

UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

“The Municipality”



VIREMENT POLICY

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Annexure: Virement Request Form (PLEASE ATTACH THE VIREMENT FORM)

1. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, unless the context otherwise indicates, a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, has the same meaning as in that Act.

“Accounting Officer” means the Municipal Manager of Ugu District Municipality,

“Chief Financial Officer” means the Chief Financial Officer of Ugu District Municipality

“Financial year” means a twelve months period commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June each year;

“Identified Savings”, the original budget less all the expenditure incurred and committed orders on that account.

“Virement”, means “a regulated transfer or re-allocation of money from one line item account to another, within the same vote especially public funds.”

“Vote” means

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

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

To introduce a Framework by which departmental budgets can be managed by Heads Of Department's to ensure effective financial management.

A virement represents a flexible mechanism to effect budgetary amendments within a municipal financial year.

3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- a. Chapter 4 of the Municipal Finance Management Act.
- b. The Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations published in terms of Section 168 of the MFMA.
- c. All relevant budget related Circulars and notices issued by the National Treasury.

4. DETERMINATION OF VOTE

Chief Financial Officer shall determine the number and type of votes to be used and line items to be shown under each vote. In so doing, the Chief Financial Officer shall consider and properly reflect the organisational structure and shall comply with the prescribed budget format of National Treasury. The operating expenditure shall be classified as per the Government Financial Statistics classifications used in the prescribed National Treasury format.

5. AUTHORISATION OF VIREMENTS

- 5.1 A transfer of funds from one line item to another under this Policy may, subject to the provisions of this Policy, be authorised as follows:
 - a) If the amount does not exceed R1 000 000.00 the transfer may be authorised by the Chief Financial Officer of the Municipality or the Accounting Officer of the Municipality after consultation with the Chief Financial Officer;
 - b) If the amount exceeds R1 000 000.00 but does not exceed R5 000 000.00 the transfer may be authorised by the Accounting Officer after consultation with the Chief Financial Officer;
 - c) The Mayor may authorise expenses in an emergency or other exceptional circumstances and the adjustment budget must be passed during the adjustment period after the expenses were incurred.

- d) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5.1.a, a transfer of funds between cost or functional centres within a particular Vote/Department may not be authorised by the Chief Financial Officer but may only be authorised by:

- a) The Accounting Officer, if the amount does not exceed the amount of
R5 000 000.00

6. RESTRICTIONS ON AMOUNT OF VIREMENTS

- 6.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5:

- 6.1.1 The total amount transferred from and to line items within a particular vote in any financial year may not exceed 40 % of the amount allocated to that vote;

- 6.1.2 The total amount transferred from and to line items in the entire budget in any financial year may not exceed 25 % of the total operating budget for that year;

- 6.2 A transfer which exceeds, or which would result in the exceeding of any of the limits referred to in 6.1 above may, however, be performed if the Council by resolution approves thereof.

- 6.3 No transfer of funds shall be made if such transfer would constitute a transgression or contravention of any statute, regulation or other law, any policy, directive or guideline binding upon the Municipality, or the avoidance by the Municipality of any obligation imposed upon it by contract or any other cause.

7. MANAGEABLE GROUPS OF REVENUE

All manageable revenue which is budgeted for under a department is the responsibility of each Head Of Department to ensure that it is collected.

Must report to the Chief Financial Officer and budget office any deviations that they become aware of which might affect the budgeted estimates.

Head Of Department's are responsible for all grants and donations which are budgeted for under their departments. They must report any deviations to the Chief Financial Officer or the budget office in writing. They must seek reasons for deviations from the responsible donor or the transferring sector departments.

If Head Of Department's become aware that budgeted revenue will not materialise or will not be collected, they must inform the Chief Financial Officer or the Budget Office to ensure that revenue will be adjusted downwards in the Adjustments Budget.

8. **NON-MANAGEABLE GROUPS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE**

No funds Transfers can be made on these groups:-

- a) Depreciation,
- b) Finance Charges,
- c) Departmental Charges,
- d) Investment Income and
- e) Employee Related Costs

9. **OPERATING BUDGET VIREMENTS**

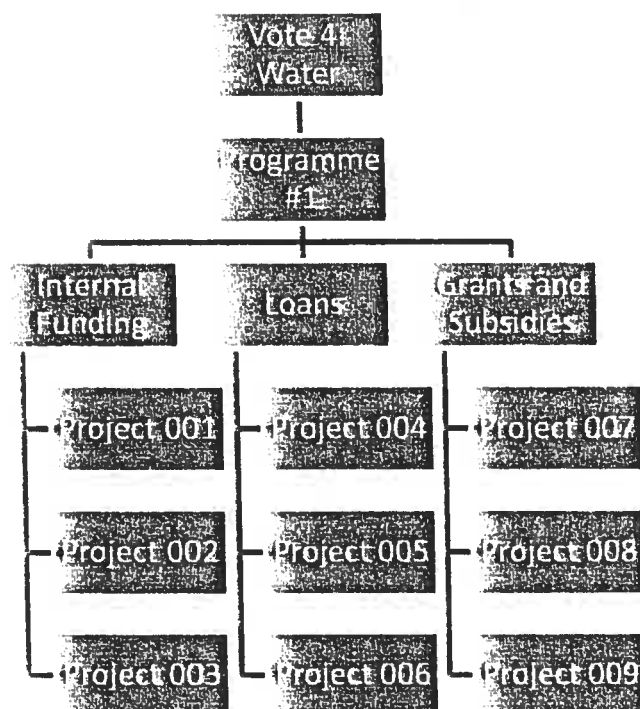
- 9.1 Operating budget virements can only be done on General Expenses, Contracted Services and Repairs and Maintenance items.

