asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or where applicable, the amount attributed to that asset when initially recognized in accordance with the specific requirements of Standards of GRAP.

**Depreciable amount** is the cost of an asset, or other amount substituted for cost in the financial statements, less its residual value.

**Depreciation** is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.

**Fair value** is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

**Heritage assets** are defined as culturally significant resources. Examples are works of art, historical buildings and statues.

An **impairment loss** of a cash generating asset is the amount by which the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.

An **impairment loss** of non-cash generating asset is the amount by which the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable service amount.

**Infrastructure assets** are defined as any asset that is part of a network of similar assets. Examples are roads, water reticulation schemes, sewerage purification and trunk mains, transport terminals and car parks.

**Intangible assets** are identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance.

**Investment properties** are defined as property (land or a building-or part of a building-or both) held (by the owner or by lessee under a finance lease) to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for:

- (a) use in the production and supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes; or
- (b) sale in the ordinary course of business.

**Municipal valuation** means the official valuation of an immovable property as reflected in the Municipality's valuation roll.

**Other assets** are defined as assets utilized in normal operations. Examples are plant and equipment, motor vehicles and furniture and fittings.

**Property, plant and equipment** are tangible assets that:-

- are held by a municipality for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and
- are expected to be used during more than one period.

**Recoverable amount** is the higher of a cash-generating asset's net selling price and its future value in use.

**Recoverable service amount** is the higher of a non-cash-generating asset's fair value less costs to sell and its future value in use.

**Residual value** of an asset is the estimated amount that an entity would currently obtain from disposal of the asset, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of the age and condition expected at the end of its useful life.

### **Useful life is:-**

- the period of time over which an asset is expected to be used by the municipality; or
- the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by the municipality's accounting officer.

## **4. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

The Municipality shall, notwithstanding this policy, comply with all relevant legislative requirements, including:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa; 1996
- Local Government: Municipal Systems Act; 2000
- Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act; 2003
- Division of Revenue Act; 2005
- Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP)
- Supply Chain Management Legislation
- Asset Transfer Regulations

This document constitutes a policy statement and shall not take precedence over the standards specified by the Accounting Standards Board. The relevant accounting standards include amongst others:

- **GRAP 1** Presentation of Financial Statements;
- **GRAP 13** Leases;
- **GRAP 16** Investment Property;
- **GRAP 17** Property, Plant and Equipment;
- **GRAP 100** Non-Current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations;
- **GRAP 101** Agriculture; and
- **GRAP 102** Intangible Assets.

## **5. BACKGROUND**

The utilization and management of property, plant and equipment, investment property, intangible assets and agricultural assets is the prime mechanism by which the Municipality can fulfil its constitutional mandates for:-

- Delivery of sustainable services;
- Social and economic development;
- Promoting safe and healthy environments; and
- Fulfilling the basic needs to the community.

As trustees on behalf of the local community, the Municipality has a legislative and moral obligation to ensure it implements policies to safeguard the monetary value and future service provision invested in assets.

The policy for the management of assets deals with the Municipal rules required to ensure the enforcement of appropriate stewardship of assets. Stewardship has two components being the:-

- Financial administration by the Chief Financial Officer; and
- Physical administration by the relevant managers.

Statutory provisions are being implemented to protect public property against arbitrary and inappropriate management or disposals by local government.

Accounting standards have been approved by the Accounting Standards Board to ensure the appropriate financial treatment for property, plant and equipment, investment property, intangible assets and agricultural assets. The requirements of these new accounting standards include:-

- The compilation of asset registers covering all assets controlled by the Municipality.
- Accounting treatment for the acquisition, disposal, recording and depreciation / amortisation of assets.
- The standards to which financial records must be maintained to comply with the new accounting standards.

## **6. DELEGATION OF POWERS**

This policy should be applied with due observance of the Municipality's policy with regard to delegated powers. Such delegations refer to delegations between the Municipal Manager and other responsible officials as well as between the Council and the Executive Mayor and the Council and the Municipal Manager. All delegations in terms of this policy must be recorded in writing.



In accordance with the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) (MFMA), the Municipal Manager is the accounting officer of the Municipality and therefore all designated officials are accountable to him/her. The Municipal Manager is therefore accountable for all transactions entered into by his/her designates.

The overall responsibility of asset management lies with the Municipal Manager. However, the day to day handling of assets should be the responsibility of all officials in terms of delegated authority reduced in writing.

## **7. EFFECTIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT**

### **7.1 Responsibilities**

The Municipal Manager is responsible for the management of the assets of the Municipality, including the safeguarding and the maintenance of those assets. He/she must ensure that:-

- The Municipality has and maintains a management, accounting and information system that accounts for the assets of the Municipality.
- The Municipality's assets are valued in accordance with standards of Generally Recognized Accounting Practice (GRAP).
- The Municipality has and maintains a system of internal control of assets, including an asset register.
- Executive managers and their teams comply with this policy.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible to the Municipal Manager to ensure that the financial investment in the Municipality's assets is safeguarded and maintained. He/she may delegate or otherwise assign responsibility for performing these functions but he/she will remain accountable for ensuring that these activities are performed. He/she must ensure that:-

- Appropriate systems of financial management and internal control are established and carried out diligently.
- The financial and other resources of the Municipality assigned to him/her are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically and transparently.
- Any unauthorized, irregular or fruitless or wasteful expenditure, and losses resulting from criminal or negligent conduct, are prevented.
- The systems, processes and registers required to substantiate the financial values of the Municipality's assets are maintained to standards sufficient to satisfy the requirements of effective management.

