



*Nkomazi Municipality*

**NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**MP324**

**ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY**

## **VISION**

A leading local municipality that empowers its communities through excellent service delivery

## **MISSION**

To enhance the quality of life of all people in the Nkomazi Local Municipality area through rendering basic services in an efficient and cost-effective manner that adheres to the principles of sustainable development.

## **MUNICIPALITY'S CORE VALUES**

The Nkomazi Local Municipality subscribes to the following core values:

- Accountability;
- Good Governance;
- Transparency;
- Integrity; and
- Responsiveness.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This policy for the management of assets has been designed to assist management and officials of the Nkomazi Local Municipality with the description of management procedures for Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property, Agricultural Assets, Heritage Assets and Intangible Assets. It also should assist with the capacity to differentiate between activities, which are acceptable in terms of general authorization, supervisory responsibilities and limits of authority to the management of assets and functions of the organisation.

This policy will provide certainty with respect to the handling of asset management procedures undertaken within the organization and will ensure that management and employees understand their respective responsibilities and duties.

For the purpose of this policy, assets exclude inventory and monetary assets such as debtors.

This policy replaces all asset management procedures/instructions and memoranda that have been previously issued.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in the institution of disciplinary procedures in terms of the stipulated human resource policies and procedures of the Municipality.

## **2. OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this policy is to ensure that assets of the Municipality are properly managed and accounted for by:

- The accurate recording of essential asset information;
- The accurate recording of asset movements;
- Exercising strict physical controls over all assets;
- Treating the assets correctly in the Municipality's financial statements;
- Providing accurate and meaningful management information;
- Compliance with the Council's accounting policies and Generally Recognised Accounting Practices;
- Adequate insuring of assets;
- Maintenance of Council's assets;
- Ensuring that managers are aware of their responsibilities with regard to the assets; and
- Setting out the standards of management, recording and internal controls so as to safeguard the assets against inappropriate utilisation or loss.

## **3. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK**

The statutory framework for this policy is:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996;
- Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, No 117 of 1998;
- Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, No 32 of 2000;
- Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, No. 56 of 2003;
- Regulation No. 31346 of 2008;
- Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations No. 27636;
- Generally Recognised Accounting Practice.

## 4. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

This document constitutes a policy statement and shall not take precedence over the standards specified by the Accounting Standards Board. The relevant accounting standards include:

- GRAP 1 - Presentation of Financial Statements
- GRAP 13 - Leases
- GRAP 16 - Investment Property
- GRAP 17 - Property, Plant and Equipment
- GRAP 100 - Discontinued Operations
- GRAP 27 - Agricultural
- GRAP 31 - Intangible Assets
- GRAP 103 - Heritage Assets
- GRAP 21 - Impairment of Non-cash-generating Assets
- GRAP 26 - Impairment of Cash-generating Assets

Other relevant accounting standards are:

- GRAP 12 on Inventories
- GRAP 11 on Construction Contracts

## 5. DEFINITIONS

Every effort has been made to use definitions established through legislation, standards of accounting and other guidance on asset management, hence reference has been made to sources. Where definitions do not exist, terminology has been defined for the purpose of this policy.

**“Accounting Officer”** means the Municipal Manager appointed in terms of Section 82 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998) and being the head of administration and accounting officer in terms of Section 60 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No.32 of 2000).

**“Agricultural Activity”** is the management by an entity of the biological transformation of biological assets for sale, into agricultural produce, or into additional biological assets.

**“Active market”** is a market in which all the following conditions exist:

- The assets traded within the market are homogeneous;
- Willing buyer and seller can normally be found at any time; and
- Prices are available to the public.

**“Agricultural Produce”** is the harvested product of the entity’s biological assets.

**“Amortisation”** is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an intangible asset over its useful life.

**“Assets”** are resources controlled by the Municipality as a result of past events and from which future economic benefit or service potential are expected to flow. However for the purpose of this policy exclude inventory and other monetary assets.

**“Asset categories”** are the seven main asset categories defined as follows:

- **Infrastructure assets** are defined as any asset that is part of a network of similar assets. Examples are roads, water reticulation schemes, sewage purification and trunk mains, transport terminals and car parks.
- **Community assets** are defined as any asset that contributes to the community's well-being. Examples are parks, libraries and fire stations.
- **Heritage assets** are assets that have a cultural, environmental, historical, natural, scientific, technological or artistic significance and are held indefinitely for the benefit of present and future generations. Examples are works of art, historical buildings and statues.
- **Investment properties** are defined as properties that are acquired for economic and capital gains. Examples are office parks and underdeveloped land acquired for the purpose of resale in future years.
- **Land and building (not held as investment assets)** are defined as owner-occupied, property held by the owner, or by the lessees under a finance lease, for use in the production or supply of goods and services or for administration purpose
- **Intangible assets** are identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance.
- **Other assets** are defined as assets utilized in normal operations. Examples are plant, equipment, motor vehicles and furniture and fittings.

**“Asset’s Life-Cycle”** is the cycle of activities that an asset goes through – including planning, design, initial acquisition and/or construction, cycle of operation and maintenance and capital renewal and finally disposal.

**“Asset Manager”** is any official who has been delegated responsibility and accountability for the control, usage, physical and financial management of the Municipality’s assets in accordance with the entity’s standards, policies, procedures and relevant guidelines.

**“Asset Register”** is a record of information on each asset that supports the effective financial and technical management of the assets, and meets statutory requirements.

**“Biological Asset”** is a living animal or plant.

**“Biological Transformation”** comprises the processes of growth, degeneration, production and procreation that cause qualitative or quantitative changes to a biological asset.

**“Carrying amount”** is the amount at which an asset is recognized after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

**“Cash-generating assets”** are assets held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return.

**“Cash-generating unit”** is the smallest identifiable group of assets held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

**“Chief Financial Officer”** means an officer of a municipality designated by the municipal manager to be administratively in charge of the budgetary and treasury functions.

**“Class of property, plant and equipment”** means a grouping of assets of a similar nature or function in a municipality’s operations, which is shown as a single item for the purpose of disclosure in the financial statements.

**“Commercial service”** means a service other than a municipal service

- a) rendered by a private sector party or organ of state to or for a municipality or municipal entity on a commercial basis; and
- b) this is procured by the municipality or municipal entity through its supply chain management policy.

**“Community Assets”** are defined as any asset that contributes to the community’s well-being. Examples are parks, libraries and fire stations.

**“Cost”** is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire an asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or where applicable, the amount attributed to that asset when initially recognized in accordance with the specific requirements of Standards of GRAP.

**“Depreciation”** is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.

**“Depreciable Amount”** is the cost of an asset, or other amount substituted for cost in the financial statements, less its residual value.

**“Depreciated replacement cost”**, in relation to capital assets, means an amount equivalent to the cost to replace the capital assets on the date of transfer adjusted by a deemed depreciated cost at the date of the transfer taking into account the age and condition of the assets.

