

UTHUKELA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



DRAFT RESERVE AND FUNDING POLICY

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PREAMBLE

In the spirit of the Municipal Finance Management Act, (No. 56 of 2003) “ to modernize budget and financial management practices by placing local government finances on a sustainable footing in order to maximize the capacity of Municipalities to deliver services to all residents customers, users and investors, this policy is a necessary instrument to monitor and sustain the Municipality’s financial management.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The policy sets out to ensure that the annual budget of Uthukela Municipality is fully funded and that all funds and reserves are maintained at the required level to avoid future year unfounded liabilities. The policy aims to give effect to the requirements and stipulations of the Municipal Finance Management Act and the Municipal Budget and Reporting Framework. The policy shall apply to all the relevant parties within the Uthukela District municipality that are involved throughout the budget process and financial management disciplines.

BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY

1) CAPITAL BUDGETS

a) Basis of Calculation

- The **zero based method** is used in preparing the annual capital budget, except in cases where a contractual commitment has been made that would span over more than one financial year.
- The annual capital budget shall be based realistically anticipated revenue (capital loans to be taken up will be deemed to be part of this), which should be equal to the anticipated capital expenditure in order to result in a balanced budget.
- The impact of the capital budget on the current and future operating budgets in terms of finance charges to be incurred on external loans, depreciation of fixed assets, maintenance of fixed assets and any other operating expenditure to be incurred resulting directly from the capital expenditure, should be carefully analysed when the annual capital budget is being finalized.
- In addition, the council shall consider the likely impact of such operational expenses – net of any revenues expected to be generated by such item on future service tariffs.

2) FUNDING OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET

a) Own Funding Sources

The Council shall establish a capital replacement Reserve (CRR) for the purpose of financing capital projects and the acquisition of capital assets. Such reserve shall be established from the following:

- Un appropriate cash-backed surpluses to the extent that such surpluses are not required for operational purposes.
- Further amounts appropriated as contributions in each annual or adjustments budget; and
- Net gains on the sale of fixed assets in terms of the fixed assets management and accounting policy

b) Other Funding Sources

The Ad-hoc capital Budget shall be financed from external sources such as the following:

- Grants and subsidies as allocated in the annual Division of Revenue Act.
- Grants and Subsidies as allocated by the Provincial Government.
- External loans.
- Private Contributions.
- Contributions from the capital Development Fund(developer's contributions).
- Any other financing source secured by the local authority.

2) OPERATIONAL BUDGET

a) Basis of Calculation

- The **incremental approach** is used in preparing the annual operating budget, except in cases where a contractual commitment has been made that would span over more than one financial year. In these instances the zero based method will be followed.
- The annual operating budget shall be based on realistically anticipated revenue, which should be equal to the anticipated operating expenditure in order to result in a balanced budget.
- An income based approached shall be used where the realistically anticipated income is determined first and the level of operating expenditure would be based on the determined income, thus resulting in a balance budget.

b) Assumptions for various budget categories

The following assumptions are used when compiling the budget for the following expenditure categories:

- **Salaries, Wages and Allowances**

The Salaries and allowances are calculated based on the percentage increases as per the collective agreement between organized labour and the employer for a particular period. The remuneration of all political office bearers is based on the limitations and percentages as determined by the responsible National Minister.

- **Depreciation**

The above is calculated at cost, using the straight line method, to allocate the depreciation cost to the residual values over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

- **Interest External Borrowings**

The above refers to interest and redemption that has to be repaid on an external loan taken up by Council. The budget is determined by the repayments that the Municipality is liable for based on the agreements entered into with the other party.

- **Bulk Purchases**

The expenditure on bulk purchases shall be determined using guidelines as per Water Boards or by any other service provider if such guidelines are not available the municipality may increase its tariffs using the any percentages that it will be appropriate provided that it will be in line with prior year increases and CPI for that time.

- **Other General Expenditure**

A percentage growth for all other general expenditure will be based on the percentage determined by the Financial Services in line with prevailing growth rates and the CPI and prior actual expenditure trends.

- **Repairs and Maintenance**

The budget of repairs and maintenance shall be based on the increment as determined Financial Services in conjunction with the needs of the departments in terms of repairing their assets. And it must be in line with national treasury guidelines provided that funding is available.

c) Funding of the Operational Budget

The operating budget shall be financed from the following sources.

- **Service Charges**

I. Water Charges

II. Sewerage Charges

- **Taxes**

Increases in tariffs will be based on actual billed revenue and as far as possible is limited to inflation plus an additional percentage increase to accommodate the growth of the town.

- **Grants and Subsidies**

Grants and subsidies shall be based on all the gazetted grants and subsidies plus all other subsidies received by the organization.

- **Interest on Investments**

The budget for interest and investment shall be in accordance with the Cash management and Investment policy of the Municipality.

3) BORROWING REQUIREMENTS

The borrowing requirements are based on the backlogs of the infrastructure needs taking into consideration the operational impact of any loans

4) IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY

This policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it is in line with the Municipality's strategic objectives and with legislation.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The policy shall come to effect upon approval by Council of Uthukela District Municipality.

POLICY APPROVAL

This policy has been considered and approved by the COUNCIL OF UTHUKELA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY as follows:

Resolution No:.....

Approval Date:.....