- Financial processes are established and maintained to ensure the Municipality's financial resources are optimally utilized through appropriate asset plan, budgeting, purchasing, maintenance and disposal decisions.
- The Municipal Manager is appropriately advised on the exercise of powers and duties pertaining to the financial administration of assets.
- The Executive managers and senior management teams are appropriately advised on the exercise of their powers and duties pertaining to the financial administration of assets.

**The Executive Managers must ensure that:**

- Appropriate systems of physical management and control are established and carried out for assets in their area of responsibility.
- The Municipal resources assigned to them are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically and transparently.
- Any unauthorized, irregular or fruitless or wasteful utilization and losses resulting from criminal or negligent conduct are prevented.
- Their management systems and controls can provide an accurate, reliable and up to date account of assets under their control.
- They are able to justify that their plans, budgets, purchasing, maintenance and disposal decisions for assets optimally achieve the Municipality's strategic objectives.

The executive managers may delegate or otherwise assign responsibility for performing these functions but they ***will remain accountable for ensuring that these activities are performed.***

Each executive manager should report to the Municipal Manager on issues that will significantly impede the item of asset capabilities to provide the required level of service or economic benefit.

***The responsibility for the physical control of assets rests with the relevant executive manager to whom the responsibility was delegated to*** in terms of section 79 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003.

Each executive manager shall ensure that assets entrusted to him / her ***are adequately maintained, properly used and insured and ensure that section 78 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003, is adhered to.***

The Chief Financial Officer (Asset Unit), must be notified by the Heads Of Departments of any transfer of assets between departments after arrangements between the relevant executive managers were made.

Upon the resignation / retirement of an employee, the applicable executive manager must inform the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Service Department in writing that the asset items entrusted to that employee to execute his / her duties are in good order and returned. When necessary the applicable senior manager must inform the Corporate Services Department of any losses and the value of such losses. The ultimate responsibility of any losses lies with the relevant executive manager.

## **7.2 Asset Register**

### **Establishment and Management of the Register of Assets**

The Chief Financial Officer will establish and maintain the Register containing key financial data on each item of Property, Plant or Equipment, Investment Property, Intangible Assets and Agricultural Assets that satisfies the criterion for recognition.

Executive managers are responsible for establishing and maintaining any additional register or database required to demonstrate their physical management of their assets.

Each executive manager is responsible to ensure that sufficient controls exist to substantiate the quantity, value, location and condition of all assets in their registers.

### **Contents of the Asset Register**

The measurement based used (Cost or Fair Value);

- The depreciation methods used;
- The original useful life;
- The revised useful life;
- The residual value;
- The revised residual value;
- Depreciation charged for the period;
- The accumulated depreciation;
- The gross carrying amount;
- Date of acquisition or brought into use;
- Date of disposal (if applicable);
- Increases or the decreases resulting from revaluations (if applicable);
- Date of last revaluation;
- Method of calculating recoverable amount (when impairment tests are required in terms of GRAP);
- Any restrictions on title to the asset;
- Location;
- Source of finance;
- Condition of the asset;

- Method of calculating the recoverable amount (when impairment losses are required in terms of GRAP);
- Strategic purpose and if it is required to provide minimum basic services; and
- Responsible Functional Manager/ department/ vote.
- Impairment losses incurred during the financial year (and the reversal of such losses, where applicable)
- Whether the asset is required to perform basic municipal services
- Whether the asset has been used to secure any debt, and – if so - the nature and duration of such security arrangements
- The title deed number, in the case of fixed property

All Executive managers under whose control any fixed asset falls shall promptly provide the Chief Financial Officer in writing with any information required to compile the fixed asset register, and shall promptly advise the Chief Financial Officer in writing of any material change which may occur in respect of such information.

A fixed asset shall be capitalised, that is, recorded in the fixed assets register, as soon as it is acquired. A fixed asset shall remain in the fixed assets register for as long as it is in physical existence.

### **7.3 Classification of Assets**

In compliance with the requirements of the National Treasury, the Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that all assets are classified under the following headings in the Fixed Assets Register, and Heads of Departments shall in writing provide the Chief Financial Officer with such information or assistance as is required to compile a proper classification:-

#### **7.3.1 Property, Plant and Equipment**

- Land (not held as investment assets).
- Infrastructure assets (assets which are part of a network of similar assets).
- Community assets (assets contributing to the general well-being of the community).
- Heritage assets (culturally significant assets).
- Other assets (ordinary operational assets).
- Housing (rental stock or housing stock not held for capital gain).

Save for land and buildings other assets shall be classified under the following headings:

- Bins and Containers;
- Emergency Equipment;
- Disaster Management Equipment;
- Fire Engines;
- Plant and Equipment;
- Computer equipment;
- Office equipment;
- Furniture and fittings; and
- Motor Vehicles.

### **7.3.2 Investment Property**

Investment assets (resources held for capital or operational gain and which are not used by the Municipality). Properties occupied by the Municipality, Councilors or officials are classified as owner-occupied property and are therefore not classed as investment property unless it is leased out on the same conditions that is applicable to the general public.

Investment properties will be treated in accordance with relevant GRAP standards and will separately be classified in the Statement of Financial Position.

### **7.3.3 Intangible Assets**

Intangible assets are identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance.

Intangible assets will be treated in accordance with relevant GRAP standards and will separately be classified in the Statement of Financial Position. Intangible assets shall be valued at cost less any accumulated amortization and any impairment losses.

