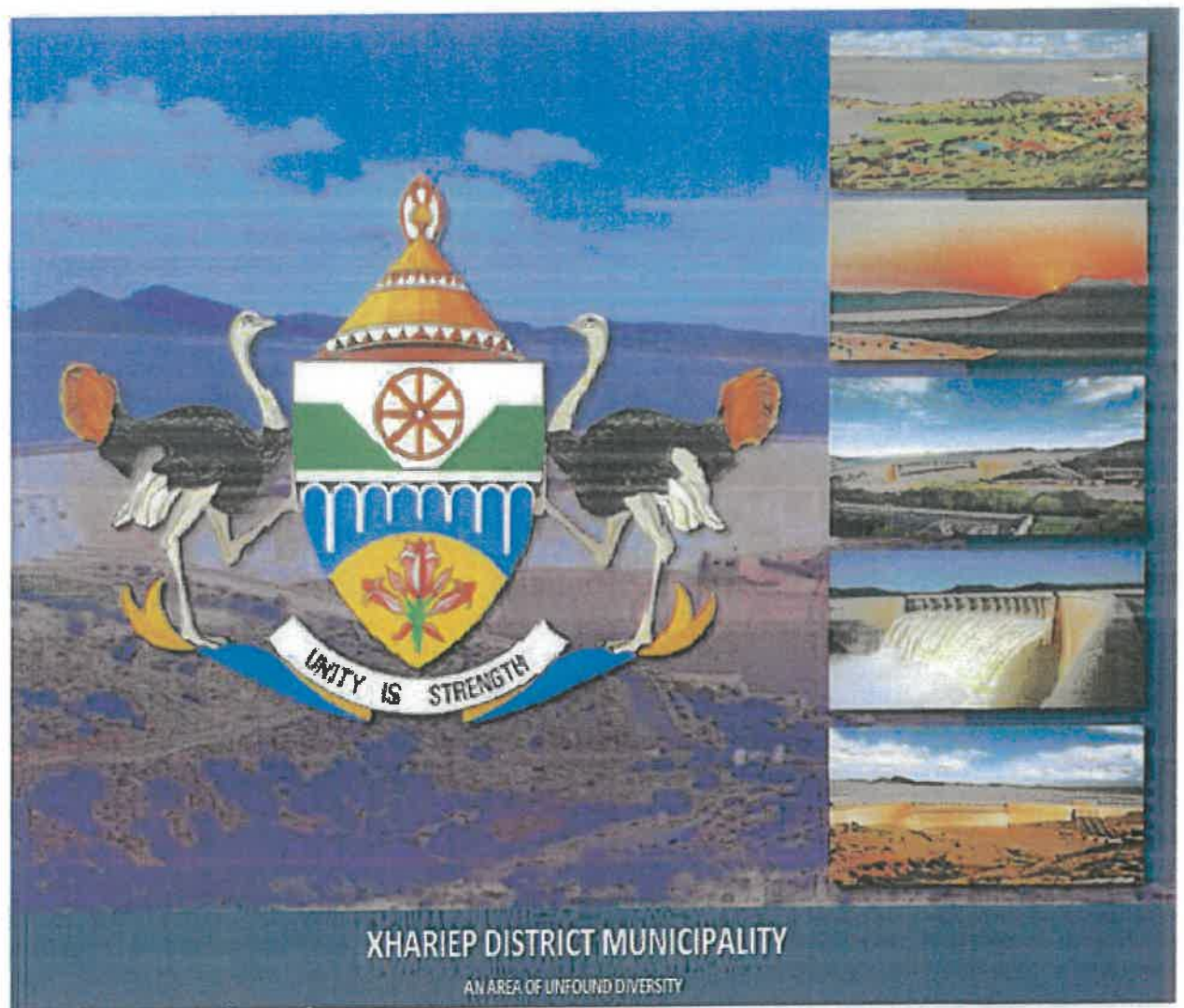




XHARIEP DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY BUDGET AND VIREMENTS POLICY FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003.

Budget Policy

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1.

DEFINITIONS

"accounting Officer"- means the Municipal Manager;

"allocation", means a municipality's share of the local government's equitable share referred to in section 214(l) (a) of the Constitution; an allocation of money to a municipality in terms of section 214(1) (c) of the Constitution; an allocation of money to a municipality in terms of a provincial budget; or any other allocation of money to a municipality by an organ of state, including by another municipality, otherwise than in compliance with a commercial or other business transaction;

"annual Division of Revenue Act" means the Act of Parliament, which must be enacted annually in terms of section 214 (1) of the Constitution;

"approved budget," means an annual budget-

- (a) approved by a municipal council, or
- (b) includes such an annual budget as revised by an adjustments budget in terms of section 28 of the MFMA;

"asset" means a tangible or intangible resource capable of ownership; **"capital asset"** means -

- (a) any immovable asset such as land, property or buildings; or
- (b) any movable asset that can be used continuously or repeatedly for more than one year in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others or for administrative purposes, and from which future economic or social benefit can be derived, such as plant, machinery and equipment;

"basic Municipal Service" means a municipal service that is necessary to ensure an acceptable and reasonable quality of life and which, if not provided, would endanger public health or safety or the environment;

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"budget-related Policy" means a policy of a municipality affecting or affected by the annual budget of the municipality, including-

- (a) the tariffs policy, which the municipality must adopt in terms of section 74 of the Municipal Systems Act;
- (b) the rates policy which the municipality must adopt in terms of legislation regulating municipal property rates; or
- (c) the credit control and debt collection policy, which the municipality must adopt in terms of section 96 of the Municipal Systems Act;

"budget transfer" means transfer of funding within a function / vote.

