

2017

CONSOLIDATED Annual Report

2015/16
Financial Year

March 2017



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CHAPTER 1 – MAYOR’S FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMPONENT A: MAYOR’S FOREWORD



Honourable Executive Mayor: Cllr. Z.I. Dumzela

The Joe Gqabi District municipality is an institution that embraces service delivery and good governance in its vision of improving the quality of life for all residents. The continued improvement in the delivery of water and sanitation services, water quality improvements, skills development, stronger accountability structures, stable political and administrative interface, continued gravel roads maintenance, strengthening of municipal health services, disaster management, fire and rescue services, public and stakeholder engagement programme, just mention but a few as tabled in this Annual Report demonstrate our commitment. The primary task ahead is to expedite the progressive interventions in dealing with the historic and current service delivery backlogs and inefficiencies.

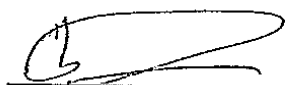
This Annual Report presents the overall performance of the Joe Gqabi District Municipality (JGDM) during the year under review commencing in July 2015 to June 2016, which represents the 2015/16 financial. Contained in the report, inter alia, are the key performance highlights, report of the Auditor General, report of the Audit Committee, audited consolidated financial statements, service delivery achievements against performance targets and any information as determined by the municipality of the District municipality.

It is my delight to highlight from the onset that the JGDM received a clean audit opinion for the second consecutive year. This demonstrates that the District has maintained its excellence as far as sound and good governance are concerned. This achievement places an enormous pressure on the District leadership and technocrats to work even harder in ensuring that the reported achievements are maintained and that service delivery to the communities is expedited.

At the end of the 2014/15 financial the Council adopted an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and budget for the 2015/16 financial year which also led to the finalisation of the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP). These documents contained plans for implementation during the 2015/16 financial year. Thus, Annual Report provides an account of the performances of the Council during the period under

review. The information presented in this Annual Report shows quite clearly that the JGDM continues to improve both on service delivery and governance matters. This demonstrates that with a continued focus on our community priority programmes and responding to the current needs of the communities we are in a position to gradually move towards the realisation of our vision and mission as a municipality. The achievements I refer to here come as a direct result of the commitment of the Council, administration, the District communities and the invaluable role that our social partners and government departments continue to play.

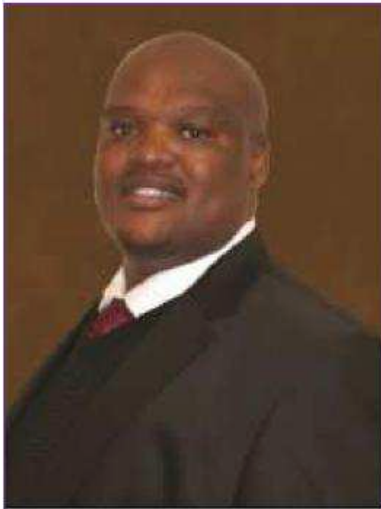
The Council has committed itself on further strengthen and deepen community and stakeholder engagement, as it remains a pinnacle of our democracy. It is through these processes that we empower, educate, develop and learn from our communities. I must therefore hasten to extend my gratitude to all who participate and contribute in all the socio-economic developmental efforts and initiatives we embark on as this District municipality. As we move forward, we must continue to lobby for increased funding as the unavailability of financial resources is the key impediment to the delivery and achievement of our service delivery goals and targets. We must focus on various progressive interventions, including building on the achievements, improving access to municipal services, strengthen public participation, create job opportunities, fight poverty, promote education, improve health services as well as fighting fraud and corruption. The District will continue to implement strategies that promote investment, sustainable development and service excellence. I further encourage all communities and stakeholders to partake in our developmental strides. The District Council and its administration remains committed to work with all communities, stakeholders and critical partners towards implementation of this developmental blueprint with the sole aim of attaining an improved quality of life for all our residents.



Cllr Z.I. Dumzela
Executive Mayor

Date: 31 March 2017

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S OVERVIEW



Mr. ZA Williams
Municipal Manager

Section 121 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 requires, inter alia, every municipality to prepare an Annual report, which must encompass Annual Financial Statements, Auditor General's report and any other information as determined by the municipality, for each financial year.