### **7.3.4 Agricultural Assets**

Agricultural Assets will be treated in accordance with relevant GRAP standards and will separately be classified in the Statement of Financial Position

### **7.3.5 Assets Treated as Inventory**

Any land or buildings owned or acquired by the municipality with the intention of selling such property in the ordinary course of business, or any land or buildings

owned or acquired by the municipality with the intention of developing such property for the purpose of selling it in the ordinary course of business, shall be accounted for as inventory, and not included in either property, plant and equipment or investment property in the municipality's statement of position.

Such inventories shall, however, be recorded in the fixed assets register in the same manner as other fixed assets, but a separate section of the fixed assets register shall be maintained for this purpose.

The Chief Financial Officer shall use the classifications indicated in the Annexure on estimated lives of assets, as a guideline and in the case of an item of assets not appearing in the Annexure shall use the classification applicable to the asset most closely comparable in the Annexure.

## **7.4 Recognition of Assets**

### **7.4.1 Recognition of Heritage Assets**

If no original costs or fair values are available in the case of one or more or all heritage assets, the Chief Financial Officer may, if it is believed that the determination of a fair value for the assets in question will be a laborious or expensive undertaking, record such asset or assets in the fixed asset register without an indication of the costs or fair value concerned.

For Statement of Financial Position purposes, the existence of such heritage assets shall be disclosed by means of an appropriate note.

### **7.4.2 Recognition of Donated Assets**

Where a fixed asset is donated to the municipality, or a fixed asset is acquired by means of an exchange of assets between the municipality and one or more other parties, the asset concerned shall be recorded in the fixed asset register at its fair value, as determined by the Chief Financial Officer in reference to the relevant generally accepted accounting practice.

## 7.5 Capitalisation Criteria

### 7.5.1 Material Value

#### PPE and Intangible Assets

All assets may only be acquired in terms of council's Supply Chain Management Policy and in terms of the budgetary provisions. The responsibility for the purchase of assets would be delegated in terms of council's Delegation Framework and Supply Chain Management Policy. Depending on the cost of the asset to be purchased the following procedure for purchasing an asset must be followed:

- Executive managers shall at all times ensure that there are enough funds in their departmental budgets before requesting approval to any requisition to purchase an asset;
- Executive managers shall ensure that the correct vote and expenditure line item are used and recorded on the requisition requesting approval to purchase an asset;
- Tenders or quotations as required in terms of council's Supply Chain Management policy should be obtained and where required submitted to council's tender committee for approval;
- The tender committee resolution of the approved tender or recommended quotation should be attached to the requisition signed by the relevant head of department;
- The order would then be generated by the finance department;
- Once delivered the asset must be labeled / bar-coded by the Budget and Treasury department before such asset is put into use;
- The executive manager must indicate what the expected useful life of the asset will be;
- The executive manager should endorse receipt of the asset on the invoice and forwarded it for payment to the Finance department; and
- The Finance department would then generate payment.

The completion of any immovable asset by or under control of every head of department should promptly be declared to the Chief Financial Officer in writing stating the full details required for recording in the assets register.

All PPE and intangible assets shall be carried in the asset register, and appropriately recorded in the annual financial statements, at their original cost or fair value less any accumulated depreciation or amortisation in the case of intangible assets.

The **original cost** of an item of PPE or intangible assets may include:

- Cost price;
- Financing costs (MFMA section 46(4));
- Import tax;
- Non-claimable purchase tax; and
- Any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

When payment for an item of PPE or intangible assets is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent. The difference between this amount and the total payments is recognized as an interest expense over the period of credit.

When an item of PPE is acquired to be exchanged or partly exchanged for a dissimilar item of PPE or other asset, the cost of such item is measured at the fair value of the asset received, which is equivalent to the fair value of the asset given up adjusted by the amount of any cash or cash equivalents paid additional. For the purpose hereof, "fair value" shall be determined by the council with due regard to the definition ascribed to fair value in paragraph 2 hereof.

The only exceptions to this rule shall be revalued items of PPE (see part 7.9 below) and heritage assets in respect of which no depreciation is recorded in the fixed asset register.

### **Subsequent expenditure**

Subsequent expenditure relating to an asset that has already been capitalized, should only be added to the carrying amount of the asset when it is probable that future economic benefits or potential service delivery, in excess of the originally assessed standard of performance of the existing asset, will flow to the municipality.

### Investment Property

An investment property shall be measured initially at its cost. Transaction costs shall be included in the initial measurement. The cost of purchased investment property includes all directly attributable expenditure (professional fees for legal services, property transfer taxes and other transaction costs).



When payment for an investment property is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent. The difference between this amount and the total payments is recognized as an interest expense over the period of credit.

When investment property is acquired to be exchanged or partly exchanged for a dissimilar investment property or other asset, the cost of such item is measured at the fair value of the asset received, which is equivalent to the fair value of the asset given up adjusted by the amount of any cash or cash equivalents paid additional. For the purpose hereof, "fair value" shall be determined by the council with due regard to the definition ascribed to fair value in paragraph 2 hereof.

Subsequent to initial recognition, items of investment property are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Land is not depreciated as it is deemed to have an indefinite useful life.

Subsequent expenditure relating to an asset that has already been capitalized, should only be added to the carrying amount of the asset when it is probable that future economic benefits or potential service delivery, in excess of the originally assessed standard of performance of the existing asset, will flow to the municipality.