"budget Year" means the financial year of the municipality for which an annual budget is to be approved in terms of section 16(1) of the MFMA;

"chief financial officer" means a person designated in terms of section 80(2) (a) of the MFMA;

"councillor" means a member of a municipal council;

"creditor", means a person to whom money is owed by the municipality;

"current year" means the financial year, which has already commenced, but not yet ended;

"delegation", in relation to a duty, includes an instruction or request to perform or to assist in performing the duty;

"financial recovery plan" means a plan prepared in terms of section 141 of the MFMA

"financial statements", means statements consisting of at least-

- (a) a statement of financial position;
- (b) a statement of financial performance;

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- (c) a cash-flow statement;
- (d) any other statements that may be prescribed; and
- (e) any notes to these statements;

"financial year" means a twelve months period commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June each year

"financing agreement" includes any loan agreement, lease, and installment purchase contract or hire purchase arrangement under which a municipality undertakes to repay a long-term debt over a period of time;

"fruitless and wasteful expenditure" means expenditure that was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised;

"irregular expenditure", means-

- (a) expenditure incurred by a municipality or municipal entity in contravention of, or that is not in accordance with, a requirement of the MFMA Act, and which has not been condoned in terms of section 170 of the MFMA;
- (b) expenditure incurred by a municipality or municipal entity in contravention of, or that is not in accordance with, a requirement of the Municipal Systems Act, and which has not been condoned in terms of that Act;
- (c) expenditure incurred by a municipality in contravention of, or that is not in accordance with, a requirement of the Public Office-Bearers Act, 1998 (Act No. 20 of 1998); or
- (d) expenditure incurred by a municipality or municipal entity in contravention of, or that is not in accordance with, a requirement of the supply chain management policy of the municipality or entity or any of the municipality's by-laws giving effect to such policy, and which has not been condoned in terms of such policy or by-law, but excludes expenditure by a municipality which falls within the definition of "unauthorized expenditure";

"investment", in relation to funds of a municipality, means

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- (a) the placing on deposit of funds of a municipality with a financial institution; or
- (b) the acquisition of assets with funds of a municipality not immediately required, with the primary aim of preserving those funds;

"lender", means a person who provides debt finance to a municipality;

"local community" has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Municipal Systems Act;

"Municipal Structures Act" means the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998);

"Municipal Systems Act" means the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000);

"long-term debt" means debt repayable over a period exceeding one year;

"executive mayor" means the councillor elected as the executive mayor of the municipality in terms of section 55 of the Municipal Structures Act;

"municipal council" or **"council"** means the council of a municipality referred to in section 18 of the Municipal Structures Act;

"municipal debt instrument" means any note, bond, debenture or other evidence of indebtedness issued by a municipality, including dematerialised or electronic evidence of indebtedness intended to be used in trade;

"municipal entity" has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Municipal Systems Act (refer to the MSA for definition);

"municipality"-

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- (a) when referred to as a corporate body, means a municipality as described in section 2 of the Municipal Systems Act; or
- (b) when referred to as a geographic area, means a municipal area determined in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act, 1998 (Act No. 27 of 1998);

"accounting officer" means a person appointed in terms of section 82(l) (a) or (b) of the Municipal Structures Act;

"municipal service" has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Municipal Systems Act (refer to the MSA for definition);

"municipal tariff" means a tariff for services which a municipality may set for the provision of a service to the local community, and includes a surcharge on such tariff;

"municipal tax" means property rates or other taxes, levies or duties that a municipality may impose;

"National Treasury" means the National Treasury established by section 5 of the Public Finance Management Act;

"official", means-

- (a) an employee of a municipality or municipal entity;
- (b) a person seconded to a municipality or municipal entity to work as a member of the staff of the municipality or municipal entity; or
- (c) a person contracted by a municipality or municipal entity to work as a member of the staff of the municipality or municipal entity otherwise than as an employee;

"overspending"-

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- (a) means causing the operational or capital expenditure incurred by the municipality during a financial year to exceed the total amount appropriated in that year's budget for its operational or capital expenditure, as the case may be;
- (b) in relation to a vote, means causing expenditure under the vote to exceed the amount appropriated for that vote; or
- (c) in relation to expenditure under section 26 of the MFMA, means causing expenditure under that section to exceed the limits allowed in subsection (5) of this section;

"past financial year" means the financial year preceding the current year;

"quarter" means any of the following periods in a financial year:

- (a) 1 July to 30 September;
- (b) 1 October to 31 December;
- (c) 1 January to 31 March; or
- (d) 1 April to 30 June;

"service delivery and budget implementation plan" means a detailed plan approved by the executive mayor of a municipality in terms of section 53(l)(c)(ii) of the MFMA for implementing the municipality's delivery of municipal services and its annual budget, and which must indicate-

- (a) projections for each month of-
 - (i) revenue to be collected, by source; and
 - (ii) operational and capital expenditure, by vote;
- (b) service delivery targets and performance indicators for each quarter; and
- (c) any other matters that may be prescribed, and includes any revisions of such plan by the executive mayor in terms of section 54(l) (c) of the MFMA;

"short-term debt" means debt repayable over a period not exceeding one year;

"standards of generally recognised accounting practice," means an accounting practice complying with standards applicable to municipalities or municipal entities as determined by the Accounting Standards Board

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"unauthorised expenditure", means any expenditure incurred by a municipality otherwise than in accordance with section 15 or 11(3) of the MFMA, and includes-

- (a) overspending of the total amount appropriated in the municipality's approved budget;
- (b) overspending of the total amount appropriated for a vote in the approved budget;
- (c) expenditure from a vote unrelated to the department or functional area covered by the vote;
- (d) expenditure of money appropriated for a specific purpose, otherwise than for that specific purpose;
- (e) spending of an allocation referred to in paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of the definition of "allocation" otherwise than in accordance with any conditions of the allocation; or
- (f) a grant by the municipality otherwise than in accordance with the MFMA;

"virement" means transfer of funds between functions / votes

"vote" means-

- (a) one of the main segments into which a budget of a municipality is divided for the appropriation of money for the different departments or functional areas of the municipality; and
- (b) which specifies the total amount that is appropriated for the purposes of the department or functional area concerned.

"mSCOA" municipal standards chart of accounts

2. INTRODUCTION

Budget Policy

In terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No. 56 of 2003, Chapter 4 on Municipal Budgets, Subsection (16), states that the council of a municipality must for each financial year approve an annual budget for the municipality before the commencement of that financial year.

According to subsection (2) of the Act concerned, in order to comply with subsection (1), the executive mayor of the municipality must table the annual budget at a council meeting at least 90 days before the start of the budget year. This policy must be read, analyzed, explained, interpreted, implemented and understood against this legislative background.