Accordingly, this Annual report attempts not only to comply with these statutory prescripts but also and more importantly, to provide an objective account of the institutional performance of JGDM during the period ending 30 June 2016. This will encompass financial information and predetermined objectives.

Necessarily, the appraisal of the institutional performance is based on the annual indicators and targets as reflected in the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) which was duly approved by the Executive Mayor and Audited by the Auditor General.

In this regard, the veracity of the information contained herein is, relatively, beyond reproach and users thereof must derive comfort and confidence from this fact.

In the ensuing paragraphs, an attempt has been made to provide an overview of the report using a thematic approach derived from the strategic goals set for this period.

JGDM prides itself for the uncompromising commitment to providing sustainable basic services to its communities. Although not all households have access to our services, but it is pleasing to note that significant headway has been made in this regard. About 90% and 78% of the households have access to a basic level of sanitation and water respectively. Qualitatively, water quality has seen improvement over the years, from 50% to 97% ever since the District Municipality took over the water services function from the local municipalities. There is equally significant progress made in the maintenance of gravel roads. To that end, 3321 kilometres of gravel roads were graded.

The signing of Mutual Assistance agreements for the provision of disaster management, fire and rescue services with the neighbouring District Municipalities not only in the Eastern Cape Province but also in the Free State and Northern Cape is a concrete expression of our service excellence model and the spirit of Intergovernmental Relations. Plans are underway to cast the net wider to draw other municipalities into the fold. To avoid an ad hoc and “fire-fighting” approach in providing this service, a disaster risk management plan was approved by the Council.

Through the Local Economic Development, capital, working for water and wetlands projects, the JGDM has contributed immensely in reducing the debilitating impact of poverty and unemployment by creating 4874 job opportunities during the year under review. The review and adoption of the Local Economic Development Strategy will go a long way in unleashing the potential of the Local economy in the District. Over and above the opportunities created through EPWP programmes, 66 youths were provided with workplace experience through internship and learnership programmes

The Joe Gqabi Development Agency continues to enjoy the support of its parent municipality. During the year under review, a new board of directors was appointed to ensure that there is a strategic leadership and good corporate governance in the agency. Although some work has been performed by the Agency, much more still needs to be done to thrust it on a higher performance pedestal.

The salary budget against the total operational budget has been contained at 34% relative to the ceiling of 38% set by the National Treasury as a guideline to the municipalities. A fair amount of effort has been expended in building and enhancing the capacity of the councillors and staff by organising accredited training for them. Almost 20 employees were enrolled on the Municipal Finance Programme resulting in 100% expenditure of the budget for staff development.

The JGDM remains a shining model to its counterparts for having notched clean audit outcomes in two consecutive years, 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years, from the Auditor General. This could be attributed to strong leadership and management determined to respect the rule of law, practice good governance principles and adhere to stringent fiscal discipline.

The financial life of the municipality has been gradually improving over the period of time. This is attested to by the municipality’s ability to honour its financial obligations within the expected period of time.

- Consumer Debtor’s collection period
- Actual versus budgeted expenditure
- Acid test ratio

- Total liabilities as a percentage of total assets
- Net cash flow from operations compared to total debt of the municipality

Material water losses occasioned by leakages in the reticulation system and illegal connections by consumers remains a challenge to be systematically addressed with the assistance of technology and support of various stakeholders.

Other related challenges relate to debt collection and enforcement of credit control policy particularly in the urban based areas. Strategies and plans have, however, been put in place to address these twin challenges.



Z.A. Williams
Municipal Manager

Date: 31 March 2017

POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

1.2.1 LOCALITY

The Joe Gqabi District Municipality (JGDM) is one of the six District Municipalities in the Eastern Cape Province. The District borders the Free State, Northern Cape and Lesotho as depicted in figure 1 below. Neighbouring district municipalities are Alfred Nzo, OR Tambo and Chris Hani District Municipalities. The Orange River forms the southern boundary separating the District and the Free State Province.

The JGDM consists of four local municipalities: Elundini, Gariep, Maletswai and Senqu. The 2016 municipal amalgamation process meant that the Gariep and Maletswai municipalities were merged to form a new entity called Walter Sisulu Local Municipality. Cities and towns that form the District are Aliwal North, Barkly East, Burgersdorp, Jamestown, Lady Grey, Maclear, Mount Fletcher, Oviston, Rhodes, Rossouw, Sterkspruit, Steynsburg, Ugie and Venterstad. The seat of JGDM is in Barkly East.