In terms of GRAP 16 transfers to and from investment property shall be made when there is a change in use:

- (a) Commencement of owner-occupation, for a transfer from investment property to owner-occupied property;
- (b) Commencement of development with a view to sale, for a transfer from investment property to inventories;
- (c) End of owner-occupation, for a transfer from owner-occupied property to investment property; or
- (d) Commencement of an operating lease to another party, for a transfer from inventories to investment property.

Transfers are made to or from investment property only when there is a change in use. For a transfer from investment property to owner occupied property, the deemed cost for subsequent accounting is the fair value at the date of change in use. If owner occupied property becomes an investment property, the Municipality accounts for such property in accordance with the policy stated under property, plant and equipment up to the date of change in use.

## Reinstatement, Maintenance and Other Expenses

Only expenses incurred in the enhancement of a fixed asset (in the form of improved or increased services or benefits flowing from the use of such asset) or in the material extension of the useful operating life of a fixed asset shall be capitalised.

Expenses incurred in the maintenance or reinstatement of a fixed asset shall be considered as operating expenses incurred in ensuring that the useful operating life of the asset concerned is attained, and shall not be capitalised, irrespective of the quantum of the expenses concerned.

Expenses, which are reasonably ancillary to the bringing into operation of a fixed asset, may be capitalised as part of such fixed asset. Such expenses may include but need not be limited to import duties, forward cover costs, transportation costs and installation, assembly and communication costs.

### **7.5.2 Intangible Items**

Assets that meet the criteria of GRAP 102 (Intangible Assets) shall be recognized as Intangible Assets at cost.

## **7.6 Depreciation**

### **7.6.1 Depreciation of PPE and Investment Property**

All PPE and Investment Property, except land and heritage assets, shall be depreciated – or amortised in the case of intangible assets.

Depreciation may be defined as the monetary quantification of the extent to which PPE and Investment Property are used or consumed in the provision of economic benefits or the delivery of services.

Depreciation shall generally take the form of an expense both calculated and debited on an annual basis against the appropriate line item in the department or vote in which the item of PPE and Investment Property is used or consumed.

However, depreciation shall initially be calculated from the day following the day in which an item of PPE and Investment Property are acquired or – in the case of construction works and plant and machinery – the day following the day in which the item is brought into use, until the end of the year concerned. Thereafter, depreciation charges shall be calculated annually.

Each Head of Department, acting in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, shall ensure that reasonable budgetary provision is made annually for the depreciation of all applicable PPE and Investment Property controlled or used by the department in question or expected to be so controlled or used during the ensuing financial year.

The procedures to be followed in accounting and budgeting for the amortisation of intangible assets shall be identical to those applying to the depreciation of other PPE.

#### **7.6.2 Rate of Depreciation and Amortisation**

The relevant head of department shall assign a useful operating life to each depreciable item of PPE and Investment Property recorded on the Municipality's asset register. In determining such a useful life the relevant head of department shall use to the useful lives set out in the Aneo this document and relevant historical experience as a guideline.

In the case of an item of PPE or Investment Property which is not listed in this annexure, the relevant head of department in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer shall determine a useful operating life, and shall be guided in determining such useful life by the likely pattern in which the item's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.

The procedures to be followed in accounting and budgeting for the amortisation of intangible assets shall be identical to those applying to the depreciation of other PPE.

### **7.6.3 Method of Depreciation**

The Chief Financial Officer shall allocate the depreciable amount of all depreciable PPE and intangible on a systematic basis over its useful life.

The residual value and useful life of an asset shall be reviewed at least at each reporting date by each executive manager and, if expectations differ from previous estimates, the changes shall be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate in accordance with GRAP 3.

## **7.7 Amendment of Asset Lives and Diminution in the Value of PPE**

A printout of the asset register indicating the current remaining useful lives of all assets allocated to a department will be distributed by the Chief Financial Officer to all Heads of Department annually. All Heads of Department must review the remaining useful lives of the assets under their control. Any changes in useful lives must be communicated to the Chief Financial Officer in order for the Finance Department to make the required changes to the Fixed Asset Register. All changes will be treated as Changes in Accounting Estimates in terms of GRAP 3 in the annual financial statements.

The Heads of Department shall request the Chief Financial Officer to amend the useful operating life assigned to any item of PPE if it becomes known that such item has been materially impaired or improperly maintained to such an extent that its useful operating life will not be attained, or any other event has occurred which materially affects the pattern in which the item's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.

If the value of an item of PPE, Investment Property or intangible assets has been diminished to such an extent that it has no or a negligible further useful operating life or value such item shall be fully depreciated or eradicated in the financial year in which such diminution in value occurs.

Similarly, if an item of PPE and Investment Property has been lost, stolen or damaged beyond repair, it shall be fully depreciated in the financial year in which such event occurs, and if the item has physically ceased to exist, it shall be written off in the fixed asset register.

In all of the foregoing instances, the additional depreciation expenses shall be debited to the department or vote controlling or using the item of PPE, Investment Property or intangible asset in question.

If any of the foregoing events arises in the case of a normally non-depreciable item of PPE or Investment Property, and such item has been capitalised at a value other than a purely nominal value, such item shall be partially or fully depreciated, as the case may be, as though it were an ordinary depreciable item of PPE, and the department or vote controlling or using the item in question shall bear the full depreciation expenses concerned.

Additional depreciation not budgeted for as a result of unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances must be provided for in an adjustments budget and, if such circumstances arises close to the end of the financial year and there will not be time for Council to consider the adjustments before the end of the financial year, may in advance be approved by the Mayor in terms of Section 29 of the MFMA, provided that any other provisions of the MFMA be complied with.