Funds transfer can take place within these groups provided the total approved budget allocation per vote is not exceeded. In order for an account to transfer funds from one item to another, there must be identified savings within the limitations of the approved budget for that group. These must be clearly stated in the formal funding requests submitted to the Chief Financial Officer and the Budget Office. Funds may not be transferred to new line items of the operating budget.

- 9.2 All requests for the transfer of funds must be in writing using the prescribed request forms in Appendix A and B, and must be properly authorised by the Manager and General Manager responsible for that vote and the Chief Financial Officer as per the set limits.
- 9.3 The prescribed request form shall include, but not limited to, provisions for the following:
- a) The name of the department concerned;
 - b) Descriptions of the line items from and to which the transfer is to be made;
 - c) The amount of the proposed transfer;
 - d) The cause of the saving in the line item from which the transfer is to be made;
 - e) The justification for the transfer;
 - f) A description of any consequences that such transfer may have for the Integrated Development Plan or the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan.
- 9.4 Each Head Of Department is responsible for his/her own operational budget and must ensure that all expenditure is contained to the approved allocations by Council.

- 9.5 Movement of funds from different sectors and categories will be attended to in the normal Adjustments Budget process annually in February.

10. CAPITAL BUDGET VIREMENTS



- 10.1 Virements on the Capital budget allocations can be done from one project to another within the same vote and source of funding, i.e. from Water, CRR to Water CRR. Virements cannot be done to a new project which was not part of the approved capital budget. Any other transfer of funds or requests for new allocations must be done through an adjustments budget and approved by Council.
- 10.2 Virements can be done on conditional grant funded projects; provided that there is a written agreement by the said funder.
- 10.3 All requests must be in writing on the prescribed form in Appendix B and must be properly authorised by the responsible Manager, General Manager and the Chief Financial Officer.

11. REVIEW OF POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed once annually during the Annual Budget Process.

12. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- a. Violation of or non-compliance with this Policy may give a just cause of disciplinary steps to be taken.

- b. It will be the responsibility of Accounting Officer to enforce compliance with this Policy.

13. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Policy shall come to effect upon approval by Council of Ugu District Municipality.

14. **POLICY ADOPTION**

This Policy has been considered and approved by the **COUNCIL OF UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPLAITY** as follows:

Resolution No:.....

Approval Date:.....

UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
“The Municipality”

FREE WATER SERVICES POLICY

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1. DEFINITIONS

“Accounting Officer” is the Accounting Officer of the Municipality;

“Basic water supply” means the minimum standards of water supply services necessary for the reliable supply of water to households to support life and personal hygiene;

“Basic sanitation” means the prescribed minimum standard of services necessary for the safe, hygienic and adequate collection, removal, disposal or purification of human excreta, domestic waste-water and sewage from households, including informal households;

“Chief Financial Officer” means the Chief Financial Officer of the Municipality;

“Council” means the Council of the Ugu Municipality;

“Household” means all the people who permanently reside in the dwelling;

“Indigent person” means a person who meets criteria on qualification for indigent support;

“Municipality” means Ugu Local Municipality.

2. THE LEGAL CONTEXT

2.1 This Policy is informed by the following legislations:

Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003

Water Services Act, No 108 of 1997

Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000, section 74.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

3.1 The Ugu District Municipality fully supports the National Government's Policy on providing free basic services to the poorer of the community. In that regard it will fully co-operate in implementing the Policy.

3.2 However, being committed to the fundamental principle set out in paragraph 4 above, the financial implication must determine the extent to which water can be provided free to certain consumers. In conjunction with the Provincial Support Units established by the Department of Water Affairs and that Department, the Ugu District Municipality will progressively introduce the Policy to its area. Full advantage will be taken of subsidies and grants made available by other spheres of government to enable the Ugu District Municipality to implement a policy of free basic water without violating the fundamental principle. In line with the principles of transparency inherent in paragraph 7.1, the people of the area will be informed and consulted on the implementation of the Policy

as it unfolds. There are two inter-related long term objectives which will guide the Ugu Municipality in regards to the provision of free basic services and these are:

- a) The elimination of poverty in the Ugu District area, and
- b) The equal treatment of all persons in the area

Whilst the historic imbalances between the citizens of South Africa are a fact, resulting in a mass of poor people badly provided with basic services, this should not be seen as normal and everlasting. Initially therefore, different levels of service must be provided at affordable or no cost, but the Policy is accepted that, over time, realistically computed, these distinction should be eliminated and everyone should be treated equally.

