

CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY

Accounting Policy 2026/2027



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Basis of Preparation

The annual financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention, unless specified otherwise.

The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and effective Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board in accordance with Section 122(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003).

Accounting policies for material transactions, events or conditions not covered by the GRAP reporting framework, have been developed in accordance with paragraphs 8, 10 and 11 of GRAP 3 and the hierarchy approved in Directive 5 issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses were not offset, except where offsetting is either required or permitted by a Standard of GRAP.

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those used to present the previous year's financial statements, unless explicitly stated otherwise. The details of any changes in accounting policies are explained in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

A summary of the significant accounting policies, which have been consistently applied in the preparation of these financial statements, are disclosed below.

Transitional Provisions

The Municipality resolved to take advantage of the following transitional provisions:

- In terms of Directive 7 - "The Application of Deemed Cost on the Adoption of Standards of GRAP", the Municipality applied deemed cost to Investment Property and Property, Plant and Equipment where the acquisition cost of an asset could not be determined.

Presentation currency

The annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand, which is the functional currency of the municipality and rounded to the nearest Rand.

Going concern assumption

The financial statements are prepared in a going concern basis.

Comparative information

Prior year comparatives

When the presentation or classification of items in the financial statements are amended, prior period comparative amounts are restated, unless a standard of GRAP does not require the restatements of comparative information. The nature and reason for the reclassification is disclosed.

Where material accounting errors, which relate to prior periods, have been identified in the current year, the correction is made retrospectively as far as is practicable, and the prior year comparatives are restated accordingly.

Where there has been a change in accounting policy in the current year, the adjustment is made retrospectively as far as is practicable, and the prior year comparatives are restated accordingly.

Amended Accounting Policies

Amendments to accounting policies are reported as and when deemed necessary based on the relevance of any such amendment to the format and presentation of the financial statements.

No significant amendments were made to the accounting policy in the current year.

Materiality

Material omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decision or assessments of users made on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the nature or size of the omission or misstatements judged in the surrounding circumstances. The nature or size of the information item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor. Materiality is determined as 1% of total actual operating expenditure. This materiality is from management's perspective and does not correlate with the auditor's materiality.

Standards of GRAP set out how an item should be recognised, measured and disclosed in the financial statements. In some cases, the Municipality does not recognise, measure, present or

disclose information in accordance with the specific requirements outlined in the Standards of GRAP if the effects of applying those requirements are immaterial.

Budget Information

Budget information is presented on the accrual basis and is based on the same fiscal period as the actual amounts.

The Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts include the comparison between the approved and final budget amounts, as well as a comparison between the actual amounts and final budget amounts.

The disclosure of comparative information in respect of the previous period is not required by the Standards of GRAP.

New standards, amendments to standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Effective dates determined

Where a Standard of GRAP has been issued but is not yet effective, the Municipality may resolve to early adopt such a Standard of GRAP if an effective date has been determined by the Minister of Finance.

The Municipality resolved to early adopt the following pronouncements to the Standards of GRAP which were issued but not yet effective:

Pronouncement	Effective Date
Improvements to the Standards of GRAP (2020)	1 April 2023
Amendments to GRAP 1 on Presentation of Financial Statements (2019)	1 April 2023
iGRAP 21 on The Effect of Past Decisions on Materiality	1 April 2023

The effect of the above-mentioned pronouncements to the Standards of GRAP which were early adopted is considered insignificant. The early adopted pronouncements mainly relate to the clarification of accounting principles.

The Municipality further resolved not to early adopt the following Standards of GRAP which was issued but is not yet effective:

GRAP 25 (Revised 2021) - Employee Benefits (effective 1 April 2023)

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting and disclosure for employee benefits. This Standard was revised to align it with IPSAS 39 on Employee Benefits.

The impact of this Standard on the financial statements will not be significant.

GRAP 104 (Revised 2019) - Financial Instruments (effective 1 April 2025)

The objective of this Standard is to establish principles for recognising, measuring, presenting and disclosing financial instruments. This Standard was revised to align it with IFRS 9 on Financial Instruments.

The impact of the revised Standard may be significant on the financial statements, due to the following key changes to the Standard:

- Changes in the classification of instruments for subsequent measurement – financial assets are measured at either amortised cost or fair value based on the reason why they are held and their economic characteristics. Specific liabilities are measured at fair value, and all others are measured at amortised cost.
- The approach to impairing financial assets changed from an incurred loss to an expected loss model. As indicated in the name, expected losses estimate the expected default of financial assets over a period of time rather than only recognising an impairment loss when an event occurs.
- Loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts are recognised and measured differently. They are no longer in the scope of GRAP 19 on Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets. When entering into these transactions there is an economic consequence that exposes an entity to risk. Accounting for them as financial instruments best captures this risk exposure.
- With the changes in the classification of instruments and impairment approach, there is new information that GRAP 104 requires entities to disclose.

iGRAP 7 (Revised 2021) - The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their interaction (effective 1 April 2023)

This Interpretation addresses the following:

- When refunds or reductions in future contributions should be regarded as available in accordance with the definition of the asset ceiling.
- How a minimum funding requirement might affect the availability of reductions in future contributions.

No significant impact is expected as the Municipality's current treatment is already to a large extent in line with the Interpretation's requirements.

Effective dates not yet determined

Where a Standard of GRAP has been issued but not yet effective and the Minister of Finance has not yet determined an effective date for application, the Municipality may select to apply the principles established in that standard in developing an appropriate accounting policy dealing with a particular section or event.

The following Standards of GRAP have been issued but are not yet effective as the Minister of Finance has not yet determined the effective date for application:

GRAP 103 (Revised 2022) - Heritage Assets

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting treatment for heritage assets and related disclosure requirements.

This revised Standard may have a significant impact with regards to heritage assets which have a dual purpose. Even though some heritage assets can have cultural significance while being used in delivering services, the revised Standard will now require that all heritage assets be accounted for using GRAP 103. A consequence of this amendment is that a heritage asset will no longer be depreciated. Instead, a heritage asset should be tested for impairment when an impairment indicator has been triggered.

Amendments to GRAP 1 on Presentation of Financial Statements (2022)

The amendments to the Standard clarify how to apply going concern assumption in the public sector and improve disclosure on related judgements and conclusions.

The impact of these amendments to the Standard on the financial statements will not be significant.