“Discontinued operation”, is a component of an entity that has been disposed of and:

- a) represents a distinguishable activity, group of activities or geographical area of operations;
- b) is part of a single co-ordinated plan to dispose of a distinguishable activity, group of activities or geographical area of operations; or
- c) is a controlled entity acquired exclusively with a view to resale.

**“Disposal”**, in relation to capital assets, includes –

- a) the demolition, dismantling or destruction of the capital assets; or
- b) any other process applied to capital assets which results in loss of ownership of the capital assets otherwise than by way of transfer of ownership.

**“Disposal management system”** means the system contemplated in regulation 40 of the Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations, published by General Notice No. 868 of 2005.

**“Enhancements / Rehabilitation”** is an improvement or augmentation of an existing asset beyond its original recognized service potential for example useful life, capacity, quality and functionality.

**“Fair Value”** is the amount for which assets could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm’s length transaction.

**“GRAP”** is Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice

**“Head of department / senior manager”** means a manager referred to in section 56 of the Municipal Systems Act.

**“Heritage Assets”** are assets that have a cultural, environmental, historical, natural, scientific, technological or artistic significance and are held indefinitely for the benefit of present and future generations. Examples are works of art, historical buildings and statues.

**“Historical cost”** means the original purchase price or cost of acquisition of the capital assets at the time the assets were acquired.

An **“impairment loss”** of cash generating assets is the amount by which the carrying amount of assets exceeds its recoverable amount.

An **“impairment loss”** of non-cash generating assets is the amount by which the carrying amount of assets exceeds its recoverable service amount.

**“Infrastructure assets”** are defined as any asset that is part of a network of similar assets. Examples are roads, water reticulation schemes, sewerage purification and trunk mains, transport terminals and car parks.

**“Intangible assets”** are identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance.

**“Investment Properties”** are defined as property (land or a building-or part of a building-or both) held (by the owner or by lessee under a finance lease) to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for:

- a) use in the production and supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes; or
- b) sale in the ordinary course of business.

**“Non-cash-generating” assets are assets other than cash-generating assets.**

**“Other Assets”** are defined as assets utilized in normal operations. Examples are plant and equipment, motor vehicles and furniture and fittings.

**“Property, Plant and Equipment” (PPE)** are tangible assets that:

- are held by a municipality for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and
- are expected to be used during more than one period.



**“Realisable value”** means the amount of cash or cash equivalents that could currently be obtained by transferring the capital assets, less the estimated cost of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the transfer.

**“Recoverable Amount”** is the amount that the Municipality expects to recover from the future use of assets, including its residual value on disposal.

**“Recoverable service amount”** is the higher of a non-cash-generating asset’s fair value less costs to sell and its future value in use.

**“Residual Value”** of assets is the estimated amount that an entity would currently obtain from disposal of the assets, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal, if the assets were already of the age and condition expected at the end of its useful life.

**“Right to use, control or manage”** means a right to use, control or manage the capital assets for a period exceeding one calendar month without ceding legal ownership in the assets. In other words, where the granting of such rights do not amount to the transfer or permanent disposal of the assets, for example when a right is acquired through a leasing, letting or hiring out arrangement.

**“Senior Manager”** is a manager referred to Section 57 of the Municipal Systems Act (MSA) being someone reporting directly to the municipal manager.

**“Service provider”**

- a) in relation to a municipal service, means a private sector party or organ of state appointed by a municipality in terms of Chapter 8 of the Municipal Systems Act to perform a municipal service in accordance with that Act; or
- b) in relation to a commercial service, means a private sector party or organ of state appointed in terms of the supply chain management policy of a municipality or municipal entity to render a commercial service to or for the municipality or entity as an independent contractor.

**“Supply chain management policy”** means the supply chain management policy which a municipality or municipal entity is required to have in terms of Chapter 11 of the Act.

**“The Act”** means the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003).

**“Transfer”**, in relation to a capital or subsidiary asset, means transfer of ownership in the asset as a result of a sale or other transaction.

**“Useful Life”** is either:

- the period of the time over which an asset is expected to be used by the Municipality, or
- the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by the Municipality.

## 6. BACKGROUND

The utilization and management of PPE, investment property, intangible, agricultural and heritage assets are the prime mechanism by which the Municipality can fulfill its constitutional mandates for:

- Delivery of sustainable services;
- Social and economic development;
- Promoting safe and healthy environments; and
- Fulfilling the basic needs to the community.

As trustees on behalf of the local community, the Municipality has a legislative and moral obligation to ensure it implements policies to safeguard the monetary value and future service provision invested in assets.

The policy for the management of assets deals with the Municipal rules required to ensure the enforcement of appropriate stewardship of assets.

Stewardship has two components being the:

- Financial administration by the Chief Financial Officer; and
- Physical administration by the relevant managers.

Statutory provisions are being implemented to protect public property against arbitrary and inappropriate management or disposals by local government.

Accounting standards have been approved by the Accounting Standards Board to ensure the appropriate financial treatment for property, plant and equipment, investment property, agricultural assets, heritage assets and intangible assets. The requirements of these new accounting standards include:

- The compilation of asset registers covering all assets controlled by the Municipality.
- Accounting treatment for the acquisition, disposal, recording and depreciation / amortisation of assets.
- The standards to which financial records must be maintained to comply with the new accounting standards.

## 7. DELEGATION OF POWERS

This policy should be applied with due observance of the Municipality's policy with regard to delegated powers. Such delegations refer to delegations between the Municipal Manager and other responsible officials as well as between the Council and the Executive Mayor and the Council and the Municipal Manager. All delegations in terms of this policy must be recorded in writing.

In accordance with the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) (MFMA), the Municipal Manager is the accounting officer of the Municipality and therefore all designated officials are accountable to him/her. The Municipal Manager is therefore accountable for all transactions entered into by his/her designates. The overall responsibility of asset management lies with the Municipal Manager. However, the day to day handling of assets should be the responsibility of all officials in terms of delegated authority reduced in writing.

## **8. RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Municipal Manager**

The Municipal Manager is responsible for the management of the assets of the Municipality, including the safeguarding and the maintenance of those assets. He/she must ensure that:

- The Municipality has and maintains a management, accounting and information system that accounts for the assets of the Municipality.
- The Municipality's assets are valued in accordance with standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP).
- The Municipality has and maintains a system of internal control of assets, including an asset register.
- Senior managers and their teams comply with this policy.

### **Chief Financial Officer**

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible to the Municipal Manager to ensure that the financial investment in the Municipality's assets is safeguarded and maintained. He/she may delegate or otherwise assign responsibility for performing these functions but he/she will remain accountable for ensuring that these activities are performed. He/she must ensure that:

- Appropriate systems of financial management and internal control are established and carried out diligently.
- The financial and other resources of the Municipality assigned to him/her are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically and transparently.
- Any unauthorized, irregular or fruitless or wasteful expenditure, and losses resulting from criminal or negligent conduct, are prevented.
- The systems, processes and registers required to substantiate the financial values of the Municipality's assets are maintained to standards sufficient to satisfy the requirements of effective management.
- Financial processes are established and maintained to ensure the Municipality's financial resources are optimally utilized through appropriate asset plan, budgeting, purchasing, maintenance and disposal decisions.
- The Municipal Manager is appropriately advised on the exercise of powers and duties pertaining to the financial administration of assets.
- The senior managers and senior management teams are appropriately advised on the exercise of their powers and duties pertaining to the financial administration of assets.