The budget plays a critical role in an attempt to realize diverse community needs. Central to this, the formulation of a municipality budget must take into account the government's macro-economic and fiscal policy fundamentals. In brief, the conceptualization and the operationalization of the budget must be located within the national government's policy framework.

3. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the budget policy is to set out:

- a) The principles which the municipality will follow in preparing each medium term revenue and expenditure framework budget
- b) The responsibilities of the executive mayor, the accounting officer, the chief financial officer and other senior managers in compiling the budget
- c) To establish and maintain procedures to ensure adherence to Xhariep District Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) review and budget processes.

4. BUDGETING PRINCIPLES

- a) The municipality shall not budget for a deficit and should also ensure that revenue projections in the budget are realistic taking into account actual collection levels.

- b) Expenses may only be incurred in terms of the approved annual budget (or adjustments budget) and within the limits of the amounts appropriated for each vote in the approved budget.
- c) Xhariep District Municipality shall prepare three-year budget (medium term revenue and expenditure framework (MTREF)) and that be reviewed annually and approved by Council.
- d) The MTREF budget must at all times be within the framework of the Municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

5. BUDGET PREPARATION PROCESS

5.1. Budget Steering Committee

- a) The mayor of a municipality must establish a budget steering committee to provide technical assistance to the mayor in discharging the responsibilities set out in section 53 of the Act.
- b) The steering committee must consist of at least the following persons:
 - i. the councilor responsible for financial matters;
 - ii. the municipal manager;
 - iii. the chief financial officer;
 - iv. the senior managers responsible for at least the three largest votes in the municipality;
 - v. the manager responsible for budgeting;
 - vi. the manager responsible for planning; and
 - vii. any technical experts on infrastructure.

5.2. Formulation of the budget

- a) The Accounting Officer with the assistance of the Chief Financial Officer and the Director responsible for IDP shall draft the IDP process plan as well as the budget timetable for the municipality for the ensuing financial year.

- b) The executive mayor shall table the IDP process plan as well as the budget timetable to Council by 31 August each year for approval (10 months before the start of the next budget year). ***The Budget timetable is attached as Annexure A.***
- c) IDP process plan as well as the budget timetable shall indicate the key deadlines for the review of the IDP as well as the preparation of the medium term revenue and expenditure framework budget and the revision of the annual budget. Such target dates shall follow the prescriptions of the Municipal Finance Management Act as well as the guidelines set by National Treasury.
- d) The Executive mayor shall convene a strategic workshop before end of October with the mayoral committee and senior managers in order to determine the IDP priorities which will form the basis for the preparation of the MTREF budget taking into account the financial and political pressures facing the municipality.
- e) The Executive Mayor shall table the draft IDP and MTREF budget to council by 31 March (90 days before the start of the new budget year) together with the draft resolutions and budget related policies (policies on tariff setting, credit control, debt collection, indigents, investment and cash management, borrowings, etc.).
- f) The Chief Financial Officer and senior managers undertake the technical preparation of the budget.
- g) The budget must be in the format prescribed by National Treasury, and must be divided into capital and operating budget.
- h) The budget must reflect the realistically expected revenues by major source for the budget year concerned.
- i) The expenses reflected in the budget must be divided into items.
- j) The budget must also contain the information related to the two financial years following the financial year to which the budget relates, as well as the actual revenues and expenses for the prior year, and the estimated revenues and expenses for the current year.

5.3. Public participation process

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- (a) Immediately after the draft resolutions of the annual budget is tabled in a municipal council, the accounting officer of the municipality must— in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act—
 - i. make public the annual budget and the documents referred to in section 17(3); and
 - ii. invite the local community to submit representations in connection with the budget; and
 - iii. submit the annual budget—(draft budget)
 - iv) in both printed and electronic formats to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury as prescribed by National Treasury ; and
 - v) in either format to any prescribed national or provincial organs of state and to other municipalities affected by the budget.
- (b) When the annual budget has been tabled, the municipal council must consider any views of—
 - i. the local community; and
 - ii. the National Treasury, the relevant provincial treasury and any provincial or national organs of state or municipalities which made submissions on the budget.
- (c) The Municipal Manager must also make public any information that the municipal council considers appropriate to facilitate the budget consultation process, including:
 - i. Summaries of the annual budget and supporting documents in alternate languages predominant in the community; and
 - ii. Information relevant to each ward in the municipality
 - iii. All the information contemplated in subregulation (c) must cover:
 - iv. The relevant financial and service delivery implications of the annual budget; and
 - v. At least the previous year's actual outcome, the current year's forecast outcome, the budget year, and the following two years.
- (d) When submitting the annual budget to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury, the municipal manager must also submit to National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury, both in printed and electronic form -
 - i. The supporting budget documentation as tabled in the municipal council;
 - ii. The draft Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP); and
 - iii. Any other information as may be required by National Treasury.

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- (e) The Municipal Manager must send copies of the annual budget and supporting documentation as tabled in the municipal council, in both printed and electronic form to:
 - i. Any other municipality affected by the annual budget within ten working days of the annual budget being tabled in the municipal council; and
 - ii. Any organ of state on receipt of a request from the organ of state.
- (f) After considering all budget submissions, the council must give the Executive Mayor an opportunity—
 - i. to respond to the submissions; and
 - ii. if necessary, to revise the budget and table amendments for consideration by the council.
- (g) Within consideration of the approval of the Annual Budget and thirty (30) days before the start of the budget year the Executive Mayor must table the following documents in the Council in consideration of the annual budget approval
 - i. A report summarizing the local community's views on the annual budget;
 - ii. Any comments on the annual budget received from National Treasury and Provincial Treasury
 - iii. Any comments on the annual budget received from any organ of state, including any affected municipality; and
 - iv. Any comments on the annual budget received from any other stakeholders.
- (h) The Municipal Manager must assist the Executive Mayor in the preparation of the documents referred to in sub regulation (g) and 23 (2) of the Act.

5.4. Approval of the budget

- (a) Council shall consider the medium term revenue and expenditure framework budget (MTREF) for approval not later than 31 May (30 days before the start of the budget year).
- (b) The council resolution, must contain budget policies and the performance measures to be adopted.