Investment property

Initial Recognition

Investment property includes property (land or a building, or part of a building, or both land and buildings held under a finance lease) held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, rather than held to meet service delivery objectives, the production or supply of goods or services, for administration purposes, or the sale of an asset in the ordinary course of operations. Property with a currently undetermined use is also classified as investment property.

Investment property is recognised as an asset when it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential that are associated with the investment property will flow to the Municipality, and the cost or fair value of the investment property can be measured reliably.

Investment property is initially measured at cost on its acquisition date. The cost of investment property is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to a condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality.

Where an investment property is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition and any other costs attributable to bring the asset to a condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality. The cost of self-constructed investment property is the cost at date of completion. Transfers are made to or from investment property only when there is a change in use.

Where investment property is acquired in exchange for a non-monetary asset or monetary assets, or a combination of monetary and non-monetary assets, the asset acquired is initially measured at fair value (the cost). If the acquired item's fair value was not determinable, its deemed cost is the carrying amount of the asset(s) given up.

Subsequent Measurement - Cost model

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.

Depreciation – Cost Model

Depreciation of an asset begins when it is available for use, i.e. when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality. Depreciation of an asset ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised.

Depreciation is calculated on the depreciable amount, using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in Statement of Financial Performance, unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

The depreciation method is reviewed at each reporting date, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

At each reporting date the Municipality assesses whether there is any indication that expectations about the residual value and the useful life of an asset may have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the expected residual value and useful life are revised and the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

The annual depreciation rates are based on the following estimated useful lives:

Item	Useful life (years)
Property land	indefinite
Property - buildings	100 years

Impairment

Investment property is reviewed at each reporting date for any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. The impairment recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance is the excess of the carrying value over the recoverable amount. An impairment is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment been recognised. A reversal of impairment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

De-recognition

An investment property is derecognised on disposal or when the investment property is permanently withdrawn from use and no future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its disposal.

Gains or losses arising from the retirement or disposal of investment property is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period of the retirement or disposal.

Compensation from third parties for items of investment property that were impaired, lost or given up is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when the compensation becomes receivable.

Property, plant and equipment

Initial recognition

Property, plant and equipment are tangible non-current assets (including infrastructure assets) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one year.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when:

- it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the municipality; and
- the cost or fair value of the item can be measured reliably.

Items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost on its acquisition date. The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality. Trade discounts and rebates are deducted in arriving at the cost. The cost also includes the necessary costs of dismantling and removing the asset and restoring the site on which it is located.

Where an asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, the cost is deemed to be equal to the fair value of that asset as at date of acquisition and any other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment is acquired in exchange for a non-monetary asset or monetary assets, or a combination of monetary and non-monetary assets, the asset acquired is initially measured at fair value (the cost). If the acquired item's fair value was not determinable, it's deemed cost is the carrying amount of the asset(s) given up.

When significant components of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment.

Spare parts and stand by equipment which are expected to be used for more than one period are included in property, plant and equipment.

Subsequent Measurement - Cost Model

Subsequent to initial recognition, items of property, plant and equipment 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.

Where the Municipality replaces parts of an asset, it derecognises the part of the asset being replaced and capitalises the new component. Subsequent expenditure incurred on an asset is capitalised when it increases the capacity or future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset.

Depreciation

Depreciation of an asset begins when it is available for use, i.e. when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality. Depreciation of an asset ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised.

Depreciation is calculated on the depreciable amount, using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in Statement of Financial Performance, unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

The depreciation method is reviewed at each reporting date, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

At each reporting date the Municipality assesses whether there is any indication that expectations about the residual value and the useful life of an asset may have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the expected residual value and useful life are revised and the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

The annual depreciation rates are based on the following estimated useful lives:

Item	Useful Life (years)
Land and Buildings	
Land	indefinite
Buildings	100
Infrastructure	
Electrical	5 - 100
Roads	7 - 100

Sanitation	10 - 100
Storm Water	20 - 100
Water Supply	10 - 100
Work in progress	N/A
Finance lease assets	
Office equipment	7
Transport Assets	10
Community	
Community Facilities	100
Sport and Recreational Facilities	100
Work in progress	N/A
Other	
Computer Equipment	5 - 10
Furniture and Office Equipment	7 - 15
Machinery and Equipment	5 - 15
Transport Assets	10 - 15

Impairment

Property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each reporting date for any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. The impairment recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance is the excess of the carrying value over the recoverable amount.

An impairment is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment been recognised. A reversal of impairment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

De-recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment are derecognised when the asset is disposed or when there are no further economic benefits or service potential expected from the use of the asset.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying value and is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

Compensation from third parties for items of property, plant and equipment that were impaired, lost or given up is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when the compensation becomes receivable.

Intangible assets

Initial Recognition

An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance.

The Municipality recognises an intangible asset only when it is probable that the expected future economic benefits or service potential that are attributable to the asset will flow to the Municipality and the cost or fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost on its acquisition date. The cost of an intangible asset is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality. Trade discounts and rebates are deducted in arriving at the cost.

Where an intangible asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its initial cost is measured at its fair value at the date of acquisition and any other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality.

Where an intangible asset is acquired in exchange for a non-monetary asset or monetary assets, or a combination of monetary and non-monetary assets, the asset acquired is initially measured at fair value (the cost). If the acquired item's fair value is not determinable, its deemed cost is the carrying amount of the asset(s) given up.

Internally generated intangible assets are subject to a strict recognition criteria before they are capitalised. Research expenditure is never capitalised, while development expenditure is only capitalised to the extent that:

- the technical feasibility of completing the intangible asset so that it will be available for use or sale;
- its intention to complete the intangible asset and use or sell it;
- its ability to use or sell the intangible asset;
- how the intangible asset will generate probable future economic benefits or service potential;
- the availability of adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the intangible asset; and
- its ability to measure reliably the expenditure attributable to the intangible asset during its development.

Subsequent Measurement - Cost model

Intangible assets are subsequently carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation

The cost of an intangible asset is amortised over the useful life where that useful life is finite. Where the useful life is indefinite, the asset is not amortised but is subject to an annual impairment test.

Amortisation of an intangible with a finite life asset begins when it is available for use, i.e. when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Municipality. Amortisation ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised.