Before 1 February 2010, the District was known as the Ukhahlamba District Municipality. Its name was changed in recognition of Joe Nzingo Gqabi (1929–1981), an African National Congress (ANC) member who was a journalist for the *New Age*, a member of the *Umkhonto we Sizwe*, and one of the Pretoria Twelve.

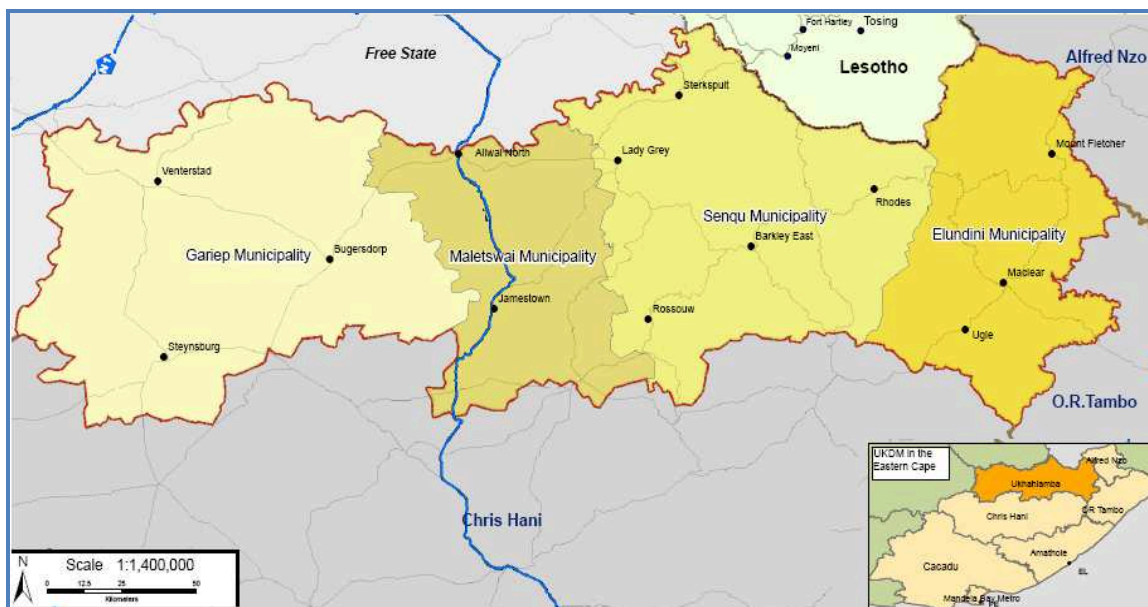


Figure 1: Joe Gqabi District Municipality

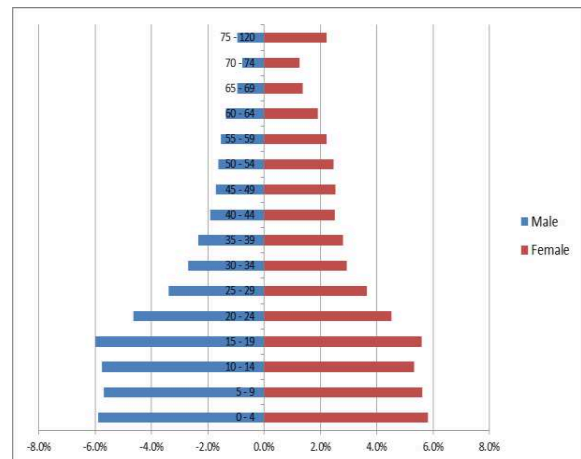
1.2.2 POPULATION DYNAMICS

The population of the District slightly increased from 341 750 in 2001 to 349 768 in 2011 representing a 2.3% growth (StatsSA 2011). These statistics show that about 40.2% of the population resides at Elundini, 39.7% resides at Senqu, 10.9% at Maletswai and 9.2% at Gariep local municipality. The Maletswai municipality, being the main urban center within the District, has seen higher population growth of 16% between 2001 and 2011. This was followed by the Gariep local municipality at 7.3%. The Elundini municipality population grew at 0.5%. Senqu local municipality had a negative growth of 1.2 %.