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- (c) The council must consider the full implications, financial or otherwise, of the annual budget and supporting documentation before approving the annual budget.
- (d) When approving the annual budget, the council must consider and adopt separate resolutions dealing with each of the matters contemplated.
- (e) Should the municipality fail to approve the budget before the start of the budget year, the executive mayor must inform the MEC for Finance that the budget has not been approved.
- (f) The budget tabled to Council for approval shall include the following supporting documents:
 - i. draft resolutions approving the budget and levying property rates, other taxes and tariffs for the financial year concerned;
 - ii. measurable performance objectives for each budget vote, taking into account the municipality's IDP;
 - iii. the projected cash flows for the financial year by revenue sources and expenditure votes;
 - iv. any proposed amendments to the IDP;
 - v. any proposed amendments to the budget-related policies;
 - vi. particulars of any proposed allocations or grants to other municipalities, municipal entities, external mechanisms assisting the municipality in service delivery, other organs of state, and organizations such as Non- Governmental Organizations, welfare institutions and so on;
 - vii. particulars of the municipality's investments;
 - viii. particulars of any proposed service delivery agreements, including material amendments to existing service delivery agreements;
 - ix. particulars of any proposed allocations or grants by the municipality to—
 - i. other municipalities;
 - ii. any municipal entities and other external mechanisms assisting the municipality in the exercise of its functions or powers;
 - iii. any other organs of state;
 - iv. any organizations or bodies referred to in section 67(1) of the Act;

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- x. the proposed cost to the municipality for the budget year of the salary, allowances and benefits of—
 - i. each political office-bearer of the municipality;
 - ii. councilors of the municipality; and
 - iii. the municipal manager, the chief financial officer, each senior manager of the municipality and any other official of the municipality having a remuneration package greater than or equal to that of a senior manager;

5.5. Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP)

(a) The Executive mayor must approve the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan not later than 28 days after the approval of the Budget by Council; and within ten days (10) after the Executive Mayor has approved the Plan it has to be made public.

(b) The SDBIP shall include the following components:

- Projections for each month of Revenue to be collected, by source, and Operational and capital expenditure, by vote;
 - Service delivery targets and performance indicators for each quarter.
 - Monthly projections of revenue to be collected for each source;
 - Monthly projections of expenditure (operating and capital) and revenue for each vote;
 - Quarterly projections of service delivery targets and performance indicators for each vote;
 - Information for expenditure and delivery; and
 - Detailed capital works plan.

6. CAPITAL BUDGET

- a) All expenditure of a project shall be included in the capital budget if it meets the asset definition as per XDM Asset Management Policy.
- b) Vehicle replacement shall be done in terms of Council's vehicle replacement policy. The budget for vehicles shall distinguish between replacement and new vehicles. No globular amounts shall be budgeted for vehicle acquisition.

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- c) A municipality may spend money on a capital project only if the money for the project has been appropriated in the capital budget.

6.1.1 Funding of Capital expenditure

- a) The envisaged sources of funding for the capital budget must be properly considered and the Council must be satisfied that this funding is available and has not been committed for other purposes.
- b) An annual budget must show the total capital expenditure and the different sources of funding.
- c) The total budgeted capital funding by source must equal the total budgeted capital expenditure
- d) Funds created in terms of section 12 of the Act must be fully cash backed.
- e) A municipality may make expenditures or donations in support of the objectives for which funds created in terms of section 12 of the Act were established if approved in an annual budget or adjustment budget.
- f) No municipal funds may be paid into a fund created in terms of section 12 of the Act.
- g) The capital expenditure shall be funded from the following sources: Refer to 6.1.2 to 6.1.5.

6.1.2 Revenue or Surplus

- (a) If any project is to be financed from revenue this financing must be included in the cash budget to raise sufficient cash for the expenditure.
- (b) If the project is to be financed from surplus there must be sufficient cash available at time of execution of the project.

6.1.3 External loans

- a) External loans can be raised only if it is linked to the financing of an asset;
- b) A capital project to be financed from an external loan can only be included in the budget if the loan has been secured or if can be reasonably assumed as being secured;
 - i. The loan redemption period should not exceed the estimated life expectancy of the asset;

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- ii. Interest payable on external loans shall be included as a cost in the revenue budget;
- iii. Finance charges relating to such loans shall be charged to or apportioned only between the departments or votes to which the projects relate.

6.1.4 Capital Replacement Reserve (CRR)

- a) Council may establish a CRR for the purpose of financing capital projects and the acquisition of assets. Such reserve may be established from the following sources of revenue:
 - i. unappropriated cash-backed surpluses to the extent that such surpluses are not required for operational purposes;
 - ii. interest on the investments of the CRR, appropriated in terms of the investments policy;
 - iii. additional amounts appropriated as contributions in each annual or adjustments budget; and
 - iv. Sale of land and profit or loss on the sale of assets.
- b) Before any asset can be financed from the CRR the financing must be available within the reserve and available as cash as this fund must be cash backed;
- c) If there is insufficient cash available to fund the CRR this reserve fund must then be adjusted to equal the available cash with approval of Council;
- d) Transfers to the CRR must be budgeted for in the cash budget;

6.1.5 Grant Funding

- a) Non capital expenditure funded from grants must be budgeted for as part of the revenue budget;
 - I. Expenditure must be reimbursed from the unspent grants and transferred to the operating and must be budgeted for as such.
 - II. Capital expenditure must be budgeted for in the capital budget;
- b) Interest earned on investments of Conditional Grant Funding shall be capitalized if the conditions state that interest should accumulate in the fund.
- c) If there is no condition stated the interest can then be allocated directly to the revenue accounts.

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- d) Grant funding does not need to be cash backed but cash should be secured before spending can take place.

