

30 April 2019

**026/19/SCM**

**REVIEW OF THE DRAFT WATER SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PLAN (WSDP) FOR THE 2019/2020 MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL YEAR**

**PURPOSE**

To inform Council on the annual review of the Water Services Development Plan and to seek approval of this revised draft document for the period 2019-2020 to allow for public comment.

**BACKGROUND**

The Water Services Authority of Joe Gqabi District Municipality, in terms of Chapter 3, Section 12 of the Water Services Act (Act No 108 of 1997) is legally obliged to develop and review the Water Services Development Plan annually, thus forming a basis for planning of water services and to advise the Department of Water and Sanitation, amongst others, of such a plan.

The Water Services Authority is undertaking the development of the WSDP document in-house in order to build the capacity of the section, improve ownership of the document and the benefit is the saving of costs that would have been utilized had the undertaking been outsourced to a service provider. The public participation process will commence on the 23 April 2019 and the final WSDP document will be submitted for approval in the Council Meeting of June 2019.

Although the work in this document was built up from the basic records in the institution, it was not fundamentally different from the previous document. Although some of the activities listed in the previous WSDP have been addressed to some extent, this work will continue as an on-going process in pursuit of water service delivery excellence.

**KEY WATER SERVICES ISSUES**

According to the Statistics South Africa's Community Survey of 2016, the figures for access to water supply and sanitation services in the district was determined as 74.1% (70 427) and 75% (71 248) respectively. The water supply coverage as of the beginning of the 2018/19 financial year was still 74.1% as no households which were previously un-serviced received were provided with water during the 2017/18. The access to sanitation at the start of the 2018/19 financial year is 84% attributed to 5065 households that were provided with Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets during 2017/18.

Those are the figures that the district have utilized as baseline to inform the infrastructure development performance targets for households to have access to water and sanitation services for the 2018/19 municipal financial year. More effort and resources need to be applied to improve the water supply systems and consequent level of service, particularly in the eastern portions of the district where the bulk of the population resides.

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Mr ZA Williams  
Municipal Manager

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Cllr TZ Notyeke  
Speaker

Par 026/19/SCM (cont.)

**Table 1 Status Quo Report on critical water and sanitation services provision**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Status Quo</b>	<b>Proposed sector intervention(s)</b>
Water supply disruption and water restrictions	Water availability and limited raw water storage Burgersdorp and Aliwal North.	Construction of an off-take dam in Aliwal North and securing raw surface water source for Burgersdorp.
Sewer spillages	Sewer spillages in Aliwal North and Burgersdorp leading into the Stormbergspruit and Orange Rivers with possible pollution downstream	Re-furbishment of the sewer pump-stations and WWTWs in Aliwal North and Burgersdorp in order to reduce spillages into the Stormbergspruit and Orange Rivers
Interference and vandalism of municipal water and sanitation infrastructure	Unplanned developments resulting in illegal water connections and development of unauthorized sewer	Development of Standard Operating Procedure for the receipt and approval of building plans from local municipalities and other institutions.

The district has initiated and implemented a number planning and infrastructure development interventions during the 2018/19 municipal financial year which has enhanced the status of municipal infrastructure, water services provision and operations of the district. These include but not limited to the following:

- Construction of three sewer pump-stations in Burgersdorp;
- Refurbishment of the Vula Vala pumpstation in Aliwal North;
- Desilting done at the Maclear Old Town Dam and Mt Fletcher Weir sluice gates repaired
- JL De Bruin Dam safety inspection done.
- Construction of a new 6MI reservoir in Burgersdorp and development five boreholes that have been connected to the municipal water supply system;
- Installation of treated water storage reservoirs in Aliwal North;
- Commenced with the review of the Water and Sanitation Services By-laws;
- Commenced with implementation of water conservation and water demand management across the district to reduce water losses and improve revenue; and
- Integrated Water and Sanitation Master Plan being developed via DBSA funding.

Other significant issues that will impact the ability of the municipality to ensure adequate water supply and sanitation services delivery include:

- Urban planning across various stakeholders do not align, impacting service delivery.
- Aged infrastructure especially in the towns that require refurbishment.
- The municipality is drought prone impacting the ability to supply and service during times of prolonged drought.
- There is no systematic funded programme to tackle maintenance and refurbishment backlogs, these being highly reliant on grant funding.

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Par 026/19/SCM (cont.)

Consideration of groundwater supplies and new surface water sources are needed to ensure sufficient supply to meet growing demand. Reduction in water losses and a Water Services Operations plan are essential for the viability and financial sustainability of the service.