### **Head of Departments / Senior Managers**

The Head of Departments / Senior Managers must ensure that:

- Appropriate systems of physical management and control are established and carried out for assets in their area of responsibility.

- The Municipal resources assigned to them are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically and transparently.
- Any unauthorized, irregular or fruitless or wasteful utilization and losses resulting from criminal or negligent conduct are prevented.
- Their management systems and controls can provide an accurate, reliable and up to date account of assets under their control.
- They are able to justify that their plans, budgets, purchasing, maintenance and disposal decisions for assets optimally achieve the Municipality's strategic objectives.
- The head of department / senior manager may delegate or otherwise assign responsibility for performing these functions but they will remain accountable for ensuring that these activities are performed.

Each head of department / senior manager should report to the Municipal Manager on issues that will significantly impede the item of asset capabilities to provide the required level of service or economic benefit.

The responsibility for the physical control of assets rests with the relevant head of department / senior manager to whom the responsibility was delegated to in terms of section 79 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003.

Each head of department / senior manager shall ensure that assets entrusted to him / her are adequately maintained, properly used and insured and ensure that section 78 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003, is adhered to.

Amendments, deletions or additions to the asset register shall be made other than by the by an Asset Manager or official authorized in the asset department and must be authorized by the Chief Financial Officer.

Upon the resignation / retirement of an employee, the applicable head of department / senior manager must inform the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Service Department in writing that the asset items entrusted to that employee to execute his / her duties are in good order and returned. When necessary the applicable head of department / senior manager must inform the Corporate Services Department of any losses and the value of such losses. The ultimate responsibility of any losses lies with the relevant senior manager.

## **9. ASSET REGISTER**

The asset register shall be maintained in the format determined by the Chief Financial Officer, which format shall comply with the requirements of generally recognised accounting practice (GRAP) and any other accounting requirements which may be prescribed.

The asset register shall reflect the following information:

- a brief but meaningful description of each asset
- the date on which the asset was acquired or brought into use
- the location of the asset
- the title deed number, in the case of property
- the stand number, in the case of property
- where applicable, the identification number

- the measurement based used (Cost or Fair Value)
- the remaining useful life
- the residual value
- the original cost, or the revalued amount or the fair value if no costs are available
- the (last) revaluation date of the assets subject to revaluation
- the revalued value of such assets
- who did the (last) revaluation
- accumulated depreciation to date
- the depreciation charge for the current financial year
- the carrying value of the asset
- the method and rate of depreciation
- impairment losses incurred during the financial year (and the reversal of such losses, where applicable)
- method of calculating recoverable amount (when impairment test are required in terms of GRAP)
- increases or the decreases resulting from revaluations (if applicable)
- condition of the asset
- the date on which the asset is disposed
- the disposal price
- the date on which the asset is retired from use, if not disposed.

All heads of department under whose control any asset falls shall promptly provide the Chief Financial Officer in writing with any information required to compile the asset register, and shall promptly advise the Chief Financial Officer in writing of any material change which may occur in respect of such information. An asset shall be capitalised, that is, recorded in the asset register, as soon as it is acquired. If the asset is constructed over a period of time, it shall be recorded as work-in-progress until it is available for use, where after it shall be appropriately capitalised as a fixed asset. An asset shall remain in the asset register for as long as it is in physical existence.

The Asset department must ensure that reconciliations are performed on a monthly basis between the general ledger values and the asset values and to be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer.

The Chief Financial Officer must check and authorize the reconciliations as correct.

Depreciation methods and rates used must be approved by the Chief Financial Officer.

The Asset department should allocate depreciation rates and methods to each asset class, and ensure that depreciation calculations are correctly applied and posted in the general ledger.

## **10. CLASSIFICATION OF ASSETS**

In compliance with the requirements of the National Treasury, the Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that all assets are classified under the following headings in the Fixed Assets Register, and Heads of Departments shall in writing provide the Chief Financial Officer with such information or assistance as is required to compile a proper classification:

## **10.1 Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

Property, plant and equipment will be treated in accordance with GRAP 17 and will separately be classified in the Statement of Financial Position.

A class of property, plant and equipment is a grouping of assets of a similar nature or function in an entity's operations. The following are examples of separate classes

- Land (not held as investment assets).
- Buildings (Dwellings and Non-residential dwellings)
- Infrastructure assets (assets which are part of a network of similar assets).
- Community assets (assets contributing to the general well-being of the community).
- Other assets (ordinary operational assets).

Save for land and buildings other assets shall be classified under the following headings:

- Computer equipment;
- Furniture and office equipment;
- Plant and machinery;
- Transport assets; and
  
- Game

## **10.2 Investment Property**

Investment property is property (land or a building – or part of a building – or both) held (by the owner or by the lessee under a finance lease) to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, Properties occupied by the Municipality, Councilors or officials are classified as owner-occupied property and are therefore not classed as investment property.

Investment properties will be treated in accordance with GRAP 16 and will separately be classified in the Statement of Financial Position. Investment property is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

## **10.3 Intangible Assets**

Intangible assets are identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance.

Intangible assets will be treated in accordance with GRAP 31 and will separately be classified in the Statement of Financial Position. Intangible assets shall be valued at cost less any accumulated amortization and any impairment losses.

## **10.4 Agricultural Assets**

Agricultural Assets will be treated in accordance with GRAP 27 and will separately be classified in the Statement of Financial Position,

## **10.5 Assets Treated as Inventory**

Any land or buildings owned or acquired by the Municipality with the intention of selling such property in the ordinary course of business, or any land or buildings owned or acquired by the Municipality with the

intention of developing such property for the purpose of selling it in the ordinary course of business, shall be accounted for as inventory, and not included in either property, plant and equipment or investment property in the Municipality's statement of position.

Such inventories shall, however, be recorded in the asset register in the same manner as other fixed assets, but a separate section of the asset register shall be maintained for this purpose.

The Chief Financial Officer shall use the classifications indicated in the Annexure on estimated lives of assets, as a guideline and in the case of an item of assets not appearing in the Annexure shall use the classification applicable to the asset most closely comparable in the Annexure.

## **10.6 Leases**

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment or series of payments the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time. A lease is classified as either an operating or finance lease.

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.

Leased assets will be treated in accordance with GRAP 13.

## **10.7 Heritage assets**

Heritage assets are assets that have a cultural, environmental, historical, natural, scientific, technological or artistic significance and are held indefinitely for the benefit of present and future generations.

Heritage assets will be treated in accordance with GRAP 103.