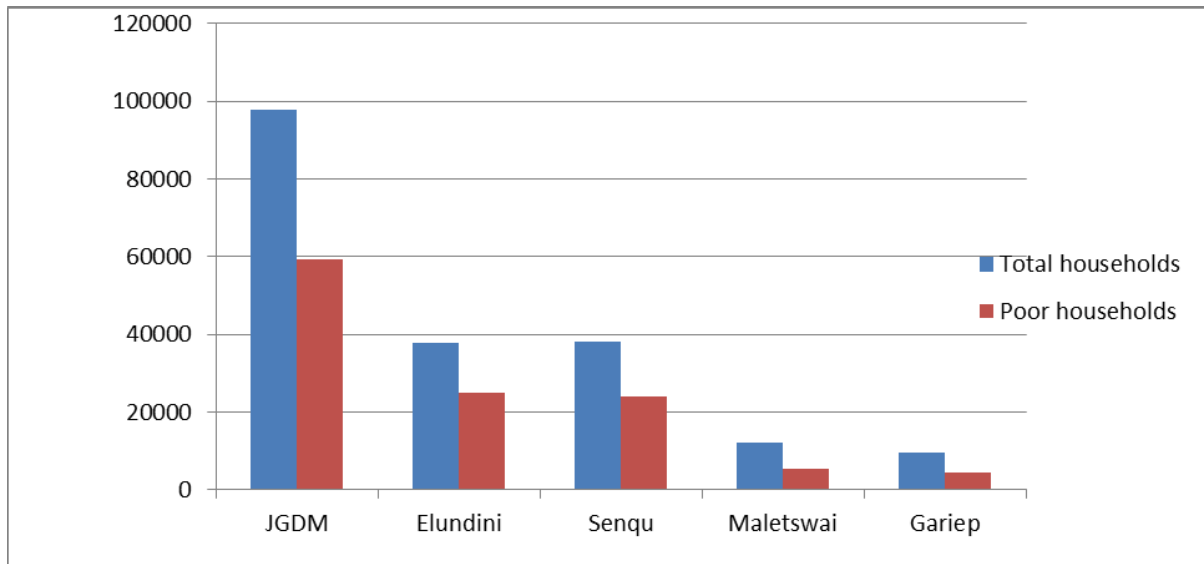
Population and total households							
Municipality	2001	2011	% growth		Number of households		
			1996 - 2001	2001 – 2011	2001	2011	% Change
JGDM	341 750	349 768	8.2	2.3	84 835	97 775	15
Elundini	137 394	138 141	3.7	0.5	33 209	37 854	14
Senqu	135 734	134 150	6.7	-1.2	33 904	38 046	12
Maletswai	37 307	43 800	29.2	16.0	9 488	12 105	28
Gariep	31 314	33 677	11.2	7.3	8 234	9 770	19

Source: StatsSA 2001 and StatsSA 2011

Population details			
Age	Male	Female	Total
0 - 4	20652	20316	40968
5 - 9	19926	19641	39567
10 - 19	41046	38118	79164
20 - 29	28089	28575	56664
30 - 39	17715	20061	37776
40 - 49	12696	17595	30291
50 - 59	11118	16389	27507
60 - 69	8133	11490	19623
70 - 120	6066	12144	18210
Source: Statistics SA			T 1.2.2



The age group of 10 - 19 years is the biggest proportion, followed by the age group of 20 – 29. The 0 – 9 age group is also of a noticeably high proportion. Generally, it is evident that the greatest numbers of people are found within the 15 – 64 years range, which is the working age. This is a category of people that is of the working age. The age group from 65 years and above is the lowest in the District.



Natural Resources	
Major Natural Resource	Relevance to Community
Large flat plains of land are interspersed with steep mountains and hills	The open flat areas in the west allow for extensive agriculture whereas in the east, agriculture is limited to specific land pockets. Although very little land is suitable for cultivation, grazing for farming stock is feasible.
Altitude of the District lies between 1000m and 1500m above sea level	Due to its high altitude, the area is less suitable for farming. The mountainous terrain also limits accessibility and therefore hampers service and infrastructure delivery in the region.
Drakensberg scenic environment	Conducive to adventure and nature tourism activities such as mountain biking, hiking, skiing etc.
Southern Drakensberg Mountains form the Orange River watershed	The Orange River is the most important source of water in the District and it covers most of Gariep, Maletswai and Senqu Local Municipalities.
The Gariep dam	Largest dam in South Africa and is a major source of water for irrigation in the District as well as for the Fish River scheme (to the south west of the District). Dams have a secondary usage and potential for recreational and other economic purposes.