The improvement of the compliance to regulatory requirements, reduction of water losses, customer services and effective infrastructure Operations and Maintenance will further assist in improving service delivery, revenue enhancement and achieving Blue DropD Green Drop certification for a number of the municipal water supply and wastewater management systems.

The WSDP is a living document and needs to be constantly updated to ensure that it remains current and reflective of new issues.

### **KEY STRATEGIES**

The key water supply and sanitation services strategies contained in the current **draft** document include among others:

- The District should explore ways of linking water accounts debt recovery with that of the local municipality debt recovery processes as debt is usually consistent between the parties.
- The JGDM should ensure improvements in water billing collection.
- Extend the prepaid meter installation programme to all properties within the region to improve revenue collection.
- Councillors to further engage communities on installation of pre-paid meters and water conversation to fast track the roll out of the programme.
- Councillors to assist with illegal connection management to enable the administration to intervene
- Desilting / improving capacity of municipal-owned dams to improve water security and integrity of the infrastructure;
- Implement a comprehensive consumer water use and sanitation education and awareness campaigns; and
- Improve customer care services in terms of water services consumer communication, complaints, queries and reports and conduct satisfaction surveys in all three local municipalities.

### **COMMENT PROCESS**

The document will be advertised for public comment after the council meeting with an electronic version on the JGDM website and the hard copies placed at the following JGDM Offices and municipal libraries:

- Joe Gqabi District Municipality, Office of the Municipal Manager, Corner Cole and Graham Streets, Barkly East;

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- Elundini Local Municipality, Office of the Municipal Manager, 1 Seller Street, Maclear; Mt Fletcher and Ugie Town Libraries;
- Senqu Local Municipality, Office of the Municipal Manager, 19 Murray Street, Lady Grey & Sterkspruit Town Library; and
- Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Office of the Municipal Manager: 1 Greyling Street, Burgersdorp; Aliwal North Town Library and Steynsburg Town Library.

Internal comments from the PMU, WSP, CFO, Community Services, IDP and other sections will be sourced and changes made. Additional inputs and comments will be sourced during the District Water Forum scheduled for May 2019.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The development of the 2019/2020 WSDP is undertaken in-house with the benefit of saving costs that would have been utilized had the undertaking been outsourced. Where and when required, the external technical expertise might be utilized at a cost to the municipality.

As JGDM is the WSA and WSP, the work contained in the plan forms part of the normal budget of the JGDM. This is always a financial shortfall when comparing needs to available resources and so despite issues being raised as key in the plan, the budget priorities of the institution will prevail in terms of resource allocation.

It is concerning that based on current Municipal Financial Grant (MIG) funding projections, backlogs are not likely to be eradicated during the next MTEF. The eradication of backlogs has been negatively affected by the reduction in MIG over time which has extended the timeframe.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 14(1) of the same act also instruct the Water Services Authority to take reasonable steps to bring its draft WSDP to the notice of its consumers, potential consumers, industrial users and water services institutions within its area of jurisdiction in order to invite public comment and send copies of the Department of Water and Sanitation, the provincial government and all neighbouring water services authorities.

This work must be completed as stipulated in Chapter 3, Section 12 of the Water Services Act (Act No. 108 of 1997) is, failure of which will find the district municipality in breach of these prescripts and subject to its concomitant consequences.

### **CREDIBILITY**

The report was submitted and verified by the Director: Community Services.

\*\*\* The draft Water Services Development Plan (WSDP) for the 2019/2020 financial year was under separate cover.

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Municipal Manager

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Speaker

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**MEETING DISCUSSIONS**

*Ald DF Hartkopf mentioned that he was concerned that the institution had not planned to replace the old existing infrastructure in the Walter Sisulu Local Municipal areas as it proves to be a problem. He stated that in Aliwal North installation of the under ground infrastructure is for over 50-60 years and that repairing was costing more than the replacing.*

*He then made a plea that instead of repairing the old infrastructure it be replaced with new.*

*The Speaker, Cllr TZ Notyeke concurred with Ald DF Hartkopf and requested that if the replacement of the old infrastructure was not catered for in the budget of the current financial year, it be budgeted for in the next financial year.*

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the Joe Gqabi District Municipality's Draft of the Water Services Development Plan (WSDP) for the 2019/2020 municipal financial year be adopted for comment.

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Mr ZA Williams  
Municipal Manager

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Cllr TZ Notyeke  
Speaker