## **11. CAPITALISATION CRITERIA**

### **PPE and Intangible Assets**

All assets may only be acquired in terms of Council's Supply Chain Management Policy and in terms of the budgetary provisions. The responsibility for the purchase of assets would be delegated in terms of Council's Delegation Framework and Supply Chain Management Policy. Depending on the cost of the asset to be purchased the following procedure for purchasing an asset must be followed:

- Head of departments / Senior managers shall at all times ensure that there are enough funds in their departmental budgets before requesting approval to any requisition to purchase an asset;
- Head of departments / Senior managers shall ensure that the correct vote and expenditure line item are used and recorded on the requisition requesting approval to purchase an asset;
- Tenders or quotations as required in terms of Council's Supply Chain Management policy should be obtained and where required submitted to Council's tender committee for approval;

- The tender committee resolution of the approved tender or recommended quotation should be attached to the requisition signed by the relevant head of department;
- The order would then be generated by the Budget and Treasury department;
- Once delivered the asset must be labeled / bar-coded by the Budget and Treasury department before such asset is put into use;
- The Head of departments / Senior managers should endorse receipt of the asset on the invoice and forwarded it for payment to the Budget and Treasury department; and
- The Budget and Treasury department would then generate payment.

The completion of any immovable asset by or under control of every head of department should promptly be declared to the Chief Financial Officer in writing stating the full details required for recording in the assets register.

All PPE and intangible assets shall be carried in the asset register, and appropriately recorded in the annual financial statements, at their original cost or fair value less any accumulated depreciation or amortisation in the case of intangible assets.

Property, plant and equipment is initially measured at cost.

The original cost of an item of PPE or intangible assets may include:

- Purchase price;
- Financing costs (MFMA section 46(4));
- Import tax;
- Non-claimable purchase tax
- Any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management; and
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located, the obligation for which an entity incurs either when the item is acquired or as a consequence of having used the item during a particular period for purposes other than to produce inventories during that period.

When payment for an item of PPE or intangible assets is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent. The difference between this amount and the total payments is recognized as an interest expense over the period of credit.

When an item of PPE is acquired to be exchanged or partly exchanged for a dissimilar item of PPE or other asset, the cost of such item is measured at the fair value of the asset received, which is equivalent to the fair value of the asset given up adjusted by the amount of any cash or cash equivalents paid additional. For the purpose hereof, "fair value" shall be determined by the Council with due regard to the definition ascribed to fair value in paragraph 2 hereof.

The only exceptions to this rule shall be revalued items of PPE and heritage assets in respect of which no depreciation is recorded in the asset register.

Subsequent expenditure relating to an asset that has already been capitalized, should only be added to the carrying amount of the asset when it is probable that future economic benefits or potential service delivery, in excess of the originally assessed standard of performance of the existing asset, will flow to the Municipality.



Subsequent to initial recognition, items of property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

## **Game**

The municipality recognises game asset as an asset if it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset will flow to the municipality, and the cost or fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Game assets is initially measured at cost

Where game asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, its cost is its fair value as at date of acquisition or game count.

Subsequent to initial recognition game assets are measured at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

The municipality derecognises game asset on disposal, or when no future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its use or disposal.

The gain or loss arising from de-recognition of game asset is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the game asset. Such difference is recognised in surplus or deficit when the game asset is derecognised.

## **Investment Property**

An investment property shall be measured initially at its cost. Transaction costs shall be included in the initial measurement. The cost of purchased investment property includes all directly attributable expenditure (professional fees for legal services, property transfer taxes and other transaction costs).

When payment for an investment property is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent. The difference between this amount and the total payments is recognized as an interest expense over the period of credit.

When investment property is acquired to be exchanged or partly exchanged for a dissimilar investment property or other asset, the cost of such item is measured at the fair value of the asset received, which is equivalent to the fair value of the asset given up adjusted by the amount of any cash or cash equivalents paid additional. For the purpose hereof, "fair value" shall be determined by the Council with due regard to the definition ascribed to fair value in paragraph 2 hereof.

Subsequent to initial recognition, investment property shall be measured at cost model in accordance with the Standard of GRAP on investment property, i.e., at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, other than those that meet the criteria as held for sale (or are included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale) in accordance with the Standard of GRAP on Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations. Investment properties that meet the criteria to be classified as held for sale (or are included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale) shall be measured in accordance with that Standard

In terms of GRAP 16 transfers to and from investment property shall be made when there is a change in use:

- a) Commencement of owner-occupation, for a transfer from investment property to owner-occupied property;
- b) Commencement of development with a view to sale, for a transfer from investment property to inventories;
- c) End of owner-occupation, for a transfer from owner-occupied property to investment property; or
- d) Commencement of an operating lease (on a commercial basis)\_to another party, for a transfer from inventories to investment property.

When an investment property is transferred to inventory or owner-occupied property, the property's deemed cost is the fair value of the property at the date of the change in use.

For a transfer from inventories to investment property, that will be carried at fair value, any difference between the fair value of the property at that date and its previous carrying amount shall be recognized in the Statement of Financial Performance.

### **Reinstatement, Maintenance and Other Expenses**

Only expenses incurred in the enhancement of an asset (in the form of improved or increased services or benefits flowing from the use of such asset) or in the material extension of the useful operating life of an asset shall be capitalised.

Expenses incurred in the maintenance or reinstatement of an asset shall be considered as operating expenses incurred in ensuring that the useful operating life of the asset concerned is attained, and shall not be capitalised, irrespective of the quantum of the expenses concerned.

Expenses, which are reasonably ancillary to the bringing into operation of an asset, may be capitalised as part of such asset. Such expenses may include but need not be limited to import duties, forward cover costs, transportation costs, assembly costs, communication costs and installation costs.

### **Intangible Assets**

Assets that meet the criteria of GRAP 31 (Intangible Assets) shall be recognized as Intangible Assets at cost.

An asset is identified as an intangible asset when it:

- capable of being separated or divided from an entity and sold, transferred, licensed, rented or exchanged, either individually or together with a related contract, assets or liability; or
- arises from contractual rights or other legal rights, regardless whether those rights are transferable or separate from the municipality or from other rights and obligations.

An intangible asset is recognised when:

- 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.

An intangible asset acquired through a non-exchange transaction, the cost shall be its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Expenditure on research (or on the research phase of an internal project) is recognised as an expense when it is incurred.

An intangible asset arising from development (or from the development phase of an internal project) is recognised when:

- is technically feasible to complete the asset so that it will be available for use or sale.
- there is an intention to complete and use or sell it.
- there is an ability to use or sell it.
- it will generate probable future economic benefits or service potential.
- there are available technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the asset.
- the expenditure attributable to the asset during its development can be measured reliably.

Subsequent to initial recognition intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses.

### **Heritage Assets**

A heritage asset that qualifies for recognition as an asset shall be measured at its cost.