## **7.8 Funding of PPE and Reserves**

The purchase of assets may be funded from the raising of external loans, leases, government- and public contributions, the Capital Replacement Reserve and surplus cash.

## **7.9 Other Write-offs of PPE**

An item of PPE, shall be written off when it can no longer be used, in consultation with the Head of Department controlling or using the item concerned.

Every Head of Department shall report to the Chief Financial Officer on 31 October and 30 April of each financial year on any item of PPE which such Head of Department wishes to have written off, stating in full the reason for such recommendation.

The Chief Financial Officer shall consolidate all such reports, and shall promptly notify the Council on the PPE to be written off.

The only reasons for writing off PPE, other than the alienation of such item of PPE, shall be the loss, theft, and destruction or material impairment of the PPE in question.

If an item of PPE must be written off as a result of an occurrence out of the control of the municipality, such as malicious damage, theft or destruction, the municipal manager must determine whether a third party or an employee was involved in the loss and take all reasonable steps to recover such loss, including reporting the incident to the South African Police Services and the Auditor General, the insurance as well as institute disciplinary steps against any employee who might have been involved in such incident.

In every instance where a not fully depreciated item of PPE is written off, the Chief Financial Officer shall immediately debit to such department or vote, as additional depreciation expenses, the full carrying value of the item concerned.

## **7.10 Management and Operation of Assets**

### **7.11.1 Accountability to manage assets**

Each Executive Manager is accountable to ensure that Municipal resources assigned to them are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically and transparently. This will include:-

- Developing appropriate management systems, procedures, processes and controls for managing assets;
- Providing accurate, reliable and up to date account of assets under their control; and
- The development and motivation of relevant strategic asset management plans and operational budgets that optimally achieve the Municipality's strategic objectives.

### **7.11.2 Contents of a strategic management plan**

Executive Managers need to manage assets under their control to provide the required level of service or economic benefit at the lowest possible long-term cost. To achieve this, the Executive Manager will need to develop strategic asset management plans that cover:-

- Alignment with the Integrated Development Plan;
- Operational guidelines;
- Performance monitoring;
- Maintenance programs;
- Renewal, refurbishment and replacement plans;
- Disposal and Rehabilitation plans;
- Operational, financial and capital support requirements, and
- Risk mitigation plans including insurance strategies

The operational budgets are the short to medium term plan for implementing this strategic asset management plan.

### **7.11.3 Reporting on Emerging Issues**

Each Functional Manager should report to the Municipal Manager on issues that will significantly impede the item of asset capabilities to provide the required level of service or economic benefit.

### **7.11.4 Verification of Assets**

The Municipality shall at least once during every financial year undertake on a date as determined by the CFO a comprehensive verification of all moveable assets controlled or used by all the departments of the Municipality.

Every Head of Department shall promptly and fully report in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, in the format determined by the Chief Financial Officer, all relevant results of such verification, provided that each such item of asset verification shall be undertaken and completed during April of each financial year, and that the resultant report shall be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer not later than 31 May of the year in question.

### **7.11.5 Movement of Assets**

Movement of moveable assets to be undertaken as per Standard operating procedures in annexure A.

## **7.11 Alienation of Assets**

In compliance with the principles and prescriptions of the Municipal Finance Management Act, the transfer of ownership of any fixed asset shall be fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and consistent with the municipality's supply chain management policy and the Municipal Asset Transfer Regulations

Every head of department shall report in writing to the Chief Financial Officer on 30 April of each financial year on all fixed assets controlled or used by the department concerned which such head of department wishes to alienate by public auction or public tender.

The Chief Financial Officer shall thereafter consolidate the requests received from the various departments, and shall promptly report such consolidated information to the council or the municipal manager of the municipality, as the case may be, recommending the process of alienation to be adopted.

The council shall delegate to the municipal manager the authority to approve the alienation of any moveable asset with a carrying value less than R50 000 (fifty thousand rand). The council shall ensure that the alienation of any asset with a carrying value equal to or in excess of R50 000 (fifty thousand rand) takes place in compliance with Section 14 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2004.

In terms of Section 14 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2004 the Municipality may not transfer ownership as a result of a sale or other transaction or otherwise permanently dispose of assets needed to provide the minimum level of basic municipal services.

The Municipality may transfer ownership or otherwise dispose of assets other than one contemplated above, but only after the Council, in a meeting open to the public:-



- has decided on reasonable grounds that the asset is not needed to provide the minimum level of basic municipal services; and
- has considered the fair market value of the item and the economic and community value to be received in exchange for the asset.

The decision that a specific asset is not needed to provide the minimum level of basic municipal services, may not be subsequently reversed by the Municipality after that asset has been sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of.

Once the fixed assets are alienated, the Chief Financial Officer shall treat the disposal of the items in terms of GRAP and amend the relevant records of the fixed asset register. If the proceeds of the alienation are less than the carrying value recorded in the fixed asset register, such difference shall be recognised as a loss in the Statement of Financial Performance of the department or vote concerned.

If the proceeds of the alienation, on the other hand, are more than the carrying value of the fixed asset concerned, the difference shall be recognised as a gain in the Statement of Financial Performance of the department or vote concerned.

Transfer of fixed assets to other municipalities, municipal entities (whether or not under the municipality's sole or partial control) or other organs of state shall take place in accordance with the Municipal Asset Transfer Regulations.