Amortisation is calculated on the depreciable amount, using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the intangible assets. The amortisation charge for each period is recognised in Statement of Financial Performance, unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

The residual value of an intangible asset with a finite useful life is considered to be zero.

The amortisation period and amortisation method are reviewed at each reporting date, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

The annual amortisation rates are based on the following estimated useful lives:

Item	Useful life (years)
Computer Software	5

Impairment

Intangible assets are reviewed at each reporting date for any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. The impairment recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance is the excess of the carrying value over the recoverable amount.

An impairment is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment been recognised. A reversal of an impairment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

De-recognition

Intangible assets are derecognised when the asset is disposed or when there are no further economic benefits or service potential expected from the use of the asset.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an intangible asset is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying value and is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Impairment of Non-Monetary Assets

An impairment is a loss in the future economic benefits or service potential of an asset, over and above the systematic recognition of the loss of the asset's future economic benefits or service potential through depreciation.

Cash-generating assets are assets held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return. Non-cash-generating assets are assets other than cash-generating assets

The Municipality assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the Municipality estimates the recoverable amount of the asset.

Recoverable amount of Cash-generating assets

The recoverable amount of an asset or a cash-generating unit is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

The best evidence of 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.

Value in use of a cash-generating asset is the present value of the estimated future cash flows expected to be derived from the continuing use of an asset and from its disposal at the end of its useful life.

Recoverable amount of Non-cash-generating assets

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

The value in use for a non-cash generating asset is the present value of the asset's remaining service potential. 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.

Impairment loss

If the recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. That reduction is an impairment loss.

An impairment loss of assets carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation or amortisation is recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Performance.

An impairment loss of assets carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard of GRAP is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that Standard of GRAP.

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.

Reversal of an impairment loss

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

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 had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior periods.

A reversal of an impairment loss of assets carried at cost less accumulated depreciation or amortisation is recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Performance.

A reversal of an impairment loss of assets carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard of GRAP is treated as a revaluation increase in accordance with that Standard of GRAP.

After the reversal 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.

Inventories

Initial Recognition

Inventories are assets:

- a) in the form of materials or supplies to be consumed in the production process;
- b) in the form of materials or supplies to be consumed or distributed in the rendering of services;
- c) held for sale or distribution in the ordinary course of operations; or
- d) in the process of production for sale or distribution.

Inventories are recognised as an asset if it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Municipality, and the cost of the inventories can be measured reliably.

Inventories are initially recognised at cost. Cost generally refers to the purchase price, plus non-recoverable taxes, transport costs and any other costs in bringing the inventories to their current location and condition. Trade discounts, rebates and other similar items are deducted in determining the costs of purchase.

Where inventory is manufactured, constructed or produced, the cost includes the cost of labour, materials and overheads used during the manufacturing process.

Where inventories are acquired through a non-exchange transaction, the cost is measured at the fair value as at the date of acquisition plus any other costs in bringing the inventories to their current location and condition.

Subsequent Measurement

When inventories are sold, exchanged or distributed the carrying amount of those inventories are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognised. If there is no related revenue, the expense is recognised when the goods are distributed, or related service is rendered.

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value unless they are to be distributed at no or nominal charge, in which case they are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of operations less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale, exchange or distribution. Current replacement cost is the cost the Municipality would incur to acquire the asset on the reporting date.

The amount of any write-down of inventories to net realisable value or current replacement cost and all losses of inventories is recognised as an expense in the period the write-down or loss occurs.

The amount of any reversal of any write-down of inventories, arising from an increase in net realisable value or current replacement cost, is recognised as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognised as an expense in the period in which the reversal occurs.

The basis of allocating cost to inventory items is the weighted average method.

At reporting date, the water volume is determined by way of dip readings and the calculated volume in the distribution network. Water inventory is then measured by multiplying the cost per kilo litre of purified water by the amount of water in storage.

Cost of land held for sale is assigned by using specific identification of their individual costs.

Employee benefits

Defined-contribution plans are post-employment benefit plans under which the Municipality pays fixed contributions into a separate entity (a fund), and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. The contributions to fund obligations for the payment of retirement benefits are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the year during which they become payable.

Defined-benefit plans are post-employment benefit plans other than defined-contribution plans.

Post-Retirement Benefits

The Municipality provides retirement benefits for its employees and councillors. Retirement benefits consist of defined-contribution plans and defined-benefit plans.

Multi-employer defined benefit plans

The Municipality contributes to various National- and Provincial-administered defined benefit plans on behalf of its qualifying employees. These funds are multi-employer funds. The contributions to fund obligations for the payment of retirement benefits are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the year they become payable. These defined benefit funds are actuarially valued on the projected unit credit method basis. Deficits are recovered through lump sum payments or increased future contributions on a proportional basis from all participating municipalities.

Post-Retirement Medical Benefits

The Municipality provides post-retirement medical benefits by subsidizing the medical aid contributions of certain retired staff according to the rules of the medical aid funds. Council pays 60% as contribution and the remaining 40% is paid by the members. The entitlement to these benefits is usually conditional on the employee remaining in service up to retirement age and the completion of a minimum service period. The present value of the defined benefit liability is actuarially determined. The plan is unfunded.

Contributions are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when employees have rendered the service entitling them to the contribution. The liability is calculated by means of the projected unit credit actuarial valuation method. The liability in respect of current pensioners is regarded as fully accrued, and is therefore not split between a past (or accrued) and future in-service element. The liability is recognised at the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the

reporting date, minus the fair value at the reporting date of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly, plus any liability that may arise as a result of a minimum funding requirements. Payments made by the Municipality are set-off against the liability, including notional interest, resulting from the valuation by the actuaries and are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance as employee benefits upon valuation.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from the experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions, are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period that it occurs. These obligations are valued annually by independent qualified actuaries.

Long-term Benefits

Long Service Awards

Long service awards are provided to employees who achieve certain pre-determined milestones of service within the Municipality. The Municipality's obligation under these plans is valued by independent qualified actuaries annually and the corresponding liability is raised. Payments are set-off against the liability, including notional interest, resulting from the valuation by the actuaries and are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance as employee benefits upon valuation.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from the experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions, is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period that it occurs. These obligations are valued annually by independent qualified actuaries.

Short-term Benefits

Staff Leave

Liabilities for annual leave are recognised as they accrue to employees. The liability is based on the total amount of leave days due to employees at reporting date and also on the total remuneration package of the employee.