Where a heritage asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost shall be measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

A heritage asset may be acquired through a non-exchange transaction. For example, a museum may receive a valuable art collection from an estate benefactor. Under these circumstances, the cost of the heritage asset is its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

If no original costs or fair values are available in the case of one or more or all heritage assets, the Chief Financial Officer may, if it is believed that the determination of a fair value for the assets in question will be a laborious or expensive undertaking, record such asset or assets in the asset register without an indication of the costs or fair value concerned.

After recognition as an asset, a class of heritage assets is carried at its cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

For Statement of Financial Position purposes, the existence of such heritage assets shall be disclosed by means of an appropriate note in accordance with GRAP 103.

### **Donated Assets**

Where an asset is donated to the Municipality, or an asset is acquired by means of an exchange of assets between the Municipality and one or more other parties, the asset concerned shall be recorded in the asset register at its fair value, as determined by the Chief Financial Officer.

## 12. DEPRECIATION

### Depreciation of Assets

All PPE and investment property except land, game and heritage assets, shall be depreciated – or amortised in the case of intangible assets.

Depreciation may be defined as the monetary quantification of the extent to which PPE or investment property is used or consumed in the provision of economic benefits or the delivery of services.

Depreciation shall generally take the form of an expense both calculated and debited on an annual basis against the appropriate line item in the department or vote in which the item of PPE or investment property is used or consumed.

However, depreciation shall initially be calculated from the day following the day in which an item of PPE or investment property is acquired or – in the case of construction works and plant and machinery – the day following the day in which the item is brought into use, until the end of the year concerned. Thereafter, depreciation charges shall be calculated annually.

Each Head of Department, acting in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, shall ensure that reasonable budgetary provision is made annually for the depreciation of all applicable PPE and investment property controlled or used by the department in question or expected to be so controlled or used during the ensuing financial year.

The procedures to be followed in accounting and budgeting for the amortisation of intangible assets shall be identical to those applying to the depreciation of PPE and investment property.

### Rate of Depreciation and Amortization

The Chief Financial Officer shall assign a useful operating life to each depreciable item of PPE or investment property recorded on the Municipality's asset register. In determining such a useful life the Chief Financial Officer shall use to the useful lives set out in the annexure to this document as a guideline.

In the case of an item of PPE or investment property which is not listed in this annexure, the Chief Financial Officer shall determine a useful operating life, if necessary in consultation with the Head of Department who shall control or use the item in question, and shall be guided in determining such useful life by the likely pattern in which the item's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.

The procedures to be followed in accounting and budgeting for the amortisation of intangible assets shall be identical to those applying to the depreciation of PPE and investment property.

### Method of Depreciation

The Chief Financial Officer shall allocate the depreciable amount of all depreciable PPE, investment property and intangible on a systematic basis over its useful life.

The depreciation method will be straight line unless the Chief Financial Officer is convinced that another method is more appropriate.

## Useful Life

The useful life of an asset shall be reviewed at least at each reporting date and, if expectations differ from previous estimates, the changes shall be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate in accordance with GRAP 3.

### 13. AMENDMENT OF ASSET LIVES AND DIMINUTION IN THE VALUE OF ASSETS

Only the Chief Financial Officer may amend the useful operating life assigned to any PPE, investment property or intangible asset and when any material amendment occurs the Chief Financial Officer shall inform the Council of such amendment.

The Chief Financial Officer shall amend the useful operating life assigned to any item of PPE, investment property or intangible assets if it becomes known that such item has been materially impaired or improperly maintained to such an extent that its useful operating life will not be attained, or any other event has occurred which materially affects the pattern in which the item's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.

If the value of an item of PPE, investment property or intangible assets has been diminished to such an extent that it has no or a negligible further useful operating life or value such item shall be fully depreciated or eradicated in the financial year in which such diminution in value occurs.

Similarly, if an item of PPE or investment property has been lost, stolen or damaged beyond repair, it shall be fully depreciated in the financial year in which such event occurs, and if the item has physically ceased to exist, it shall be written off in the asset register.

In all of the foregoing instances, the additional depreciation expenses shall be debited to the department or vote controlling or using the item of PPE, investment property or intangible asset in question.

If any of the foregoing events arises in the case of a normally non-depreciable item of PPE, investment property or intangible asset, and such item has been capitalised at a value other than a purely nominal value, such item shall be partially or fully depreciated, as the case may be, as though it were an ordinary depreciable item of PPE, investment property or intangible asset and the department or vote controlling or using the item in question shall bear the full depreciation expenses concerned.

Additional depreciation not budgeted for as a result of unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances must be provided for in an adjustments budget and, if such circumstances arises close to the end of the financial year and there will not be time for Council to consider the adjustments before the end of the financial year, may in advance be approved by the Mayor in terms of Section 29 of the MFMA, provided that any other provisions of the MFMA are complied with.

### 14. IMPAIRMENT OF CASH-GENERATING ASSETS

Cash-generating assets are those assets held by the municipality with the primary objective of generating a commercial return. When an asset is deployed in a manner consistent with that adopted by a profit-orientated entity, it generates a commercial return.

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 (amortisation).

Carrying amount is the amount at which an asset is recognised in the statement of financial position after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses thereon.

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.

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

The following may be indicators (internal/external) that an asset is impaired:

- Market value decline more than expectations
- Significant adverse changes in technological, market, economic or legal environment
- Market interest or other rates of return on investments increased, affecting the discount rate in calculating Value In Use for recoverable amount
- Evidence of damage or obsolescence
- Asset usage changes e.g. idle, discontinuance, restructuring, disposal
- Evidence of economic performance is/will be worse than expected

Examples of cash-generating units are:

- tolled road,
- generators within a substation, used to provide electricity to the community,

When the carrying amount of a cash-generating asset exceeds its recoverable amount, it is impaired. The municipality assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that a cash-generating asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the municipality estimates the recoverable amount of the asset in accordance with GRAP 26.

If the recoverable amount of a cash-generating asset is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. This reduction is an impairment loss. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

The municipality assess at each reporting date whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognised in prior periods for a cash-generating asset may no longer exist or may have decreased. If any such indication exists, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of that asset. A reversal of an impairment loss for a cash-generating asset is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

The disclosure of cash-generating unit shall be in accordance with GRAP 26.

## **15. IMPAIRMENT OF NON-CASH-GENERATING ASSETS**

Non-cash-generating assets are assets other than cash-generating assets.

When the carrying amount of a non-cash-generating asset exceeds its recoverable service amount, it is impaired. The municipality assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that a non-cash-generating asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the municipality estimates the recoverable service amount of the asset in accordance with GRAP 21.

The following may be indicators (internal/external) that an asset is impaired:

- Cessation of demand or need for services provided by asset
- Significant adverse changes in technological, market, economic or legal environment
- Evidence of damage or obsolescence of asset

- Decision to halt construction of asset before completion or use
- Asset usage changes e.g. idle, discontinuance, restructuring, disposal
- Evidence of economic performance is/will be worse than expected

Examples of non-cash-generating units are;

- roads not tolled,
- furniture and fittings,
- parking area used by employees

If the recoverable service amount of a non-cash-generating asset is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable service amount. This reduction is an impairment loss. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

The municipality assess at each reporting date whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognised in prior periods for a non-cash-generating asset may no longer exist or may have decreased. If any such indication exists, the municipality estimates the recoverable service amount of that asset. A reversal of an impairment loss for a non-cash-generating asset is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

The disclosure of non-cash-generating unit shall be in accordance with GRAP 21.