## **7.12 Maintenance**

### **7.12.1 Maintenance Plans**

Every Head of Department shall ensure that a maintenance plan in respect of every new infrastructure asset with a value of R100 000 (one hundred thousand rand) or more is promptly prepared and submitted to the Council for approval.

If so directed by the Municipal Manager, the maintenance plan shall be submitted to the Council prior to any approval being granted for the acquisition or construction of the infrastructure asset concerned.

The Head of Department controlling or using the infrastructure asset in question, shall annually report to the Council, not later than in July or the earliest Council meeting thereafter, of the extent to which the relevant maintenance plan has been complied with, and of the likely effect which any non-compliance may have on the useful operating life of the item concerned.

### **7.12.2 Deferred Maintenance**

If there is material variation between the actual maintenance expenses incurred and the expenses reasonably envisaged in the approved maintenance plan for any infrastructure asset, the Chief Financial Officer shall disclose the extent of and possible implications of such deferred maintenance in an appropriate note to the annual financial statements. Such note shall also indicate any plans which the Council has approved in order to redress such deferral of the maintenance requirements concerned.

If no such plans have been formulated or are likely to be implemented, the Chief Financial Officer shall re-determine the useful operating life of the fixed asset in question, if necessary in consultation with the Head of Department controlling or using such item, and shall recalculate the increased annual depreciation expenses accordingly.

### **7.12.3 General Maintenance of Assets**

Every Head of Department shall be directly responsible for ensuring that all assets (other than infrastructure assets which are dealt with in part 7.13.1 and part 7.13.2 above) are properly maintained and in a manner which will ensure that such item attain their useful operating lives.

## **7.13 Replacement Strategy**

The Municipal Manager, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and other Heads of Departments, shall formulate norms and standards for the replacement of all normal operational assets. Such norms and standards shall be incorporated in a formal strategy, which shall be submitted to the Council for approval. **This strategy shall cover the replacement of motor vehicles, furniture and fittings, computer equipment, and any other appropriate operational items.**

Such strategy shall also provide for the replacement of assets which are required for service delivery but which have become uneconomical to maintain.

#### **7.14 Insurance of Assets**

The municipal manager or heads of departments to whom the responsibility of the assets have been delegated shall ensure that all movable assets are insured at least against fire and theft, and that all municipal buildings are insured at least against fire and allied perils. The municipal manager and heads of department will annually revise council insurance portfolio to ensure that all assets are adequately insured. The services of an insurance broker would be required in terms of council's Supply Chain Management policy.

Any theft, loss or damage to an asset should immediately be reported to council's insurance brokers by the relevant head of department under whose responsibility the asset falls. A copy of the insurance claim submitted should be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer who must record such claim in the insurance register. It is the responsibility of the relevant head of department to ensure that all documents / information for the completion of the claim is forwarded to council's insurance brokers and that copies thereof is forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer. The head of department should in writing request the replacement of the asset which can only be authorized, if sufficient provision for the replacement of the asset is on the capital budget, by the Municipal Manager after consultation with the Chief Financial Officer. If sufficient provision is not on the capital budget the asset can only be replaced if provision for the replacement is made on an Adjustments budget. In the case where an asset must be replaced as an emergency measure, the Mayor may authorise such expenditure, subject to compliance with Section 29 of the MFMA.

Third-party (insurance) pay-outs must be treated as revenue when the amount is certain and may not be offset against the cost of replacing the item. The carrying value of items lost, stolen or damaged beyond repair must be treated as impairment against the relevant department or vote. The full cost of the replacement item must then be capitalised.

The municipal manager shall recommend to the council of the municipality, after consulting with the Chief Financial Officer, the basis of the insurance to be applied to each type of fixed asset: either the carrying value or the replacement value of the fixed assets concerned. Such recommendation shall take due cognisance of the budgetary resources of the municipality.

The Chief Financial Officer shall annually submit a report to the council of the municipality on any reinsurance cover which it is deemed necessary to procure for the municipality's self-insurance reserve.

## **7.15 Impairment of Assets**

The accounting treatment relating to impairment losses is outlined in GRAP 21 and GRAP 26.

### **7.15.1 Cash-generating assets**

Cash-generating assets are assets held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return.

The Municipality assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Municipality estimates the asset's recoverable amount.

In assessing whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired, the Municipality considers the following indications:

(a) External sources of information

- During the period, an asset's market value has declined significantly more than would be expected as a result of the passage of time or normal use.
- Significant changes with an adverse effect on the Municipality have taken place during the period, or will take place in the near future, in the technological, market, economic or legal environment in which the Municipality operates or in the market to which an asset is dedicated.
- Market interest rates or other market rates of return on investments have increased during the period, and those increases are likely to affect the discount rate used in calculating an asset's value in use and decrease the asset's recoverable amount materially.

(b) Internal sources of information

- Evidence is available of obsolescence or physical damage of an asset.
- Significant changes with an adverse effect on the Municipality have taken place during the period, or are expected to take place in the near future, in the extent to which, or manner in which, an asset is used or is expected to be used. These changes include the asset becoming idle, plans to discontinue or restructure the operation to which an asset belongs, plans to dispose of an asset before the previously expected date, and reassessing the useful life of an asset as finite rather than indefinite.
- Evidence is available from internal reporting that indicates that the economic performance of an asset is, or will be, worse than expected.