<p>Only 233 hectares of high potential arable land (class 1) in Joe Gqabi District</p>	<p>There is limited land available that can sustain intensive agricultural practices. Land identified as prime and unique agricultural land should be preserved for agricultural use in order to enhance food security and therefore economic welfare.</p>
<p>Diversity of vegetation types and land features</p>	<p>An opportunity exists to formally protect the remaining intact grasslands, especially those classified as vulnerable and endangered, to ensure the important ecological functions they play in this area are preserved, and to build on the attractive and ecologically important landscape for tourism.</p>
<p>T 1.2.7</p>	

CHAPTER 2 – GOVERNANCE



2.1 POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT

The political component of the District consists of the Executive Mayor, the Speaker, and 24 councillors. Council established a Municipal Public accounts Committee (MPAC) in November 2011 and the committee is fully functional. The District has a history of stable Councils and Management. The Joe Gqabi District Municipality has an executive mayoral system. The District has five standing committees which are chaired by portfolio councillors who head different portfolios. With regard to the frequency of meetings, the Council met at least quarterly. Furthermore, for all the above-mentioned structures, special meetings were convened as and when necessary. The high level structure of the District is depicted in figure 2 below.

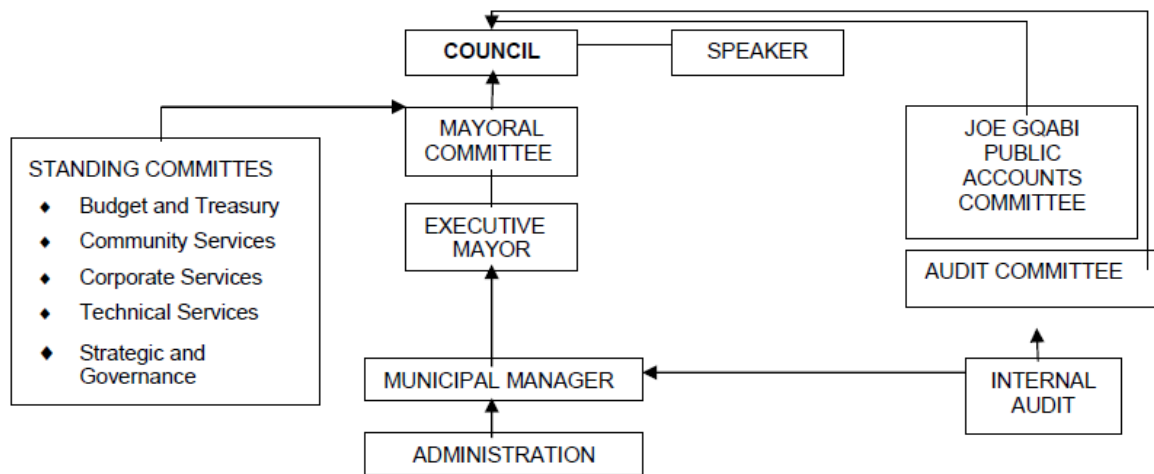


Figure 2: High level structure of the District

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



*Executive Mayor
Cllr Z.I. Dumzela*



*Speaker
Cllr N. P. Mposelwa*



*Portfolio Head
Technical Services
Cllr T.Z. Notyke*



*Portfolio Head
Financial Services
Cllr B. Salman*



*Portfolio Head
Corporate Services
Cllr N. Ngubo*



*Portfolio Head
Community Services
Cllr D.D. Mvumvu*



Cllr X.G. Motloi



Cllr V. Mbulaw



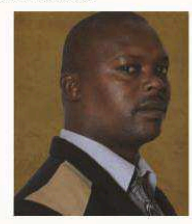
Cllr L.N. Gova



Cllr D.F. Hartkopf



Cllr S. Mei



Cllr I. Mosisidi



Cllr L.S. Baduza



Cllr S. Matetha



Cllr M.W. Mpelwane



Cllr A. Kwinana



Cllr E.S. Mbana



Cllr N.F. Mphiti



Cllr S.P. Leteba



Cllr G.M. Moni



Cllr L. Tokwe



Cllr L. Pili



(deceased)

Cllr I. van der Walt



Cllr G. Mvunyiswa

2.2 ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNANCE

TOP MANAGEMENT

The Municipal Manager and his team of five senior managers lead the institution. All the senior management post were filled during the year under review with signed performance agreements. Top management is responsible for preparation and submission of agenda items to Council and ensuring implementation of resolutions of Council.