6.2. Approval of capital projects

- a) Before approving a capital project, the Council must consider:
 - i. the projected cost of the project over all the ensuing financial years until the project becomes operational,
 - ii. Future operational costs and any revenues, which may arise in respect of such project, including the likely future impact on operating budget (i.e. on property rates and service tariffs).
- b) Before approving the capital budget, the council shall consider:
 - i. the impact on the present and future operating budgets of the municipality in relation to finance charges to be incurred on external loans,
 - ii. depreciation of fixed assets,
 - iii. maintenance of fixed assets, and
 - iv. Any other ordinary operational expenses associated with any item on such capital budget.
- c) Council shall approve the annual or adjustment capital budget only if it has been properly balanced and fully funded.
- d) The municipality shall within ten (10) working days after the council has given individual approval for capital projects in terms of section 19(1)(b) of the Act, make public the following:
 - i. The municipal council resolution approving the capital projects; and
 - ii. Details of the nature, location and total project cost of the approved capital projects
- e) The following capital projects may be approved by council either individually or as part of the consolidated capital program:
 - i. Capital projects of which the total projected cost is below 5% of the municipality's revenue, in case of a municipality with approved total revenue in its current annual budget not exceeding R250 million.
- f) Sub regulation (d) does not apply to capital projects whose total projected cost when the annual budget is approved is below the values set out in sub regulation (e).

- g) Expenditure needed for capital projects below the values set out in sub regulation (e) may be included in the annual budget before the project is approved in terms of section 19(3) of the Act.

7. OPERATING BUDGET

- a) The municipality shall budget in each annual and adjustments budget for the contribution to:
- i. provision for accrued leave entitlements equal to 100% of the accrued leave entitlement of officials as at 30 June of each financial year,
 - ii. provision for bad debts in accordance with its rates and tariffs policies
 - iii. provision for the obsolescence and deterioration of stock in accordance with its asset management policy
 - iv. depreciation and finance charges shall be charged to or apportioned only between the departments or votes to which the projects relate.
 - v. If realistic at least 3% of the operating budget component of each annual and adjustments budget shall be set aside for maintenance.
- b) When considering the draft annual budget, council shall consider the impact, which the proposed increases in rates and service tariffs will have on the monthly municipal accounts of households.
- c) The impact of such increases shall be assessed on the basis of a fair sample of randomly selected accounts.
- d) The operating budget shall reflect the impact of the capital component on:
- i. depreciation charges
 - ii. repairs and maintenance expenses
 - iii. interest payable on external borrowings
 - iv. other operating expenses.
- e) The chief financial officer shall ensure that the cost of indigence relief is separately reflected in the appropriate votes.

8. FUNDING OF CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET

- (a) The budget may be financed only from:
 - i. realistically expected revenues, based on current and previous collection levels;
 - ii. cash-backed funds available from previous surpluses where such funds are not required for other purposes; and
 - iii. Borrowed funds in respect of the capital budget only.

9. UNSPENT FUNDS / ROLL OVER OF BUDGET

- (a) The appropriation of funds in an annual or adjustments budget will lapse to the extent that they are unspent by the end of the relevant budget year, but except for funds relating to capital expenditure.
- (b) Only unspent grant (if the conditions for such grant funding allows that subject to approval of National Treasury) or loan funded capital budget may be rolled over to the next budget year
- (c) Application for roll over of funds shall be forwarded to the budget office by no later than the end of April each year to be included in next year's budget for adoption by Council in May.
- (d) Adjustments to the rolled over budget shall be done during the 1st budget adjustment in the new financial year after taking into account expenditure up to the end of the previous financial year.
- (e) No funding for projects funded from the Capital Replacement Reserve shall be rolled over to the next budget year except in cases where a commitment has been made 90 days (30 March each year) prior the end of that particular financial year.
- (f) No unspent portion operating budget shall be rolled over to the next budget year

10. BUDGET TRANSFERS AND VIREMENTS

Budget Policy

- (a) Budget transfers within the same vote shall be recommended by the Head of Departments (HOD's) and approved by the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Municipal Manger.
- (b) Savings on allocations earmarked for specific identified projects as per approved SDBIP, may not be used for other purposes except with the approval of council.
- (c) Directors may utilize a saving in the amount appropriated under a main expenditure category (General Expenses, Repairs & Maintenance, etc. (excluding salaries)) within a vote which is under their control towards the defrayment of excess expenditure under another main expenditure category within the same vote, with the approval of the Chief Financial Officer.
- (d) Varmints shall be recommended by the Head / Director of Department, completing the appropriate documentation and forward to the Chief Financial Officer for approval.
- (e) Virements between votes shall be permitted where the proposed shifts in funding facilitate sound risk and financial management.
- (f) Virements will not be permitted in relation to the revenue side of the budget;
- (g) Virements from the capital budget to the operating budget will not be permitted;
- (h) Virements towards personnel expenditure will not be permitted;
- (i) Virements to or from the following items will not be permitted: bulk purchases; debt impairment, interest charges; depreciation, grants to individuals, revenue foregone, insurance and VAT;
- (j) Virements may not result in adding 'new' projects to the Capital Budget;
- (k) Virements of conditional grant funds to purposes outside of that specified in the relevant conditional grant framework will not be permitted; and
- (l) Virements limits on the amount of funds that may be moved to and from votes and sub-votes may not exceed the lower of R50, 000 or ten (10%) per cent of the budget unless approved by council and incorporated as part of the adjustment budget.
- (m) All budget and virements activities shall be aligned to mSCOA prescripts and regulations

11. FRAMEWORK FOR UNFORESEEN AND UNAVOIDABLE EXPENDITURE

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- (a) The mayor of a municipality may authorize expenditure in terms of section 29 of the Act only if –
- i. the expenditure could not have been foreseen at the time the annual budget of the municipality was passed; and
 - ii. the delay that will be caused pending approval of an adjustments budget by the municipal council in terms of section 28(2)(c) of the Act to authorize the expenditure may –
 - a. result in significant financial loss for the municipality;
 - b. cause a disruption or suspension, or a serious threat to the continuation, of a basic municipal service;
 - c. lead to loss of life or serious injury or significant damage to property; or
 - d. obstruct the municipality from instituting or defending legal proceedings on an urgent basis.
- (b) The mayor of a municipality may not authorize expenditure in terms of section 29 of the Act if the expenditure –
- I. was considered by the council, but not approved in the annual budget or an adjustments budget;
 - II. is required for –
 - i. price increases of goods or services during the financial year;
 - ii. new municipal services or functions during the financial year;
 - iii. the extension of existing municipal services or functions during the financial year;
 - iv. the appointment of personnel during the financial year; or
 - v. allocating discretionary appropriations to any vote during the financial year; or
 - vi. would contravene any existing council policy; or
 - vii. is intended to ratify irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

11.1. Monetary limits on unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure

- (a) The amount of expenditure that a mayor of a municipality may authorize in terms of section 29 of the Act is limited to –

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- I. 5% of the municipality's own revenue in the case of a municipality **with** approved total revenue in its current annual budget not exceeding R250 million;
- II. The greater of R5 million or 4% of the municipality's own revenue in the case of a municipality with an approved budget total revenue in its current **annual** budget greater than R250 million but not exceeding R500million; and
- III. R25 million in the case of a municipality with an approved total **revenue** in its current annual budget greater than R500 million.