The re-designation of assets from a cash-generating asset to a non-cash generating asset or from a non-cash-generating asset to a cash-generating asset shall only occur when there is clear evidence that such a re-designation is appropriate. A re-designation, by itself, does not necessarily trigger an impairment test or a reversal of an impairment loss. Instead, the indication for an impairment test or a reversal of an impairment loss arises from, as a minimum, the indications listed above.

An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's or cash-generating unit's (CGU) fair value less costs to sell and its value in use and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets. Where the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. In determining fair value less costs to sell, an appropriate valuation model is used. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in those expense categories consistent with the function of the impaired asset.

After the recognition of an impairment loss, the depreciation (amortisation) charge for the asset is adjusted in future periods to allocate the asset's revised carrying amount, less its residual value (if any), on a systematic basis over its remaining useful life.

An assessment is made at each reporting date as to whether there is any indication that previously recognised impairment losses may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such indication exists, the Municipality estimates the asset's or CGU's recoverable amount. A previously recognised impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the assumptions used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. The reversal is limited so that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed its recoverable amount, nor exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation, had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. Such reversal is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

### **7.15.2 Non-cash-generating assets**

Non-cash-generating assets are assets other than cash-generating assets.

The Municipality assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Municipality estimates the asset's recoverable service amount.

In assessing whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired, the Municipality considers the following indications:

(a) External sources of information

- Cessation, or near cessation, of the demand or need for services provided by the asset.
- Significant long-term changes with an adverse effect on the Municipality have taken place during the period or will take place in the near future, in the technological, legal or government policy environment in which the Municipality operates.

(b) Internal sources of information

- Evidence is available of physical damage of an asset.

- Significant long-term changes with an adverse effect on the Municipality have taken place during the period, or are expected to take place in the near future, in the extent to which, or manner in which, an asset is used or is expected to be used. These changes include the asset becoming idle, plans to discontinue or restructure the operation to which an asset belongs, or plans to dispose of an asset before the previously expected date.
- A decision to halt the construction of the asset before it is complete or in a usable condition.
- Evidence is available from internal reporting that indicates that the service performance of an asset is, or will be, significantly worse than expected.

An asset's recoverable service amount is the higher of a non-cash-generating asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. If the recoverable service amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable service amount. That reduction is an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

The value in use of a non-cash-generating asset is the present value of the asset's remaining service potential. The present value of the remaining service potential of the asset is determined using any one of the following approaches, depending on the nature of the asset in question:

- *depreciation replacement cost approach* - the present value of the remaining service potential of an asset is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of the asset. The replacement cost of an asset is the cost to replace the asset's gross service potential. This cost is depreciated to reflect the asset in its used condition. An asset may be replaced either through reproduction (replication) of the existing asset or through replacement of its gross service potential. The depreciated replacement cost is measured as the reproduction or replacement cost of the asset, whichever is lower, less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost, to reflect the already consumed or expired service potential of the asset.
- *restoration cost approach* - the cost of restoring the service potential of an asset to its pre-impaired level. Under this approach, the present value of the remaining service potential of the asset is determined by subtracting the estimated restoration cost of the asset from the current cost of replacing the remaining service potential of the asset before impairment. The latter cost is usually determined as the depreciated reproduction or replacement cost of the asset, whichever is lower.
- *service unit approach* - the present value of the remaining service potential of the asset is determined by reducing the current cost of the remaining service potential of the asset before impairment, to conform with the reduced number of service units

expected from the asset in its impaired state. As in the restoration cost approach, the current cost of replacing the remaining service potential of the asset before impairment is usually determined as the depreciated reproduction or replacement cost of the asset before impairment, whichever is lower.

Fair value less costs to sell is the amount obtainable from the sale of an asset in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties, less the costs of disposal.

An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard of GRAP. Any impairment loss of a revalued asset shall be treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that Standard of GRAP.

The Municipality assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognised in prior periods for an asset may no longer exist or may have decreased. If any such indication exists, the Municipality estimates the recoverable service amount of that asset.

An impairment loss recognised in prior periods for an asset is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable service amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. If this is the case, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to its recoverable service amount. The increased carrying amount of an asset attributable to a reversal of an impairment loss does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of depreciation or amortisation) had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior periods. Such a reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

The following steps will have to be performed regularly during the year to account for impairment losses:

- Departments will identify and inform the Chief Financial Officer of assets that:
  - Are in a state of damage at year end.
  - Are technologically obsolete at year end. .
  - Have remained idle for a considerable period either prior to them being put into use at year end or during their useful life.



- Are subject to impairment losses because the subsidies to be received in exchange for assets are less than the carrying amounts.
- The recoverable amounts of these assets need to be determined by calculating the net selling price per asset and value-in-use as defined above.

## **8. ACQUISITION OF ASSETS**

### **8.1 Pre-acquisition Planning**

Before a capital project is included in the budget for approval, the Chief Financial Officer must demonstrate that he/she has considered the following:

- The projected cost over all the financial years until the project is operational;
- The future operational costs and revenue on the project, including the tax and tariff implications;
- The financial sustainability of the project over its life including revenue generation and subsidisation requirements;
- The physical and financial stewardship of that asset through all stages of its life including acquisition, installation, maintenance, operations, disposal and rehabilitation;
- The inclusion of the capital project in the Integrated Development Plan and future budgets; and
- Alternatives to the capital purchase.

The heads of department are accountable to ensure that the Chief Financial Officer receives all reasonable assistance, guidance and explanation to enable him to achieve his planning requirements.