## **17. ACQUISITION OF ASSETS**

### **Pre-acquisition Planning**

Before a capital project is included in the budget for approval, the Chief Financial Officer must demonstrate that he/she has considered the following:

- The projected cost over all the financial years until the project is operational;
- The future operational costs and revenue on the project, including the tax and tariff implications;
- The financial sustainability of the project over its life including revenue generation and subsidisation requirements;
- The physical and financial stewardship of that asset through all stages of its life including acquisition, installation, maintenance, operations, disposal and rehabilitation;
- The inclusion of the capital project in the Integrated Development Plan and future budgets; and
- Alternatives to the capital purchase.

The heads of department are accountable to ensure that the Chief Financial Officer receives all reasonable assistance, guidance and explanation to enable him to achieve his planning requirements.

### **Approval to Acquire Assets**

Money can only be spent on a project if:

- The money has been appropriated in an approved capital budget;
- The project, including the total cost has been approved by the Council;
- The Chief Financial Officer confirms that funding is available for that specific project; and
- Any contract that will impose financial obligations beyond two years after the budget year is appropriately disclosed.

- The Supply Chain Management Policy is adhered to.

Authorization for the acquisition of assets should be as per this Municipality's delegation of authority and payment for assets shall be in accordance with financial policies and regulations of this Municipality.

### **Acquisition of computer equipment**

Before computer equipment is acquired the Chief Financial Officer or Supply chain management unit must consult the IT section for specifications. Specifications of computer equipment required must be done in accordance with duties of the user.

Acquisition of new computer equipment to replace an existing one or for an employee that never had computer equipment must be accompanied by an assessment report with recommendation (strong motivation) from IT section and relevant user department (signed by the departmental head) stating the need for a new computer equipment. Old computer equipment must be handed back to asset section.

New computer equipment will be acquired for new staff personnel. Approval for acquisition of new computer equipment is dependent on the available funds provided in the budget. An employee that is required to use laptop, IPad or Tablet to execute his or her duties is only entitled to one Laptop and or one IPad or tablet.

### **Funding of Capital Projects**

Within the Municipality's ongoing financial, legislative or administrative capacity, the Chief Financial Officer must establish and maintain the funding strategies that optimise the Municipality's ability to achieve its strategic objectives as stated in the Integrated Development Plan. The acquisition of assets may not be funded over a period longer than the useful life of that asset.

### **18. PURCHASE OR HIRE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

The Municipality may acquire by purchase, or by hire, immovable property within- or outside the municipal boundary provided it complies with the requirements of the MFMA and the Supply Chain Management policy and subject to the following:

- The cost of the purchase or hire had been budgeted for; and
- The intention to buy or hire the immovable property had been advertised for public comment.
- After consideration of any public comments/objections the Council will:
  - In the case of the following paragraph complies with the requirements of that paragraph; and
  - In the case of all other immovable property, finally resolve to continue with the purchase or hire and apply the supply chain management processes
- The Council will not continue with the purchase or hire of any immovable property where:
  - The price is in excess of the market value thereof as assessed by an appraiser; or
  - The rental which, when calculated per annum in the case of:
    - Immovable property hired for agricultural purposes, exceeds six percent; and
    - Immovable property hired for any other purpose, exceed twelve percent of the market value of the property, as assessed by an appraiser.



The Council may accept a gift or conveyance of immovable property either for the Municipality or in trust for charitable or other public purposes not connected with public worship, and hold the same in such trust or for such purpose as may be declared by such donors and may administer, utilize and improve such property.

The trustees of any immovable property held in trust for any township village of settlement which has become a municipality or part of a municipality may transfer such property to the Council, subject to any special trusts in their deeds of title and upon conditions not at variance therewith.

## **19. FUNDING OF ASSETS AND RESERVES**

The purchase of assets may be funded from the raising of external loans, leases, government and public contributions and surplus cash.

## **20. DISPOSAL OF ASSETS**

In compliance with the principles and prescriptions of the Municipal Finance Management Act, the transfer of ownership of any item of PPE shall be fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and consistent with the Municipality's supply chain management policy and the Municipal Asset Transfer Regulations.

Every head of department shall report in writing to the Chief Financial Officer  
On 31 October and 30 April of each financial year on all assets controlled or used by the department concerned which such head of department wishes to dispose by public auction or public tender.

The Chief Financial Officer shall thereafter consolidate the requests received from the various departments, and shall promptly report such consolidated information to the Council or the Municipal Manager of the Municipality, as the case may be, recommending the process of disposal to be adopted.

The Council shall delegate to the Municipal Manager the authority to approve the disposal of any moveable asset with a carrying value less than R50 000 (fifty thousand rand). The Council shall ensure that the disposal of any asset with a carrying value equal to or in excess of R50 000 (fifty thousand rand) takes place in compliance with Section 14 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2004..

In terms of Section 14 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2004 the Municipality may not transfer ownership as a result of a sale or other transaction or otherwise permanently dispose of assets needed to provide the minimum level of basic municipal services.

The Municipality may transfer ownership or otherwise dispose of assets other than one contemplated above, but only after the Council, in a meeting open to the public:

- has decided on reasonable grounds that the asset is not needed to provide the minimum level of basic municipal services; and
- has considered the fair market value of the item and the economic and community value to be received in exchange for the asset.

The decision that a specific asset is not needed to provide the minimum level of basic municipal services, may not be subsequently reversed by the Municipality after that asset has been sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of.

Once the assets are disposed, the Chief Financial Officer shall treat the disposal of the items in terms of GRAP and amend the relevant records of the asset register. If the proceeds of the disposal are less

than the carrying value recorded in the asset register, such difference shall be recognised as a loss in the Statement of Financial Performance of the department or vote concerned.

If the proceeds of the disposal, on the other hand, are more than the carrying value of the asset concerned, the difference shall be recognised as a gain in the Statement of Financial Performance of the department or vote concerned.

Transfer of assets to other municipalities, municipal entities (whether or not under the Municipality's sole or partial control) or other organs of state shall take place in accordance with the Municipal Asset Transfer Regulations.

## **21. GUIDELINE PROCEDURES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS**

The Senior Manager must submit a motivation for the disposal of an asset under his/her control to the Chief Financial Officer.

The Chief Financial Officer must authorize, by signature the motivation and submit the motivation to the Accounting Officer for his/her approval.

The Chief Financial Officer shall consolidate all reports for the disposal of assets and promptly advise the council.

Before computer equipment is disposed the Chief Financial Officer must consult the IT section.

All combined motivations must be submitted to the Asset Manager to update the asset register of the Municipality and the book of accounts regarding the sale.