Accumulating leave is carried forward and can be used in future periods if the current period's entitlement is not used in full. All unused leave will be paid out to the specific employee at the end of that employee's employment term. Accumulated leave is vesting.

Bonuses

The liability for staff bonuses is based on the accrued bonus for each employee at reporting date.

Provision for Performance Bonuses

A provision, in respect of the liability relating to the anticipated costs of performance bonuses payable to Section 57 employees, is recognised as it accrue to Section 57 employees. Provisions are based on the employment contract stipulations as well as previous performance bonus payment trends.

Provisions

A provision is a liability of uncertain timing or amount. Provisions are recognised when the Municipality has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resource embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the provision can be made.

Provisions are reviewed at reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of future outflows of resources. Where the effect is material, non-current provisions are discounted to their present value using a discount rate that reflects the market's current assessment of the time value of money, adjusted for risks specific to the liability.

Future events that may affect the amount required to settle an obligation are reflected in the amount of a provision where there is sufficient objective evidence that they will occur. Gains from the expected disposal of assets are not taken into account in measuring a provision. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses. The present obligation under an onerous contract is recognised and measured as a provision.

Where some or all of the expenditure required to settle a provision is expected to be reimbursed by another party, the reimbursement is recognised when it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Municipality settles the obligation. The reimbursement is treated as a separate asset. The amount recognised for the reimbursement will not exceed the amount of the provision. In the Statement of Financial Performance, the expense relating to a provision may be presented net of the amount recognised for a reimbursement.

A provision for restructuring costs is recognised only when the following criteria over and above the recognition criteria of a provision have been met:

- a) The Municipality has a detailed formal plan for the restructuring identifying at least:
 - the business or part of a business concerned;
 - the principal locations affected;
 - the location, function and approximate number of employees who will be compensated for terminating their services;
 - the expenditures that will be undertaken; and
 - when the plan will be implemented.

- b) The Municipality has raised a valid expectation in those affected that it will carry out the restructuring by starting to implement that plan or announcing its main features to those affected by it.

If it is no longer probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation, the provision is derecognised.

Leases

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. A lease is classified as an operating lease if it does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership.

Municipality as Lessee

Finance Leases

At the commencement of the lease term, the Municipality recognises assets acquired under finance leases as assets and the associated lease obligations as liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

At the inception of the lease, the assets and liabilities are recognised at the lower of the fair value of the leased property and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The discount rate to be used in calculating the present value of the minimum lease payment is the interest rate implicit in the lease. If the rate implicit to the lease is not available the Municipality's incremental borrowing rate is used. Any initial direct costs of the Municipality are added to the amount recognised as an asset.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge are allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Contingent rents, if any, are charged as expenses to the Statement of Financial Performance in the periods in which they are incurred. The leased assets are accounted for in accordance with the stated accounting policies applicable to the assets.

Operating leases

Lease payment under an operating lease is recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight-line basis over lease term, unless another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern of the user's benefit. The difference between the straight-lined expenses and actual payments made will give rise to a liability.

Municipality as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Municipality recognises lease payments receivable under a finance lease as assets (receivable) in the Statement of Financial Position. The asset (receivable) is calculated as the sum of all the minimum lease payments to be received, plus any unguaranteed residual accruing to the Municipality, discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease.

The asset (receivable) is reduced by the capital portion of the lease instalments received, with the interest portion being recognised as interest revenue on a time proportionate basis in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Operating Leases

Operating lease revenue is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease, unless another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which benefit derived from the leased asset is diminished. The difference between the straight-lined revenue and actual payments received will give rise to an asset.

Financial instruments

Initial Recognition

Financial instruments (financial assets and financial liabilities) are recognised on the Municipality's Statement of Financial Position when it becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial instruments are initially recognised at fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial asset or financial liability. If finance charges in respect of financial assets and financial liabilities are significantly different from similar charges usually obtained in an open market transaction, adjusted for the specific risks of the Municipality, such differences are immediately recognised in the period it occurs, and the unamortised portion adjusted over the period of the loan transactions.

Subsequent Measurement

Financial instruments are categorised as follow:

- a) **Financial instruments at amortised cost** are non-derivative financial instruments with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets or current liabilities, except for maturities greater than 12 months, which are classified as non-current. After initial recognition, both financial assets and financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Financial assets are also subject to an impairment review.
- b) **Financial instruments at cost** are investments in residual interests that do not have a quoted market price in an active market, and whose fair value cannot be reliably measured. Both financial assets and financial liabilities are subsequently measured at cost. Financial assets are subject to an impairment review.
- c) Financial instruments at fair value comprise of financial assets or financial liabilities that are:
 - i. derivatives;
 - ii. combined instruments that are designated at fair value;
 - iii. instruments held for trading;
 - iv. non-derivative financial assets or financial liabilities with fixed or determinable payments that are designated at fair value at initial recognition; or

- v. financial instruments that do not meet the definition of financial instruments at amortised cost or financial instruments at cost.

Both, financial assets and financial liabilities are subsequently measured at fair value with unrealised gains or losses recognised directly in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Impairment and uncollectability of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those at fair value, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence of impairment of financial assets.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on financial assets measured at amortised cost has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate (i.e. the effective interest rate computed at initial recognition). Cash flows relating to short-term financial assets are not discounted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account. The amount of the loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the previously recognised impairment is reversed by adjusting an allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognised in Statement of Financial Performance.

Financial assets measured at cost

on an investment in a residual interest that is not measured at fair value because its fair value cannot be measured reliably, the amount of the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount of the financial asset and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar financial asset. Such impairment losses is not be reversed.

De-recognition of financial instruments

Financial assets

The Municipality derecognises financial assets only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of

ownership of the asset to another entity. Financial assets (receivables) are also derecognised when Council approves the write-off of financial assets due to non-recoverability.

If the Municipality neither transfers nor retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and continues to control the transferred asset, the Municipality recognises its retained interest in the asset and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay. If the Municipality retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a transferred financial asset, the Municipality continues to recognise the financial asset and also recognises a collateralised borrowing for the proceeds received.

Financial liabilities

The Municipality derecognises financial liabilities when the Municipality's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire.