### **8.2 Approval to Acquire Property, Plant and Equipment**

Money can only be spent on a project if:

- The money has been appropriated in an approved budget;
- The project, including the total cost has been approved by the Council;
- The Chief Financial Officer confirms that funding is available for that specific project; and
- Any contract that will impose financial obligations beyond two years after the budget year is appropriately disclosed.

## **Funding of Capital Projects**

Within the Municipality's on-going financial, legislative or administrative capacity, the Chief Financial Officer must establish and maintain the funding strategies that optimise the municipality's ability to achieve its strategic objectives as stated in the Integrated Development Plan. The acquisition of assets may not be funded over a period longer than the useful life of that asset.

## **9. PURCHASE OR HIRE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

The municipality may acquire by purchase, or by hire, immovable property within- or outside the municipal boundary provided it complies with the requirements of the MFMA and the Supply Chain Management policy and subject to the following:

- The cost of the purchase or hire had been budgeted for; and
- The intention to buy or hire the immovable property had been advertised for public comment.
- After consideration of any public comments/objections the Council will:-
  - In the case of the following paragraph complies with the requirements of that paragraph; and
  - In the case of all other immovable property, finally resolve to continue with the purchase or hire and apply the supply chain management processes
- The Council will not continue with the purchase or hire of any immovable property where:
  - The price is in excess of the market value thereof as assessed by an appraiser; or
  - The rental which, when calculated per annum in the case of:
    - Immovable property hired for agricultural purposes, exceeds six percent; and
    - Immovable property hired for any other purpose, exceed twelve percent of the market value of the property, as assessed by an appraiser.

The Council may accept a gift or conveyance of immovable property either for the municipality or in trust for charitable or other public purposes not connected with public worship, and hold the same in such trust or for such purpose as may be declared by such donors and may administer, utilize and improve such property.

The trustees of any immovable property held in trust for any township village of settlement which has become a municipality or part of a municipality may transfer such property to the Council, subject to any special trusts in their deeds of title and upon conditions not at variance therewith.

## **10. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY**

This policy to be implemented as approved by Council Decision DCxxx, 28 May 2019. All future asset management must be done in accordance with this policy.

This policy must be reviewed annually by the Accounting Officer and the CFO for any legislative or General Accounting Practise changes in consideration with audit recommendations for the Auditor General.

## APPENDIX A

### SCHEDULE OF EXPECTED USEFUL LIVES OF ASSETS (to be used as a guide only, every asset's useful life must be determined individually)

	Years		Years
<b><u>Infrastructure</u></b>		<b><u>Other</u></b>	
Roads and Paving	7 - 32	Buildings	5 - 32
		Other vehicles	2 - 34
		Office equipment	3 - 32
<b><u>Community</u></b>		Furniture and fittings	1 - 33
Buildings	7 - 32	Bins and containers	8 - 32
Recreational Facilities	32	Specialised plant and	
Parks and gardens	22	Equipment	2 - 32
Investment Property - Buildings	29 - 32	Fire Engines	3 - 34
		Emergency equipment	6 - 22
		Computer equipment	1 - 32
		Computer Software	2 - 18

## **Annexure A : Movement of Moveable Assets**

- Do not move assets without having completed an asset transfer form (Annexure B), signed off by the Executive Manager of the department; the form to be submitted to Asset Management Unit (Finance) within 3 workings asset of being.
- Keep assets issued to you personally (laptops, camera's, etc.) safely and in good working condition. Assets will not be readily replaced and that could hamper your work performance. If there is any assets not in good working condition please inform asset management for them to be repaired as this this will affect the value of our assets in our books if it is not in good working condition during asset verification or audit process.
- Ensure that assets in your possession are barcoded if not inform asset management (Finance) to have the item barcoded.
- If there are any concerns regarding missing assets that might have been moved without following the correct process of filling in the Assets transfer from, please raise the matter immediately with asset management unit for the item to either be moved back to your office or the process be ratified (Asset Register – Location of Asset, filling in of asset transfer form)
- If you are aware of stolen assets or missing assets that have not been located please inform asset management unit to allow the due process regarding assets to be ensued, otherwise failure to do will result in the official to whom the asset was entrusted as personally liable for the recovery cost of the asset
- Every room should have an asset list mounted at the back each door listing all assets in that room. If you become aware that a room /office does not have one, please inform asset unit immediately.
- Asset list to be reviewed very month by the allocated user/occupant of the office or room, to ensure that all assets in the office exist, they are complete and in good working condition. (Ensure that they still have their Bar Codes)
- Any missing assets on the list but not in the office/room to be reported to asset unit immediately.
- Any unidentified asset in the room but not listed in the room asset list to be reported to the asset unit. (Asset Unit will remove the asset and place it in the allocated location as per asset register)

Matters of Emphasis

1. All transfer of asset forms completed to be signed off by the relevant head of department with the approval of the designated official and sent to Asset unit (Ext. 1325 or 1303).
2. Should there be any discrepancies between the Asset register and the assets in your custody and no formal documentation indicating their movement; report the matter to asset unit immediately.
3. Every person to whom assets are allocated are responsible to ensure the assets are safeguarded and any theft/damage is immediately reported. Reasonable care must be exercised to safeguard the assets. Negligence to safeguard assets can lead to investigated procedures to be initiated which can potentially lead to disciplinary action.

**Annexure B: Asset Transfer Form:**

**Application for Asset Transfer**

<b>Asset No</b>	<b>From Location</b>	<b>To Location</b>

<b>Requested</b>	<b>Authorised By</b>	<b>Date</b>

<b>Received By</b>	<b>Date</b>