The following information should be updated in the asset register:

- Reason for disposal;
- Information relating to the buyer;
- Individual requesting disposal;
- Cost, book value and proposed selling price of the asset;
- Date of sale;
- Method of payment;
- Receipt number; and
- The relevant asset information

## **22. OTHER WRITE-OFFS OF PPE**

An item of PPE, even though fully depreciated, shall be written off when it can no longer be used, in consultation with the Head of Department controlling or using the item concerned.

Every Head of Department shall report to the Chief Financial Officer on 31 October and 30 April of each financial year on any item of PPE which such Head of Department wishes to have written off, stating in full the reason for such recommendation.

The Chief Financial Officer shall consolidate all such reports, and shall promptly notify the Council on the PPE to be written off.

The only reasons for writing off PPE, other than the alienation of such item of PPE, shall be the loss, theft, and destruction or material impairment of the PPE in question.

If an item of PPE must be written off as a result of an occurrence out of the control of the Municipality, such as malicious damage, theft or destruction, the municipal manager must determine whether a third party or an employee was involved in the loss and take all reasonable steps to recover such loss, including reporting the incident to the South African Police Services and the Auditor General, the insurance as well as institute disciplinary steps against any employee who might have been involved in such incident.

In every instance where a not fully depreciated item of PPE is written off, the Chief Financial Officer shall immediately debit to such department or vote, as additional depreciation expenses, the full carrying value of the item concerned.

## **23. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF ASSETS**

### **Accountability to manage assets**

Each Senior Manager is accountable to ensure that Municipal resources assigned to them are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically and transparently. This will include:

- Developing appropriate management systems, procedures, processes and controls for managing assets;
- Providing accurate, reliable and up to date account of assets under their control; and
- The development and motivation of relevant strategic asset management plans and operational budgets that optimally achieve the Municipality's strategic objectives.

### **Contents of a strategic management plan**

Head of departments / senior managers need to manage assets under their control to provide the required level of service or economic benefit at the lowest possible long-term cost.

To achieve this, the head of department / senior manager will need to develop strategic asset management plans that cover:

- Alignment with the Integrated Development Plan;
- Operational guidelines;
- Performance monitoring;
- Maintenance programs;
- Renewal, refurbishment and replacement plans;
- Disposal and Rehabilitation plans;
- Operational, financial and capital support requirements, and
- Risk mitigation plans including insurance strategies

The operational budgets are the short to medium term plan for implementing this strategic asset management plan.

### **Reporting of Emerging Issues**

Each Functional Manager should report to the Municipal Manager on issues that will significantly impede the item of asset capabilities to provide the required level of service or economic benefit.

### **Verification of Assets**

The Municipality shall at least once during every financial year undertake on a date as determined by the Chief Financial Officer a comprehensive verification of all moveable assets controlled or used by all the departments of the Municipality.

Every Head of Department shall promptly and fully report in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, in the format determined by the Chief Financial Officer, all relevant results of such verification, provided that each such item of asset verification shall be undertaken and completed during 30 June of each financial year, and that the resultant report shall be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer not later than 30 June of the year in question.

### **Movement of Assets**

Every Head of Department shall promptly and fully report in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, in the format determined by the Chief Financial Officer, all transfers from its original location of assets (including minor assets items) within 5 working days after transfer of such item.

## **24. MAINTENANCE**

### **Maintenance Plans**

Every Head of Department shall ensure that a maintenance plan in respect of every new infrastructure asset with a value of R100 000 (one hundred thousand rand) or more is promptly prepared and submitted to the Council for approval.

If so directed by the Municipal Manager, the maintenance plan shall be submitted to the Council prior to any approval being granted for the acquisition or construction of the infrastructure asset concerned.

The Head of Department controlling or using the infrastructure asset in question, shall annually report to the Council, not later than in July or the earliest Council meeting thereafter, of the extent to which the relevant maintenance plan has been complied with, and of the likely effect which any non-compliance may have on the useful operating life of the item concerned.

### **Deferred Maintenance**

If there is material variation between the actual maintenance expenses incurred and the expenses reasonably envisaged in the approved maintenance plan for any infrastructure asset, the Chief Financial Officer shall disclose the extent of and possible implications of such deferred maintenance in an appropriate note to the annual financial statements. Such note shall also indicate any plans which the Council has approved in order to redress such deferral of the maintenance requirements concerned.

If no such plans have been formulated or are likely to be implemented, the Chief Financial Officer shall re-determine the useful operating life of the fixed asset in question, if necessary in consultation with the Head of Department controlling or using such item, and shall recalculate the increased annual depreciation expenses accordingly.

### **General Maintenance of Assets**

Every Head of Department shall be directly responsible for ensuring that all assets are properly maintained and in a manner which will ensure that such item attain their useful operating lives.

## **25. REPLACEMENT STRATEGY**

The Municipal Manager, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and other Heads of Departments, shall formulate norms and standards for the replacement of all normal operational assets. Such norms and standards shall be incorporated in a formal strategy, which shall be submitted to the Council for approval. This strategy shall cover the replacement of transport assets, furniture and fittings, computer equipment, and any other appropriate operational items.

Such strategy shall also provide for the replacement of assets which are required for service delivery but which have become uneconomical to maintain.

## **26. TRANSFER OF ASSETS**

When assets are transferred to other Government Departments or municipalities, a document with specific authorization should be tied to the asset to ensure the validity of the transfer.

The document should also include:

- Asset description;
- Cost of the asset;
- Date of acquisition;
- Unique asset number;
- Effective date of transfer;
- Quantity; and
- Authorization by both transferor and transferee.

The asset manager must then effect the transactions in the book of accounts of the Municipality on the day the asset is transferred to the transferee.

## **27. PHYSICAL SECURITY OF ASSETS**

Every head of department / senior manager shall be directly responsible for the physical safekeeping of any asset controlled or used by their department.

In exercising this responsibility, every Senior Manager shall adhere to directives issued by the Chief Financial Officer with regard to the control and safekeeping of the Municipality's assets.

All assets should be kept in a secure location, maintained regularly, insured against theft or destruction, utilized economically and efficiently.

When it is suspected that an employee is abusing assets, this fact should be reported to the Chief Financial Officer within 48 hours. Such an employee should be subject to the disciplinary procedures as described in terms of the Standard Conditions of Service.

All items of PPE lost, stolen or damaged must be reported to the Chief Financial Officer within 48 hours after discovery for further investigation and reporting required by the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003.

## **28. INSURANCE OF ASSETS**

The Accounting Officer must ensure that all movable assets are insured at least against fire and theft, and municipal buildings and infrastructure are insured at least against fire and allied hazards.

The Accounting Officer shall recommend, after consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, the basis of insurance cover to be applied: either the carrying value or the replacement value of the assets. Such a recommendation shall take due cognizance of the budgetary resources of the Municipality.