The Municipality recognises the difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability (or part of a financial liability) extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Offsetting of financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statement of Financial Position if there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

Statutory receivables

Statutory receivables arise from legislation, supporting regulations, or similar means and require settlement by another entity in cash or another financial asset. Statutory receivables can arise from both exchange and non-exchange transactions.

Initial Recognition

Statutory receivables are recognised when the related revenue (exchange or non-exchange revenue) is recognised or when the receivable meets the definition of an asset. The Municipality initially measure statutory receivables at their transaction amount.

Subsequent Measurement

The Municipality measures statutory receivables after initial recognition using the cost method. Under the cost method, the initial measurement of the receivable is subsequently changed to reflect any interest or other charges that may have accrued on the receivable, less any impairment losses and amounts derecognised.

Impairment and uncollectability of statutory receivables

The Municipality assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that a statutory receivable may be impaired.

If there is an indication that a statutory receivable may be impaired, the Municipality measures the impairment loss as the difference between the estimated future cash flows and the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount is higher than the estimated future cash flows, the carrying amount of the statutory receivable is reduced, through the use of an allowance account. The amount of the loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. In estimating the future cash flows, the Municipality considers both the amount and timing of the cash flows that it will receive in future. Consequently, where the effect of the time value of money is material, the Municipality discounts the estimated future cash flows using a rate that reflects the current risk free rate and any risks specific to the statutory receivable for which the future cash flow estimates have not been adjusted.

An impairment loss recognised in prior periods for a statutory receivable is revised if there has been a change in the estimates used since the last impairment loss was recognised, or to reflect the effect of discounting the estimated cash flows. Any previously recognised impairment loss is adjusted by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of any adjustment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Derecognition

The Municipality derecognises a statutory receivable when the rights to the cash flows from the receivable are settled, expire or are waived or the Municipality transfers the receivable and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the receivable to another entity.

When the Municipality, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership of the receivable, has transferred control of receivable to another entity, the Municipality derecognises the receivable and recognises separately any rights and obligations created or retained in the transfer.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash on hand, cash held with banks, and call deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term highly liquid investments with registered banking institutions with maturities of three months or less from inception, readily convertible to cash without significant change in value.

Bank overdrafts are recorded based on the facility utilised. Finance charges on bank overdraft are expensed as incurred in the Statement of Financial Performance.

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of any bank overdrafts.

Receivables

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value, which approximates amortised cost less provision for impairment. Amounts receivable within 12 months from the date of reporting are classified as current.

A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Municipality will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. An estimate is made for impairment of receivables, based on past default experience of all outstanding amounts at reporting date.

Bad debts are written off in the year during which they are identified as irrecoverable, subject to the approval by the appropriate delegated authority. When a receivable is considered uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the Statement of Financial Performance.

Taxes (value added tax)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amounts of value added tax. The net amount of Value Added Tax recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included in the Statement of Financial Position. The Municipality accounts for value-added tax (VAT) on the payment basis.

Payables and annuity loans

Payables and annuity loans are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using an effective interest rate, which is the initial carrying amount, less repayments, plus interest.

Consumer deposits

Consumer deposits are disclosed as a current liability. Consumer deposits are levied in line with council's policy to consumers when services are initially connected. When services are disconnected or terminated, the outstanding deposit is utilised against any arrear accounts the consumer might be liable for on that date. Any excess deposit after all debt is settled is refunded to the specific consumer.

Conditional government grants and public contributions

Grants, transfers and donations received or receivable are recognised as assets when the resources that have been transferred to the Municipality meet the definition and criteria for recognition as assets.

Conditional grants, transfers and donations are recognised as revenue to the extent that the Municipality has complied with the conditions embodied in the agreement. Where the agreement contains a stipulation to return the asset, other future economic benefits or service potential, in the event of non-compliance to these stipulations and would be enforced by the transferor, a liability is recognised to the extent that the conditions have not been met. Where such requirements are not enforceable, or where past experience has indicated that the transferor has never enforced the requirement to return the transferred asset, other future economic benefits or service potential when breaches have occurred, the stipulation will be considered a restriction and is recognised as revenue.

The liability recognised to the extent that the conditions associated with the grant, transfer or donation have not been met, always has to be cash-backed. The cash which backs up the liability is invested as a individual investment or part of the general investments of the Municipality until it is utilised.

Interest earned on investments of grants, transfers and donations are treated in accordance with conditions as stipulated in the agreement. If it is payable to the grantor it is recorded as part of the

creditor and if it is the Municipality's interest it is recognised as interest earned in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Revenue

At the time of initial recognition, the full amount of revenue is recognised where the Municipality has an enforceable legal obligation to collect, unless the Municipality has no intention of collecting this revenue. Where the Municipality has no intention of collecting the revenue, rebates and discounts are offset against the related revenue. If the Municipality does not successfully enforce its obligation to collect the revenue this would be considered a subsequent event.

Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions

Revenue from non-exchange transactions refers to transactions where the Municipality received revenue from another entity without directly giving approximately equal value in exchange.

Revenue from non-exchange transactions is generally recognised to the extent that the related receipt or receivable qualifies for recognition as an asset and there is no liability to repay the amount.

Taxation Revenue

Taxation revenue comprises of property rates. Revenue from property rates is recognised when the legal entitlement to this revenue arises. Collection charges are recognised when such amounts are legally enforceable. Penalty interest on unpaid rates is recognised on a time proportion basis with reference to the principal amount receivable and effective interest rate applicable. A composite rating system charging different rate tariffs is employed. Rebates are granted to certain categories of ratepayers and are deducted from revenue.

Transfer Revenue

Grants, transfers and donations received or receivable are recognised when the resources that have been transferred, meet the criteria for recognition as an asset. A corresponding liability is recognised to the extent that the grant, transfer or donation is conditional. The liability is transferred to revenue as and when the conditions attached to the grant are met.

Grants, transfers and donations without any conditions attached are recognised as revenue when the asset is recognised.

Availability Charges

Availability charges are based on the approved tariffs of the Municipality. These charges are levied where the Municipality has installed the relevant infrastructure networks (relating to water, electricity and sewerage) in the area where the consumer resides, but the consumer has not requested to be and is not connected to the networks.

Fines

Fine Revenue constitutes both spot fines and summonses. All fines issued during the year less any cancellations or reductions are recognised as revenue.

Insurance Refund

Revenue from third parties i.e. insurance payments for assets impaired, are recognised when it can be measured reliably and is not being offset against the related expenses of repairs or renewals of the impaired assets.