2.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The IDP and Budget Representative Forum allows members to represent the interests of their constituents in the IDP and budget processes. It also provides an organizational mechanism for discussion, negotiation and decision making between the stakeholders including the municipal government. The forum met quarterly.

The traditional leader's forum, which is chaired by the Speaker of the District was functional throughout the year and various meetings were held. The main purpose of the forum is to create a dialogue and discussion platform between the municipality and traditional leadership and it ensures participation of traditional leadership in matters of local government. Traditional leaders also participated in Council meetings.

A number of LED related stakeholder forums existed during the year including the Agricultural Forum and the District Tourism Organisation. Various community and stakeholder participation initiatives were undertaken on an ongoing basis. The Executive Mayor's Community outmarch programme with the community was conducted from March 2016 in all four local municipalities. The District also participates in Mayoral Outreaches of the local municipalities. Issues identified through these engagements range from matters District and local municipality competence to those of other spheres of government. Key issues include inadequate provision of water and sanitation services, high youth unemployment, rising crime rate and poor condition of roads.

2.4 IDP PARTICIPATION AND ALIGNMENT

IDP Participation and Alignment Criteria*	Yes/No
Does the municipality have impact, outcome, input, output indicators?	Yes
Does the IDP have priorities, objectives, KPIs, development strategies?	Yes
Does the IDP have multi-year targets?	Yes
Are the above aligned and can they calculate into a score?	Yes
Does the budget align directly to the KPIs in the strategic plan?	Yes
Do the IDP KPIs align to the Section 57 Managers	Yes
Do the IDP KPIs lead to functional area KPIs as per the SDBIP?	Yes
Do the IDP KPIs align with the provincial KPIs on the 12 Outcomes	Yes
Were the indicators communicated to the public?	Yes
Were the four quarter aligned reports submitted within stipulated time frames?	Yes
	<i>T 2.5.1</i>

COMPONENT D: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

2.5 RISK MANAGEMENT

All entities face uncertainty and the challenge for management is to determine how much uncertainty it is prepared to accept as it strives to grow stakeholder value. Enterprise risk management is the process that will enable management to identify, assess the face of uncertainty and is therefore integral to value creation and preservation. With regard to risk management within the District, risk registers were developed and are reviewed annually. Actions plans are reviewed quarterly. A risk committee was established and is functional. The committee evaluates progress on the action plans.

The top five risks for the institution are as follows:

- | No | Risk description |
|-----------|---|
| 1. | Social economic status of local area |
| 2. | Governance |
| 3. | Staff attraction and retention |
| 4. | Implementation of systems and processes |
| 5. | Service Delivery |

2.6 ANTI-CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

The policy of Joe Gqabi District Municipality is zero tolerance to fraud and corruption. All fraud and corruption allegations were investigated and followed up by the application of all remedies available within the full extent of the law. Prevention controls include the existing financial and other controls and checking mechanisms as prescribed in the systems, policies and procedures of Joe Gqabi District Municipality. In order to minimize the occurrence of fraud and corruption the District has implemented various mechanisms which include division of duties, internal audit review of processes and adherence thereto, Audit Committees that exclude politicians and officials as voting members, condemnation by mayor and municipal manager of corrupt practices and involvement of the police as soon as grounds for suspicion become evident.

2.7 SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

The District has an approved SCM policy which is reviewed annually. Key policy objectives of the policy include the following:

- The black economic empowerment (BEE) goals were reviewed and amended to be in-line with current trends and to be realistic in terms of Council's performance.
- The Policy includes a chapter on Empowerment Goals and objectives which strives towards ensuring that Historically Disadvantaged Individuals (HDIs) are presented an opportunity to participate and function in the mainstream of the economy.
- The Policy sets out clear guidelines to service providers/contractors who perform projects on behalf of the Municipality to use local labour based human resources to ensure job creation and development of HDIs in communities where projects will be undertaken.