Any theft, loss or damage to an asset should immediately be reported to Council's insurance brokers by the relevant head of department under whose responsibility the asset falls. A copy of the insurance claim submitted should be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer. All insurance claims must be recorded in an insurance register and all outstanding insurance claims reported on a monthly basis to the Chief Financial Officer.

It is the responsibility of the relevant head of department to ensure that all documents / information for the completion of the claim is forwarded to Council's insurance brokers and that copies thereof is forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer. The head of department should in writing request the replacement of the asset which can only be authorized, if sufficient provision for the replacement of the asset is on the capital budget, by the Municipal Manager after consultation with the Chief Financial Officer. If sufficient provision is not on the capital budget the asset can only be replaced if provision for the replacement is made on an Adjustments budget. In the case where an asset must be replaced as an emergency measure, the Mayor may authorise such expenditure, subject to compliance with Section 29 of the MFMA.

Third-party (insurance) pay-outs must be treated as revenue when the amount is certain and may not be offset against the cost of replacing the item. The carrying value of items lost, stolen or damaged beyond repair must be treated as impairment against the relevant department or vote. The full cost of the replacement item must then be capitalised.

If the Municipality operates a self-insurance reserve, the Chief Financial Officer shall annually determine the premiums payable by the departments or votes after having received a list of the assets and insurable values of all relevant assets from the heads of departments concerned.

The municipal manager shall recommend to the Council of the Municipality, after consulting with the Chief Financial Officer, the basis of the insurance to be applied to each type of asset: either the carrying value or the replacement value of the assets concerned. Such recommendation shall take due cognizance of the budgetary resources of the Municipality.

The Chief Financial Officer shall annually submit a report to the Council of the Municipality on any reinsurance cover which it is deemed necessary to procure for the Municipality's self-insurance reserve.

All insurance claims should be submitted to the insurer within 30 days from the date of loss or as soon as reasonably possible but no later than 30 days from the date of loss. All claims outside the notification period must be submitted with clear valid reason for late notification submission.

## **29. SHORT TITLE**

This policy shall be called the Asset Management Policy of the Nkomazi Local Municipality.

### 30. APPENDIX A

#### SCHEDULE OF EXPECTED USEFUL LIVES OF ASSETS IN YEARS

PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT			
INFRASTRUCTURE	ASSET LIFE	INFRASTRUCTURE	ASSET LIFE
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>		<b>WATER:</b>	
Transformers and Ring Main Units	25-50	Water Meters	10-20
Lines Overhead and Mini Sub Station	20-30	Reservoir structure, Electrical and Mechanical	15-50
Cables and Lines underground	25-45	Pump Station structure, Electrical and Mechanical	15-55
Structure for Electrical Purpose	20-35	Dams and Weirs	15-100
Substation Equipment	20-40	Water Purification Works	10-55
Power stations	40-60	Boreholes	20-50
Electricity Supply / Reticulation	15-25	Water supply / Reticulation	20-50
High Mast Lights	10-15	Bulk Mains	30-50
Meters & Electrical perimeter protection	10-25	Plastic tanks	15-55
<b>ROADS AND STORMWATER:</b>		<b>SEWERAGE:</b>	
Bridges Vehicle & Pedestrian	25-80	Sewers / Reticulation	30-60
Roads Municipal Asphalt Layer	15-50	Sewerage Pump Stations	15-55
Roads Municipal Gravel Surface	3-10	Waste Purification Works	15-55
Roads Paved Surface	15-30	Bulk pipelines	30-50
Roads Street Lighting	15-40		
Road Calming Measures	20-30	<b>SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL:</b>	
Road Furniture & Road perimeter protection	5-30	Collection Containers / Bins	5-15
Storm water culverts	25-60	Landfill Site Structure	30-55
Storm water drains	25-100	Transfer stations	10-55
Storm water pipes	15-50		
<b>COMMUNITY ASSETS:</b>		<b>OTHER ASSETS – BUILDINGS:</b>	
Community halls	20-30	Office buildings (incl. Air Conditioning Systems)	20-30
Public entertainment buildings	20-30	Residences (Personnel) Incl. Garages and Parking	20-30
Clinics and Community Health Facilities	20-30	Warehouse (Storage Facilities)	20-30
Libraries	20-30	Residential & Non-Residential Perimeter Protection	10-25
Cemeteries/Crematoria		Driver and Vehicle Testing Centers	25-30
Public Ablution Facilities	20-30	Fire stations	20-30
Markets	20-30	Car Ports	10-15
Stalls	15-30	Laboratories	20-30
Taxi Ranks/Bus Terminals	10-30	Workshops and depots	20-30
Public Parking (Covered and Open)	20-30	Pay/Enquiry Points	20-30
Public Open Space	20-30	Caravans	5-10
Sport and Recreational Facilities	20-30	Training Centre	20-30
Hostels	20-30		
Nurseries	20-30	<b>TRANSPORT ASSETS:</b>	
Police Stations	20-30	Cycles	4-7
Non-Residential Perimeter Protection	20-30	Emergency Vehicles	5-10
Nature Reserves	20-30	Motor vehicles	4-7
Museums and Art Galleries	20-30	Trailers and accessories	5-10
		Trucks	5-7
		Aircraft	5-15
<b>COMPUTER EQUIPMENT:</b>			
Computer Hardware Including Operating system	3-5	Busses	10-15
Computer Networks	5-10	Mobile clinics	10-15

<b>FURNITURE AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT:</b>	<b>ASSET LIFE</b>	<b>MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>ASSET LIFE</b>
Advertising boards	3-5	Laboratory equipment	5-7
Cutlery and crockery	5-10	Medical and Allied Equipment	5-10
Domestic and hostel furniture	10-15	Music Instruments	10-15
Office equipment including fax machines	5-7	Photographic equipment	5-7
Office furniture	5-7	Pumps, plumbing, purification and sanitation equipment	5-10
Paintings sculptures ornaments	5-10	Radio equipment	5-7
		Road construction and Maintenance equipment	10-15
		Security Equipment / systems	3-5
<b>MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		Firearms	5
Audiovisual Equipment	5-10	Telecommunication equipment	3-5
Building Air Conditioning Systems	10-15	Saddles and other tack	5-7
Cellular Phones	2	Sport and Recreational Equipment	5-10
Electric Wire and Power Distribution Equipment (Compressors / Generators)	5-7	Workshop Equipment and Loose Tools Fixed	5-10
Emergency / Rescue Equipment	5-10	Workshop Equipment and Loose Tools movable	3-5
Farm / agriculture equipment	5-15	Tents, Flags and Accessories	5-10
Fire Fighting Equipment	3-5	Woodworking machinery and equipment	5-10
Gardening Equipment	2-4	Survey equipment	5-7
Kitchen Appliances	5-10	Laundry equipment & industrial sewing machines	10-15
Irrigation Equipment	10-15	Learning, training support and library material	5-10
Domestic equipment (Non-kitchen appliances)	3-5	Machines for metallurgy, mining, quarrying and textile production	5-15
Elevator systems	15-20		
<b>INTANGIBLE ASSETS</b>			
Computer Software	2-5		