Unclaimed deposits

All unclaimed deposits are initially recognised as a liability until 36 months expires, when all unclaimed deposits into the Municipality's bank account will be treated as revenue. This policy is in line with prescribed debt principle as enforced by law.

Revenue from Recovery of Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure

Income from the recovery of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure is based on legislated procedures, including those set out in the MFMA (Act 56 of 2003), and is recognised upon the recovery thereof from the responsible party.

Services in-kind

Services in-kind include services provided by individuals to the Municipality at no charge or where the Municipality has the right to use assets at no charge.

The Municipality's recognises services in-kind that are significant to its operations as assets and recognises the related revenue when it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the Municipality and the fair value of the assets can be measured reliably.

When the criteria for recognition is satisfied, services in-kind are recognised at their fair value as at the date of acquisition.

If the services in-kind are not significant to the Municipality's operations or does not satisfy the criteria for recognition, the Municipality only disclose the nature and type of services in-kind received during the reporting period.

Contributed Assets

Contributed assets are recognised at fair value when such items of property, plant and equipment qualifies for recognition and become available for use by the Municipality.

Revenue from Exchange Transactions

Revenue from exchange transactions refers to revenue that accrued to the Municipality directly in return for services rendered or goods sold, the value of which approximates the consideration received or receivable.

Service Charges

Service Charges are levied in terms of approved tariffs.

Service charges relating to electricity and water are based on consumption and a basic charge as per the approved tariffs. Meters are read on a monthly basis and are recognised as revenue when invoiced. Where the Municipality was unable to take the actual month's reading of certain consumers, a provisional estimate of consumption for that month will be created, based on consumption history. The provisional estimates of consumption are recognised as revenue when invoiced, except at reporting date when estimates of consumption up to the reporting date are recorded as revenue without being invoiced. Adjustments to provisional estimates of consumption are made in the invoicing period in which meters have been read. These adjustments are recognised as revenue in the invoicing period. In respect of estimates of consumption between the last reading date and the reporting date, an accrual is made based on the average monthly consumption of consumers.

Revenue from the sale of electricity prepaid meter cards is recognised at the point of sale. It is estimated that pre-paid electricity is consumed within 5 to 7 days after date of purchase. The pre-paid electricity sold, but not consumed yet at reporting date is recognised as a liability under Payables from Exchange Transactions in the Statement of Financial Position.

Service charges relating to sewerage and sanitation are recognised on a monthly basis in arrears by applying the approved tariff to each property. These service charges are based on the type of

service and the number of sewer connections on all developed property, using the tariffs approved and are levied on a monthly basis.

Service charges relating to refuse removal are recognised on a monthly basis in arrears by applying the approved tariff to each property that has improvements. Tariffs are determined per category of property usage, and are levied monthly based on the number of refuse containers on each property, regardless of whether or not all containers are emptied during the month.

Interest earned

Interest earned on investments is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance on the time proportionate basis that takes into account the effective yield on the investment.

Rental income

Revenue from the rental of facilities and equipment is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease agreement.

Income from Agency Services

Revenue arising out of situations where the Municipality acts as an agent on behalf of another entity (the principal) is limited to the amount of any fee or commission payable to the Municipality as compensation for executing the agreed services.

Income from agency services is recognised on a monthly basis once the income collected on behalf of agents has been quantified. The income recognised is in terms of the agency agreement.

Other Tariffs

Revenue arising from the application of the approved tariff of charges is recognised when the relevant service is rendered by applying the relevant tariff. This includes the issuing of licences and permits.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when all the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) The Municipality has transferred to the purchaser the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods.
- b) The Municipality retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold.
- c) The amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

- d) It is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Municipality.
- e) The costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Deferred payment

In most cases, the consideration is in the form of cash or cash equivalents and the amount of revenue is the amount of cash or cash equivalents received or receivable. However, when the inflow of cash or cash equivalents is deferred, the fair value of the consideration may be less than the nominal amount of cash received or receivable. When the arrangement effectively constitutes a financing transaction, the fair value of the consideration is determined by discounting all future receipts using an imputed rate of interest.

The difference between the fair value and the nominal amount of the consideration is recognised as interest revenue.

Construction Contracts

Contractor is an entity that performs construction work pursuant to a construction contract to build structures, construct facilities, produce goods, or render services to the specifications of another entity either itself or through the use of sub-contractors. The term “contractor” thus includes a general or prime contractor, a subcontractor to a general contractor, or a construction manager.

The Municipality participates as a non-accredited municipality in the National Housing Programme. The Municipality's roles and responsibilities in the housing development process are set out in the binding arrangements entered into with the provincial Department of Human Settlements. The Municipality assesses the terms and conditions of each contract concluded with the provincial Department of Human Settlements to establish whether the contract is a construction contract or not.

The Accounting Standards Board (ASB) issued a Guideline on accounting for arrangements undertaken in terms of the National Housing Programme. The guideline makes a distinction between a project manager and a project developer.

Where the Municipality is appointed as the project manager, it will assist with the process of appointing a contractor to construct houses on behalf of the provincial Department of Human Settlements. The responsibility of appointment and payment of the contractors ultimately vest with the provincial Department of Human Settlements.

Where the Municipality is appointed as the project developer, it will take on the responsibility for the construction of the houses. As project developer the Municipality will appoint contractors and will make payments for work completed on meeting milestones agreed between itself and the contractor.

In general, where the Municipality is appointed as the project manager, it will act as an agent for the provincial Department of Human Settlements. Where the Municipality is appointed as the project developer, it is considered that the Municipality has entered into a construction contract with the provincial Department of Human Settlements.

The binding agreements entered into with the provincial Department of Human Settlements are non-commercial fixed price contracts. The objective of the arrangements is to construct low cost houses for the beneficiaries of the National Housing Programme in return for full reimbursement of costs from the Department through a housing grant or subsidy.

When the outcome of a construction contract can be estimated reliably, contract revenue and contract costs associated with the construction contract shall be recognised as revenue and expenses respectively by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity at the reporting date, as measured by the proportion that contract costs incurred for the work performed to date bear to the estimate total contract costs.

When the outcome of a construction contract cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent of contract costs incurred that it is probable will be recoverable and contract costs shall be recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs that are incurred by the Municipality are expensed in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period during which they are incurred, regardless of how the borrowings are applied.