12. ADJUSTMENT BUDGET

- (a) Each adjustments budget shall reflect realistic excess, however nominal, of current revenues over expenses.
- (b) The chief financial officer shall ensure that the adjustments budgets comply with the requirements of the National Treasury, reflect the budget priorities determined by the executive mayor, are aligned with the IDP, and comply with all budget-related policies, and shall make recommendations to the executive mayor on the revision of the IDP and the budget-related policies where these are indicated.
- (c) Council may revise its annual budget by means of an adjustments budget as regulated.
- (d) The Accounting Officer must promptly adjust its budgeted revenues and expenses if a material under-collection of revenues arises or is apparent.
- (e) The Accounting Officer shall appropriate additional revenues, which have become available but only to revise or accelerate spending programmes already budgeted for or any areas of critical importance identified by Council in compliance with Item 2 of Section 10.
- (f) The Council shall in such adjustments budget, and within the prescribed framework, confirm unforeseen and unavoidable expenses on the recommendation of the Executive Mayor.
- (g) Only the Executive mayor shall table an adjustment budget. Adjustments budget shall be done once as part of the mid-year budget performance assessment:
- (h) An adjustments budget must contain all of the following:
 - i. an explanation of how the adjustments affect the approved annual budget;

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- ii. appropriate motivations for material adjustments; and
 - iii. an explanation of the impact of any increased spending on the current and future annual budgets.
- (i) Any unappropriated surplus from previous financial years, even if fully cash backed, may not be used to balance any adjustments budget, but may be appropriated to the municipality's capital replacement reserve.
- (j) Municipal taxes and tariffs may not be increased during a financial year except if required in terms of a financial recovery plan and or per National Treasury Regulations.
- (k) Unauthorised expenses may be authorized in an adjustments budget.

12.1 Formats of adjustments budgets

- (a) An adjustment budget and supporting documentation of a municipality must be in the format specified by National Treasury and include all the required tables, charts and explanatory information, taking into account any guidelines issued by the Minister in terms of section 168(1) of the Act.

12.2. Funding of the adjustments budgets

- (a) An adjustments budget of a municipality must be appropriately funded.
- (b) The supporting documentation to accompany an adjustments budget in terms of section 28(5) of the Act must contain an explanation of how the adjustments budget is funded.

12.3. Timeframes for tabling of adjustments budgets

- (a) An adjustments budget referred to in section 28(2)(b), (d) and (f) of the Act may be tabled in the municipal council at any time during the mid-year budget and performance assessment has been tabled in the council, but not later than 28 February of the current year.
- (b) Only one adjustments budget referred to in sub regulation (1) may be tabled in the municipal council during a financial year, except when the additional revenues contemplated in section 28(2)(b) of the Act are allocations to a municipality in a national or provincial adjustments budget, in which case sub regulation (3) applies.
- (c) If a national or provincial adjustments budget allocates or transfers additional revenues to a municipality, the mayor of the municipality must, at the next available council meeting, but within 60 days of the approval of the relevant national or provincial adjustments budget,

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table an adjustments budget referred to in section 28(2) (b) of the Act in the municipal council to appropriate these additional revenues.

- (d) An adjustments budget referred to in section 28(2)(c) of the Act must be tabled in the municipal council at the first available opportunity after the unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure contemplated in that section was incurred within the period set in section 29(3) of the Act.
- (e) An adjustments budget referred to in section 28(2)(e) of the Act may only be tabled after the end of the financial year to which the roll-overs relate, and must be approved by the municipal council by 25 August of the financial year following the financial year to which the roll-overs relate.
- (f) An adjustments budget contemplated in section 28(2)(G) of the Act may only authorise unauthorised expenditure as anticipated by section 32(2)(a)(i) of the Act, and must be –
- (g) dealt with as part of the adjustments budget contemplated in sub regulation (1); and
- (h) a special adjustments budget tabled in the municipal council when the mayor tables the annual report in terms of section 127(2) of the Act, which may only deal with unauthorised expenditure from the previous financial year which the council is being requested to authorise in terms of section 32(2)(a)(i) of the Act.

12.4. Submission of tabled adjustments budgets

- (a) The municipal manager must comply with section 28(7) of the Act, read together with section 22(b) (I) of the Act, within ten working days after the mayor has tabled an adjustments budget in the municipal council.
- (b) When submitting the tabled adjustments budget to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury in terms of section 28(7) of the Act, read together with section 22(b)(i) of the Act, the municipal manager must submit in both printed and electronic form
 - i. the supporting documentation referred to in section 28(5) of the Act within ten working days of the adjustments budget being tabled in the municipal council; and
 - ii. any other information as may be required by National Treasury.
- (c) The municipal manager must send copies of an adjustments budget and supporting documentation, in both printed and electronic form to –
 - iii. any other municipality affected by that adjustments budget within ten working days of the adjustments budget being tabled in the municipal council; and

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- iv. any other organ of state on receipt of a request from that organ of state.

12.5. Approval of adjustment budget

- (a) A municipal council must consider the full implications, financial or otherwise, of the adjustments budget and supporting documentation referred to in section (1) (a) before approving the adjustments budget.
- (b) When approving the adjustment budget, a municipal council must consider and adopt separate resolutions dealing with each of the matters listed in item 4 of Schedule B.

12.6. Publications of approved adjustment budget

- (a) Within ten 10 working days after the municipal council has approved an adjustment budget, the municipal manager must in accordance with section 21A of the Municipal Systems Act make public the approved adjustments budget and supporting documentation, as well as the resolutions referred to in section 5 (a).
- (b) When making public an adjustment budget and supporting documentation, the municipal Manager must make public awareness of the adjustment budget, including –
- (c) Summaries of the adjustment budget and supporting documentation in alternate languages predominant in the community;
- (d) Information relevant to each ward in the municipality, if that ward is affected by the adjustments budget; and
- (e) Any consequential amendment of the service delivery and budget implementation plan that is necessitated by the adjustments budget.

