**Tabling and Adoption of the Final Reviewed Integrated Development Plan for 2021/22 on 27 May 2021**

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| Speaker;Deputy Executive Mayor; |  |
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| Members of the Mayoral Committee; |
| Aldermen, Councillors; |
| Acting Municipal Manager, Directors, Officials; |
| Members of the public; |
| Representatives of the Media; and |
| All protocol observed. |

Good morning ladies and gentlemen

This report serves to request Council to approve the review 2017-2022 George Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and adopt the **2021/2022 Reviewed IDP**

In compliance with the above, George Municipality has embarked on a review to further develop its IDP and Budget for the 2021/2022 financial year in accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000); the Local Government: Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations, 2001; and the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003).

Annual revisions allow the Municipality to expand upon or refine plans and strategies, to include additional issues and to ensure that these plans and strategies inform institutional and financial planning. The review and amendment of the IDP ensures that it remains relevant to the critical challenges facing the Municipality.

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions on gatherings, the IDP process provided an opportunity through various media platforms for communities to receive and comment on the Draft IDP.

Consultation on the Draft Reviewed IDP 2021/2022 happened via e-Public Participation during the month of April 2021.

The process plan of Council stipulates feedback may be given through established Ward Committees and advertised notices and was done accordingly.

It should be noted that the Draft IDP was also sent to the Provincial Department of Local Government as is required by legislation, who in turn provided an assessment report on the Draft IDP. There were no substantial matters raised.

There was a suggestion that the Vision and Mission be exchanged and that the measures to address any non-performance be included. These have been included in the document tabled to Council.

As a result of the opportunity for comments on the IDP and Budget, the responses received from the community were presented and discussed with the Budget Committee in preparation to the tabling of the final IDP and Budget, and any matters pertaining to the IDP have been addressed accordingly.

The strategic thrust of George Municipality is a city for a sustainable future featuring the five main strategic goals namely:

* • Develop and Grow George;
* • Safe, Clean and Green;
* • Affordable Quality Service;
* • Participative Partnerships; and
* • Good Governance and Human Capital

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF IDP**

The George Municipality’s 2017-2022 IDP (including any subsequent reviews) will continue to be the guiding developmental framework and the information contained in this document will not be discarded.

The annual review of the IDP document continues to be more strategic by being focused on implementation. This means focusing on achieving targets, adjusting resources for delivery, re-committing municipal resources to annual deliverables and monitoring the key deliverables.

I would like to thank the Directorate: Planning & Development and all the key roleplayers for putting this IDP together, and being short-staffed, this made the task even more difficult.

My colleagues will elaborate in greater depth.

However, it is worthwhile commenting on certain aspects in relation to our strategic goals. These relate to initiatives that will our communities and serve to provide opportunities and improve the quality of life.

## **Promotion of economic opportunities within the local economy**

#### Informal Trading

Provision has been made on the 2021/2022 operational and capital budget for Planning & Development toward funding the following:

1. Erection of trade stands for informal traders in Pacaltsdorp & Touwsranten;
2. New informal Trader Containers in the George CBD;
3. In collaboration with the directorate Human Settlements a strategy for development and release of vacant business and industrial property in Thembalethu is being developed. This includes exploration of various funding solutions to support the installation of the infrastructure required to equip the properties;

### Street Traders

Currently, there are 82 stalls in the respective allocated areas of George of which 80 do not have a valid permit and there is currently no strategic plan in this regard. The following will be implemented within the next 12 – 18 Months:

* Unused trade shelters are being relocated to other localities where footfall is more conducive to viable trade.
* Potential sites in Pacaltsdorp that align with the Go George bus routes and transfer sites have already been investigated and in a collaborative effort with other directorates this re-location will commence within the current financial year with prospects of expanding the identified site, should budget allow;
* The existing database is being updated and under-utilised stands in the CBD will be re-allocated to open opportunities for new traders to enter the marketplace.

We should emphasise that development and growth of our local economy is of critical importance not only for the jobs that they create but also ultimately to grow the revenue of this municipality. It is only with a sound economic base that we can provide the infrastructure so necessary to attract investment to ensure economic sustainability that in turn drives financial sustainability.

In the near future we look forward to the commence of the Medi-Clinic project and the allied supporting infrastructure, a project of R1,8bn that will provide over 1000 jobs during the construction phase probably over the next three years.

Lancewood has recently also undertaken a R140m expansion.

The Village Ridge FLISP housing project has also broke ground as their 180 odd housing project commences.

We are also aware that a significant insurer based in George is busy with a large acquisition that over time will increase its footprint in George.

There are also prospects of other businesses wishing to establish themselves here.

##### NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1. Proposals are being prepared toward engagement with National Treasury to secure funding under the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Programme toward upgrade, regeneration and restoration of inequalities within the disadvantaged areas. This includes opportunities for trade and employment within the immediate neighbourhoods;
2. The programme will render funding solutions to equip existing business and industrial sites in Thembalethu and Pacaltsdorp with facilities for traders and small industries and improve access to opportunities.

Comments on Financial Implications

Limited funds are available on the Capital & Operational budgets for the 2021/2022 financial year, which mostly makes provision for the planning and construction of new informal trading stands in the greater George area. Other sources of funding must be investigated, which includes potential state funded and private sector grant initiatives as well as the SOA.

**Electrification of informal settlements**:

Approximately 6000 informal houses require electrification of which approximately 4000 have illegal electrical connections.

Cost of illegal connections to Municipality :

± R2,8 mil loss of revenue plus R1,2 mil for removal and repairs –

Total ± R4 mil per annum.

Most vandalism or damage as a result of residents wanting to obtain access to substations and kiosks to reset circuit breakers that trip when there are faults or overload caused by illegal connections.

The INEP grant is not even sufficient for electrification of formal houses. The Municipality does not have the approx. R100m it will cost to electrify all informal structures.

The Municipality is currently in the process to compile a request for proposals to establish whether a private utility could provide a PV installation at each house.

**Land invasion**:

Land invasions continue to be a cost to the Municipality; frustration to existing communities; and an indication of the desperation of individuals.

Land invasions are regularly discussed across the Province and this occurrence is being noted here as it will require attention in the future.

854 incomplete structures were demolished and 1377 were prevented from being built between January and April this year.

With the start of Covid, there has been a definite increase in land invasions.

Illegal occupants of land deny beneficiaries of housing projects housing opportunities as they occupy land earmarked for housing projects.

It has cost the Municipality a considerable amount of money to prevent the land being occupied.

Service Delivery

Early in 2021, a Service Delivery Monitoring Committee was established by the Acting MM to monitor and seek solutions for the faults and service delivery complaints that were being reported. The Collaborator system has been introduced to log such complaints. It has now become standard practice that the George Municipal App is the device to be used to ensure that complaints are dealt with speedily.

Progress is certainly being made to improve the standard and response to service delivery and the resolution to queries as illustrated by the following statistics:

1. As at 12/02/2021, there were almost 2900 outstanding service delivery complaints on the collaborator system.
2. As at 20/05/2021, this has reduced to about 680 complaints
3. In the week from 12 May 2021 to 19 May 2021, a total of 1418 service requests were logged and 1152 resolved with 266 still outstanding.
4. The committee meets every Friday and we believe that we are making a big difference in attending to complaints. We accept that we still have a way to go.

In the

# RECOMMENDATION

1. (a) we will take note of the written comments that were received from the Provincial Department of Local Government and of written comments that were received from the public during the public participation process;
2. (c) adopt the 2021/2022 Reviewed Integrated Development Plan (IDP), and forward the documentation to the relevant National and Provincial authorities as per the relevant legislation.