Unauthorised expenditure

Unauthorised expenditure is expenditure that has not been budgeted, expenditure that is not in terms of the conditions of an allocation received from another sphere of government, municipality or organ of state and expenditure in a form of a grant that is not permitted in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No. 56 of 2003). Unauthorised expenditure is accounted for as an

expense (measured at actual cost incurred) in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Irregular expenditure

Irregular expenditure is expenditure that is contrary to the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No. 56 of 2003), the Municipal Systems Act (Act No. 32 of 2000), the Public Office Bearers Act, and (Act. No. 20 of 1998) or is in contravention of the Municipality's Supply Chain Management Policy. Irregular expenditure is accounted for as expenditure (measured at actual cost incurred) in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is expenditure that was made in vain and could have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is accounted for as expenditure (measured at actual cost incurred) in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Municipality. A contingent liability could also be a present obligation that arises from past events, but is not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to the obligation or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent assets represent possible assets that arise from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by an occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Municipality.

The Municipality does not recognise a contingent liability or contingent asset. A contingent liability is disclosed unless the probability of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or

service potential is remote. A contingent asset is disclosed where the inflow of economic benefits or service potential is probable.

Capital commitments

Capital commitments disclosed in the financial statements represents the contractual balance committed to capital projects on reporting date that will be incurred in the period subsequent to the specific reporting date.

Events after reporting date

Events after the reporting date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the reporting date and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Two types of events can be identified:

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date (adjusting events after the reporting date); and
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting date (non-adjusting events after the reporting date).

If non-adjusting events after the reporting date are material, the Municipality discloses the nature and an estimate of the financial effect.

Related parties

A related party is a person or an entity with the ability to control or jointly control the other party, or exercise significant influence over the other party, or vice versa, or an entity that is subject to common control, or joint control.

Related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between the Municipality and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.

Management is considered a related party and comprises those persons responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Municipality, including those charged with the governance of the Municipality in accordance with legislation, in instances where they are required to perform such functions.

A close family member of management is also considered to be related party. A person is considered to be a close member of the family of another person if they are married or live together in a relationship similar to a marriage or are separated by no more than two degrees of natural or legal consanguinity or affinity.

The Municipality is exempt from the disclosure requirements in relation to related party transactions if that transactions occurs within the normal supplier and/or client/recipient relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those which it is reasonable to expect the Municipality to have adopted if dealing with that individual entity or person in the same circumstances, and the terms and

Where the Municipality is exempt from the disclosures in accordance with the above-mentioned paragraph, the Municipality discloses narrative information about the nature of the transactions and the related outstanding balances, to enable to users of the financial statements to understand the effect of related party transactions.

Remuneration of management includes remuneration derived for services provided to the Municipality in their capacity as members of the management team or employees. Benefits derived directly or indirectly from the Municipality for services in any capacity other than as an employee or a member of management do not meet the definition of remuneration. Remuneration of management excludes any consideration provided solely as a reimbursement for expenditure incurred by those persons for the benefit of the Municipality.

The Municipality operates in an economic environment currently dominated by entities directly or indirectly owned by the South African government. As a result of the Constitutional independence of all three spheres of government in South Africa, only parties within the same sphere of government will be considered to be related parties. Only transactions with such parties which are not at arm's length and not on normal commercial terms, are disclosed.

Accounting by principals and agents

An agent is an entity that has been directed another entity (a principal), through a binding arrangement, to undertake transactions with third parties on behalf of the principal and for the benefit of the principal.

A principal is an entity that directs another entity (an agent), through a binding arrangement, to undertake transactions with third parties on its behalf and for its own benefit.

A principal-agent arrangement results from a binding arrangement in which one entity (an agent), undertakes transactions with third parties on behalf, and for the benefit of, another entity (the principal).

When the Municipality is party to a principal-agent arrangement, it assesses whether it is the principal or the agent in accounting for revenue, expenses, assets and/or liabilities that result from transactions with third parties undertaken in terms of the arrangement. The assessment of whether the Municipality is a principal or an agent requires the Municipality to assess whether the transactions it undertakes with third parties are for the benefit of another entity or for its own benefit.

The Municipality assesses whether it is an agent or a principal by assessing the rights and obligations of the various parties established in the binding arrangement.

Where the terms of a binding arrangement are modified, the parties to the arrangement shall re-assess whether they act as a principal or an agent in accordance with this Standard.

When the Municipality in a principal-agent arrangement concludes that it undertakes transactions with third parties for the benefit of another entity, then it is the agent. If an entity concludes that it is not the agent, then it is the principal in the transactions.

The Municipality is an agent when, in relation to transactions with third parties, all three of the following criteria are present:

- a) It does not have the power to determine the significant terms and conditions of the transaction.
- b) It does not have the ability to use all, or substantially all, of the resources that result from the transaction for its own benefit.
- c) It is not exposed to variability in the results of the transaction.

Where the Municipality has been granted specific powers in terms of legislation to direct the terms and conditions of particular transactions, it is not required to consider the criteria of whether it does not have the power to determine the significant terms and conditions of the transaction, to conclude that it is an agent. The Municipality applies judgement in determining whether such powers exist and whether they are relevant in assessing whether an entity is an agent.

Where the Municipality acts as a principal, it recognises revenue and expenses that arise from transactions with third parties in a principal-agent arrangement in accordance with the requirement of the relevant Standards of GRAP.

Where the Municipality acts as an agent, it recognises only that portion of the revenue and expenses it receives or incurs in executing the transactions on behalf of the principal in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Standards of GRAP.

The Municipality recognises assets and liabilities arising from principal-agent arrangements in accordance with the requirements of other Standards of GRAP.

Living and non-living resources

Living resources are those resources that undergo biological transformation which comprises the processes of growth, degeneration, production, and procreation that cause qualitative or quantitative changes in a living resource.

Non-living resources are those resources, other than living resources, that occur naturally and have not been extracted. Non-living resources, other than land, is not recognised as assets. The Standard only requires disclosure of the relevant resources.

The Municipality has assessed that it does not control any living resources, but is however responsible for non-living resources as set out in notes to the financial statements.

Segment reporting

A segment is an activity of the Municipality:

- a) that generates economic benefits or service potential (including economic benefits or service potential relating to transactions between activities of the same Municipality);
- b) whose results are regularly reviewed by management to make decisions about resources to be allocated to that activity and in assessing its performance; and
- c) for which separate financial information is available.