12.7. Submission of approved adjustments budget and other documents

- (a) The municipal Manger must comply with section 28(7) of the Act read together with section 24(3) of the Act within ten working days after the municipal council has approved and adjustments budget.
- b) When submitting an adjustments budget to National Treasury and other relevant provincial treasury in terms of section 28(7) of the Act read together with section 24(3) of the Act, the municipal manager must also submit to National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury, I both printed and electronic form –

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- i. The supporting documentation within ten working days after the municipal council has approved the adjustments budget;
 - ii. The amended service delivery and budget implementation plan, within ten working days after the council has approved the amended plan in terms of the section 54(1)(c) of the Act; and
 - iii. Any other information as may be required by the National Treasury.
- (c) The municipal manager must send copies of an adjustments budget and supporting documentation, in both electronic and printed form to –
- i. Any other municipality affected by that adjustments budget within ten (10) working days of the adjustments budget being tabled in the municipal council; and
 - ii. Any other organ of state on receipt of a request from that organ of state.

13. BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

13.1. Monitoring

- (a) The accounting officer with the assistance of the chief financial officer and other senior managers is responsible for the implementation of the budget, and must take reasonable steps to ensure that:
- i. funds are spent in accordance with the budget;
 - ii. expenses are reduced if expected revenues are less than projected; and
 - iii. revenues and expenses are properly monitored.
- (b) The Accounting officer with the assistance of the chief financial officer must prepare any adjustments budget when such budget is necessary and submit it to the Executive mayor for consideration and tabling to Council.
- (c) The Accounting officer must report in writing to the Council any impending shortfalls in the annual revenue budget, as well as any impending overspending, together with the steps taken to prevent or rectify these problems.

13.2. Reporting

Monthly budget statements

- (a) The accounting officer with the assistance of the chief financial officer must, not later than ten working days after the end of each calendar month, submit to the Executive Mayor and

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Provincial and National Treasury a report in the prescribed format on the state of the municipality's budget for such calendar month, as well as on the state of the budget cumulatively for the financial year to date.

- (b) This report must reflect the following:
- i. actual revenues per source, compared with budgeted revenues;
 - ii. actual expenses per vote, compared with budgeted expenses;
 - iii. actual capital expenditure per vote, compared with budgeted expenses;
 - iv. actual borrowings, compared with the borrowings envisaged to fund the capital budget;
 - v. the amount of allocations received, compared with the budgeted amount;
 - vi. actual expenses against allocations, but excluding expenses in respect of the equitable share;
 - vii. explanations of any material variances between the actual revenues and expenses as indicated above and the projected revenues by source and expenses by vote as set out in the
- (c) service delivery and budget implementation plan;
- viii. the remedial or corrective steps to be taken to ensure that the relevant projections remain within the approved or revised budget; and
 - ix. projections of the revenues and expenses for the remainder of the financial year, together with an indication of how and where the original projections have been revised.
- (d) The report to the National Treasury must be both in electronic format and in a signed written document.

Quarterly Reports

- a) The Executive mayor must submit to Council within thirty days of the end of each quarter a report on the implementation of the budget and the financial state of affairs of the municipality.

Mid-year budget and performance assessment

- (a) The Accounting officer must assess the budgetary performance of the municipality for the first half of the financial year, taking into account all the monthly budget reports for the first six months, the service delivery performance of the municipality as against the service

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delivery targets and performance indicators which were set in the service delivery and budget implementation plan.

- (b) The Accounting officer must then submit a report on such assessment to the Executive mayor by 25 January each year and to Council, Provincial Treasury and National Treasury by 31 January each year.
- (c) The Accounting officer may in such report make recommendations after considering the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer for adjusting the annual budget and for revising the projections of revenues and expenses set out in the service delivery and budget implementation plan.

14. CONCLUSION

The Chief Financial Officer will ensure the following on the municipality's official website:

- a) the annual and adjustments budgets and all budget-related documents;
- b) all budget-related policies;
- c) the integrated development plan
- d) the annual report;
- e) all performance agreements;
- f) all service delivery agreements;
- g) all long-term borrowing contracts;
- h) all quarterly and mid-year reports submitted the Council on the implementation of the budget and the financial state of affairs of the municipality.

15. REVIEW

The policy shall be reviewed on annual basis

16. ANNEUXURE A: SUMMARISED TIMETABLE

NOTE: DATES IN BRACKETS ARE PUTATIVE

DETAILED BUDGET TIMETABLE					
Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations	
21(1)(b)	31 August	Mayor must at least 10 months before start of budget year table in council time schedule outlining key deadlines for - preparation, tabling and approval of annual budget - annual review of IDP - annual review of budget-related policies - tabling and adoption of any amendments to IDP and budget-related policies - any consultative processes forming part of foregoing	Mayor	Time schedule must either fit in with already scheduled council meetings or must indicate when special council meetings must be scheduled.	
Section 88	20 January	Accounting officer of municipal entity must assess entity's budgetary and financial performance for first six months of financial year, and submit assessment report to board of directors and parent municipality.			
72(1), (2) and (3)	25 January	Accounting officer of municipality must assess budgetary and financial performance of municipality for first six months of financial year,	Accounting officer		

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
		make recommendations on whether adjustments budget necessary, and recommend revised projections for revenues and expenses. This assessment must be submitted to the mayor, national treasury and the provincial treasury (presumably immediately).		
54(1)(f)	31 January	Mayor must submit accounting officer's report to council.	Mayor	Special council meeting may have to be scheduled.
87	31 January or earlier if so requested by parent municipality	Board of directors of municipal entity must submit to parent municipality proposed budget for entity for ensuing financial year.	Board of directors of entity	It is not clear to what person or structure in the parent municipality this budget must be submitted. However, it makes good sense for the council of the municipality to consider this budget at the same meeting that it considers The own municipality's proposed adjustments budget.