Supply chain management (SCM) was centralized under the Finance Department. This was implemented with a view of strengthening the capacity and ability of the District to comply with the MFMA and National Treasury Regulations. All these mechanisms and systems seek to ensure that SCM arrangements provide appropriate goods and services, offer best value for money and minimize the opportunities for fraud and corruption.

By-laws Introduced/ in-place during 2015/16 FY					
Newly Developed	Revised	Public Participation Conducted Prior to Adoption (Yes/No)	Dates of Public Participation	By-Laws Gazetted* (Yes/No)	Date of Publication
Community Fire Safety	N/A	Yes	October 2009	Yes	11 September 2009
Passenger Transport	N/A	Yes	October 2009	Yes	11 September 2009
Water Services	N/A	Yes	March 2008	Yes	07 March 2008

The District is committed to ensuring that all its by-laws are fully implemented. Technical capacity in terms appointment of staff, training of available staff, exploration of partnership possibilities and sourcing additional funding are some of the options being considered by the District.

2.8 WEBSITES

Municipal Website: Content and Currency of Material	
Documents published on the Municipality's / Entity's Website	Yes / No
Current annual budget and all budget-related documents	Yes
Current Adjustment Budget	Yes
All current budget-related policies	Yes
The previous annual report (2014/15 FY)	Yes
The annual report (2015/16 FY) published/to be published	Yes
All current performance agreements required in terms of section 57(1)(b) of the Municipal Systems Act (2015/16 FY) and resulting scorecards	Yes
All service delivery agreements (2015/16 FY)	Yes
All long-term borrowing contracts (2015/16 FY)	No
All supply chain management contracts above a prescribed value	Yes
An information statement containing a list of assets over a prescribed value that were disposed of in terms of section 14 (2) or (4) during 2015/16 FY	No
Contracts agreed in 2015/16 FY to which subsection (1) of section 33 apply, subject to subsection (3) of that section	
Public-private partnership agreements referred to in section 120	No
All quarterly reports tabled in the council in terms of section 52 (d)	Yes

Currently all the information required is and as it becomes available placed on the website for public attention. The relevant staff were exposed to various training initiatives which are intended to continue to improve compliance.

STATUTORY ANNUAL REPORT PROCESS

No.	Activity	Time frame	Status
1	Consideration of next financial year's Budget and IDP process plan. Except for the legislative content, the process plan should confirm in-year reporting formats to ensure that reporting and monitoring feeds seamlessly into the Annual Report process at the end of the Budget/IDP implementation period	July	Done
2	Implementation and monitoring of approved Budget and IDP commences (In-year financial reporting).		Done
3	Finalise the 4th quarter Report for previous financial year		Done

No.	Activity	Time frame	Status
4	Submit Annual Performance Report to Internal Audit and Auditor-General		Done
5	Submit draft 2015/16 FY Annual Report to Internal Audit and Auditor-General		Done
6	Municipal entities submit draft annual reports to MM		Done
7	Audit/Performance committee considers draft Annual Report of municipality and entities (where relevant)	August	Done
8	Mayor tables the unaudited Annual Report		Done
9	Municipality submits draft Annual Report including consolidated annual financial statements and performance report to Auditor General		Done
10	Annual Performance Report as submitted to Auditor General to be provided as input to the IDP Analysis Phase		Done
11	Auditor General audits Annual Report including consolidated Annual Financial Statements and Performance data	September - October	Done
12	Municipalities receive and start to address the Auditor General's comments	November	Done
13	Mayor tables Annual Report and audited Financial Statements to Council complete with the Auditor-General's Report		Done
14	Audited Annual Report is made public and representation is invited		Done
15	Oversight Committee assesses Annual Report		Done
16	Council adopts Oversight report	February	Done
17	Oversight report is made public		Done
18	Oversight report is submitted to relevant provincial councils		Done
19	Commencement of draft Budget/ IDP finalisation for next financial year. Annual Report and Oversight Reports to be used as input	February	Done

It is of critical importance to meet all these timeframes in the process of preparing the Annual Report nearer the end of the financial year. This assists in ensuring that the required range of data and information is provided for the next budget process from the outset. The District

has fully complied with all the above actions and timeframes. This reflects the commitment of the District to good governance and clean administration.