Management comprises of those persons responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Municipality, including those charged with the governance of the Municipality in accordance with legislation.

Financial information relating to the reporting segments are aligned to the financial information distributed to management on a regular basis (similar basis of preparation). This information is utilised to measure performance of the relevant services provided by the Municipality and also to ensure that resources are appropriately allocated to various departments/segments to provide high quality services to the community.

Adjustments and eliminations made in preparing the Municipality's financial statements, which includes the allocation basis of revenues and expenses, are prepared on a similar basis as the information distributed to management on a regular basis.

Financial information distributed to management does not include a segment/department analysis of assets and liabilities associated with each segment/department. In line with this principle utilised during the financial year, the segment reporting included in the financial statements are prepared on a similar basis which excludes such an analysis. Assets and liabilities are reported on for the Municipality as a whole.

Management reviews capital expenditure/performance on a regular basis and accordingly the relevant information is reported on per segment.

Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

In the process of applying the Municipality's accounting policy, management has made the following significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Application of Directive 7

For deemed cost applied to Property, Plant and Equipment as per adoption of Directive 7, management used the depreciation cost method which was based on assumptions about the remaining duration of the assets.

For deemed cost applied to land and buildings as per adoption of Directive 7, management made use of an independent valuator. The valuator's valuation was based on assumptions about the market's buying and selling trends and the remaining duration of the assets.

For deemed cost applied to Investment Property as per adoption of Directive 7, management made use of an independent valuator. The valuator's valuation was based on assumptions about the market's buying and selling trends and the remaining duration of the assets.

GRAP implementation date for the Municipality is 1 July 2009 which is also the date applicable when applying Directive 7. The GRAP compliant period is therefore determined to be from 1 July 2009 to the current year's reported date. Where the economic useful life of an items of Property, Plant and Equipment is less than the GRAP compliant period, it is assumed that the item was either incorrectly written off in the past, or that the capital expenditure of the said item was incorrectly included in surplus. In such cases the item shall not be recognised on GRAP implementation date, but shall be taken into account on that date of the opening balances of the comparative amounts.

Impairment of Receivables

The calculation in respect of the impairment of receivables is based on an assessment of the extent to which debtors have defaulted on payments already due, and an assessment of their ability to make payments based on their creditworthiness. This was performed per service-identifiable categories across all classes of debtors.

Useful lives and residual values

The useful lives of assets are based on management's estimates. Management considers the impact of technology, availability of capital funding, service requirements and required return on assets to determine the optimum useful life expectation, where appropriate.

The estimated residual values of assets are also based on management's judgement on whether the assets will be sold or used to the end of their useful lives, and what their condition will be at that time.

Impairment of non-monetary assets

Non-monetary assets can include, but is not limited to, Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible assets.

The Municipality is not a profit-oriented entity, as its primary objective is service delivery. Tariffs and charges are cost-reflective to ensure continued financial sustainability. No profit element is included in the determination of a tariff. As such, management has determined that the Municipality does not control assets that meet the definition of cash-generating assets and that the Standard of GRAP on Impairment of Non-cash-generating Assets will apply to all assets of the Municipality.

The calculation in respect of the impairment of non-monetary assets is based on an assessment of the extent to which the recoverable amount of the asset has declined below the carrying amount. This calculation will only be performed if there is an indication of an impairment.

Post-Retirement and Long-term Benefits

The cost of post-retirement medical benefits and long-service awards are determined using actuarial valuations. The actuarial valuation involves making assumptions about discount rates, expected rates of return on assets, future salary increases, mortality rates and future pension increases. Due to the long-term nature of these plans, such estimates are subject to significant uncertainty.

Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

Management's judgement is required when recognising and measuring provisions, as well as when measuring contingent liabilities. Provisions are discounted where the time value effect is material.

The provision for rehabilitation of the landfill site is recognised as and when the environmental liability arises. The provision is calculated by a qualified environmental engineer. The provision represents the net present value at the reporting date of the expected future cash flows to rehabilitate the landfill site. The discount rate used to calculate the effect of time value of money is linked to the index for earthwork as published by Statistics South Africa.

Financial Instruments and Statutory Receivables

The Municipality analyses the terms and conditions of the transactions that give rise to its receivables in order to understand whether they arise directly from legislation or similar means, or from a separate contract concluded with a party. Judgement is applied in applying the principles as set out in the respective Standards of GRAP on Financial Instruments and Statutory Receivables.

Financial assets and liabilities

The classification of financial assets and liabilities, into categories, is based on judgement by management. In making the judgement, management considered the definition and recognition criteria for the classification of financial instruments as set out in the Standard of GRAP on Financial Instruments.

Revenue Recognition

Accounting Policy on Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions and Accounting Policy on Revenue from Exchange Transactions describes the conditions under which revenue will be recognised by management of the Municipality.

In making their judgement, management considered the detailed criteria for the recognition of revenue as prescribed in the Standard of GRAP on Revenue from Exchange Transactions and

Standard of GRAP on Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions. Specifically, when goods are sold, whether the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have been transferred to the buyer and when services are rendered, whether the service has been performed.

In considering the revenue to which the Municipality is entitled, the Municipality considers other factors that may impact the inflow of future economic benefits or service potential on initial recognition of revenue. Such factors include fines issued which will be reduced or withdrawn after reporting date. The Municipality applies judgement based on past experience and current facts and circumstances in order to adjust the traffic fine revenue accordingly.

Recognition and De-recognition of Land

In order for land to be meet the definition of an asset, the Municipality must be able to prove that control is being exercised. Control of land is evidenced by either legal ownership and/or the right to direct access to land, and to restrict or deny the access of others to land.

To demonstrate access/restriction rights, the Municipality assesses whether it has a substantive right for an unlimited period through a binding arrangement.

The above-mentioned assessment is subject to management's judgements and assumptions are applied to conclude that the Municipality controls land.

Materiality

Since materiality is an entity-specific concept, its application may result in different outcomes based on the Municipality's circumstances. The assessment of materiality therefore requires management to apply judgement about:

- a) How information could reasonably be expected to influence the discharge of accountability by the Municipality or decisions that the users make on the basis of those financial statements.
- b) How the nature or size or both, of the information could reasonably be expected to influence users' decisions.