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
87	(31 January to mid-March)	Parent municipality must consider proposed budget, and make any necessary recommendations.		It is not clear what person or structure in the parent municipality must perform this action, but the council seems the logical party. It would also make sense for the council to consider this budget by 31 January.
87	(Tabled in council by 31 January)	Board of directors of entity may, with approval of mayor of parent municipality, revise budget of entity for certain prescribed reasons. Adjustments budget once approved by board of directors of entity must be tabled by mayor at next meeting of council of parent municipality. Adjustments budget must be made public.	Board of directors and mayor of parent municipality	Evidently such an adjustments budget may be prepared at any stage. It would make good sense, however, for the parent municipality to insist that the entity's revised budget be prepared and submitted to the mayor at the same time that or before the entity's proposed budget for the new financial year is considered.

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
				Again the potential problem of different parent municipalities having different views will have to be resolved by (presumably) the mayors considered.
54(1) and (2)	(Between 31 January and 31 March)	If municipality faces "serious financial problems" mayor must "promptly" respond to and initiate remedial steps proposed by accounting officer, including steps to reduce expenses and tabling of adjustments budget. Mayor must also consider revisions to service delivery and budget implementation plan. (Note that only council may approve changes to service delivery targets and KPIs – these changes must therefore be tabled with the adjustments budget).	Mayor	Adjustments budgets may be prepared by the accounting officer, and tabled in council by the Mayor "when necessary". They must be as prepared and tabled (within prescribed limits as to timing and frequency) whenever material adjustments to expenses or revenues are required, and not only when "serious financial problems" are looming. In general, adjustments budgets should preferably be tabled by or as soon as possible after

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
				31 January, and certainly not later than 31 March when the draft annual budget for the next year is first tabled.
54(3)	(Between 31 January and 31 March)	Mayor must ensure that revisions to service delivery and budget implementation plan are "promptly" made public. (Note that no concomitant revision of performance agreements is evidently envisaged).	Mayor	Presumably the accounting officer must make these revisions for the mayor's approval as part of the process of adjusting the annual budget. The deadline for these revisions must be by or as soon as possible after 31 January, but certainly not later than 31 March. See also 54(1) and (2).
87	100 days before start of financial year (approximately mid-March)	Board of directors of entity must consider recommendations, and if necessary submit revised budget to parent municipality.	Board of directors of entity	

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
16(2)	31 March	Mayor must table (draft) annual budget of municipality at council meeting at least 90 days before start of budget year.	Mayor	Council meeting must be scheduled appropriately.
87	31 March	Mayor of parent municipality must table originally proposed or proposed revised budget (as case may be) of entity when (draft) annual budget of municipality first tabled.	Mayor	-
22(a) and 22(b)	Immediately after 31 March or earlier date if annual budget tabled before 31 March	Immediately after (draft) annual budget tabled in council, accounting officer must (1) make public budget and documents referred to in Section 17(3), and invite local community to submit representations in connexion with budget, and (2) submit annual budget in both printed and electronic formats to provincial treasury, and in either format to prescribed national and provincial organs of state and to other municipalities affected by the budget.	Accounting officer	
23(2)	Before 31 May	Council must give mayor opportunity (1) to respond to submissions received on (draft) annual budget and attendant documentation and (2) to revise budget, if necessary, and table amendments for consideration by council.	Mayor and council	-

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
24(1) and (2)	31 May	Council must consider approval of annual budget, together with resolutions imposing rates and levies, setting tariffs, approving measurable performance objectives for revenue from each source and for each vote, approving any changes to IDP, and approving any changes to budget-related policies.	Council	Although council has until 30 June to approve budget, best practice will be to approve budget not later than 31 May.
87(4)	31 May	Board of directors of municipal entity must approve budget for coming year, having taken into account recommendations of council of parent municipality, and must make budget public.	Board of directors of municipal entity	
24(3)	(Immediate after approval date)	Accounting officer must submit approved annual budget to national treasury and provincial treasury.	Accounting officer	No time limit is specified for this action, and neither is the format in which the budget is to be submitted specified. Common sense dictates that the submission should be at least in electronic format and that it should be made as soon as possible after the approval date.

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
25(1) and (2)	Within 7 days of date of council meeting which failed to approve annual budget	If council fails to approve annual budget at meeting scheduled in terms of Section 24, must reconsider budget within 7 days of date of such meeting. If necessary, process must be repeated until budget approved by 30 June.	Council	As province will intervene if budget not approved by 30 June, mayor, councillors and accounting officer must co-operate to ensure obstacles to approval timeously removed.
69(3)(a) and (b)	14 days after approval of annual budget (mid-June to mid-July)	Accounting officer must submit to mayor draft service delivery and budget implementation plan, and drafts of annual performance agreements for municipal manager and all senior managers.	Accounting officer	
53(1)(c)(ii)	Within 28 days after annual budget approved (late June to late July)	Service delivery and budget implementation plan must be approved by mayor, including projections of revenues and expenses for each month, and service delivery targets and performance indicators for each quarter. (Note that though the mayor approves these targets and KPIs, only the council may change them and then only following the approval of an adjustments budget. See Section 54(1) (c)).	Mayor	-
53(1)(c)(iii)(aa) & (bb)	Within 28 days after annual budget	Mayor must take all reasonable steps to ensure that annual performance agreements for municipal managers and all senior managers are	Mayor	No date is specified for the completion of this requirement, but the

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Section of Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003	Date by which action must be completed	Action required	Responsible party	Practical considerations
	approved (late June to late July)	linked to measurable performance objectives approved with the budget and to the service delivery and budget implementation plan, and are concluded in accordance with Section 57(2) of the Municipal Systems Act.		logical inference is that the date should not be much later than the date on which the service delivery and budget implementation plan must be approved. See Section 53(3) (b).
16(1)	30 June	Annual budget must be approved by council	Council	-
53(3)(a) and (b)	14 days after approval of service delivery and budget implementation plan (mid-July to mid-August, depending on date plan approved)	Projections of revenues and expenses for each month and service delivery targets for each quarter (as set out in approved service delivery and budget implementation plan), and performance agreements of municipal manager and senior manager must be made public, and copies of performance agreements must be submitted to council and MEC for local government.	Mayor	Although this is not specified as a requirement, logic dictates that copies of the service delivery and budget implementation plan should also be submitted to council and the MEC.