4. PURPOSE

- 4.1 The primary purpose of ~~the basic water services~~ this Policy is to assist in promoting sustainable access to basic water supply and sanitation to all households.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF FREE BASIC WATER SERVICES

- 5.1 In recognition of the primary importance of having a clean and adequate water supply, the South African Government in 2000 introduced the Free Basic Water Policy, which allows for households to get 6 000 litres (6kl) of water per month at no cost. Such service is dependent on the Municipality receiving equitable share from National Treasury and as determined by Council from time to time.

5.2 Free basic water

5.2.1 Private Connections:

Commercial, Government, Bulk users and industrial users, and other categories be retained with no Free Basic Water allocation, except for users classified in paragraph 5.2.2 below .All households who fall in the group who qualify for free basic water in terms of ~~Ugu District~~ the Municipality will receive a free water usage of 200 litres per day, based on the quota allocation and number of days in a meter reading period. The customer will forfeit this benefit should the consumption exceed the allocation per quota per month depending on the number of days.

5.2.2 Qualification Criteria:

- a) Indigents households
- b) Rural communities where water is supplied by stand pipes
- c) Informal settlements where water is supplied by stand pipes
- d) People served from springs and borehole water in rural areas
- e) Rain water harvesting schemes

- f) The Authority or the Authorised Provider may convey any water required as a temporary measure by tanker to any place where such temporary supply of water is required, subject to such conditions and period, which shall not exceed three months, as may be prescribed by it.

6. FREE BASIC SANITATION

6.1 Free basic sanitation shall be provided to the following

- a) Indigents households
- b) Rural communities where there is no sanitation infrastructure
- c) Informal settlements

7. EFFECTIVE DATE

The policy shall come to effect upon approval by Council.

8. POLICY ADOPTION

This revised Policy replaces the current Policy; it has been considered and approved by the **COUNCIL OF UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY** as follows:

Resolution No:.....

Approval Date:.....

UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
("The Municipality")



CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT COLLECTION POLICY

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A. PREAMBLE:

The Local Government : Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 ("the Municipal Systems Act") has as one of its objects the need to ensure financially and economically viable municipalities;

The Municipal Systems Act also envisages a new system of Local Government requiring an efficient, effective and transparent local public administration that conforms to constitutional principles;

The Ugu District Municipality has adopted a tariff policy in terms of Section 74(1) of the Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 which policy reflects the principles enunciated in Section 74(2) and differentiates as it may in terms of Section 74(3) of the Municipal Systems Act;

The Ugu District Municipality has also adopted By-laws as envisaged in Section 75 of the Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000;

This policy is adopted in terms of Section 96(d) of the Municipal Systems Act, is consistent with the Ugu District Municipality's rates and tariff policies and complies with the provisions of the Municipal Systems Act;

1. DEFINITIONS

Except to the extent to which the context may otherwise require:

- a) any word or expression importing any gender or the neuter shall include both genders and the neuter;
- b) words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa where the context so requires; the following words shall have the meanings assigned to them herein:-

"Service charges" means all monies that are currently due and payable to Ugu District Municipality in terms of Section 96(a) of the Municipal Systems Act;

"Municipality" means Ugu District Municipality;

"Services" shall mean all services provided by the Ugu District Municipality and without limiting the generality of the a foregoing shall include_

- a) water supply and connection;
- b) sanitation supply and connection;
- c) miscellaneous services as specified in the Municipality's tariffs;
- d) where sanitation, connection and supply does not apply, sanitation haulage, ad hoc vacuum tanker services, conservancy tank clearances; services relating to industrial effluent;
- e) the provision of water borne sanitation;
- f) or any other services that the Municipality may supply all in terms of the Municipality's tariffs.

"consumer" shall mean, without limiting the generality thereof, any natural person or legal entity or generally any member of the public who has made application for services and whose application has been approved.

"owner" shall mean, without limiting the generality thereof,

- a) a person in whom is vested the legal title to the premises;
- b) in a case where the person in whom the legal title to premises is vested is insolvent or dead, or is under any form of legal disability whatsoever, the person in whom the administration and control of such premises is vested as curator, trustee, executor, administrator, judicial manager, liquidator or other legal representative;
- c) in any case where the authority or authorised provider is unable to determine the identity of such person, a person who is entitled to the benefit of the use such

premises or a building or buildings thereon, including a person who receives the rent or profits of such premises or any part thereof from any tenant or occupier or who would receive such rent or profits if the premises or any part thereof were let, whether for his own account or as agent for any person entitled thereto or having an interest therein;

d) in the case of premises for which a lease agreement of 30 years or longer has been entered into, the lessee there under;

e) in relation to -

- (i) a piece of land delineated on a sectional plan registered in terms of the Sectional Titles Act 95 of 1986, the developer or the body corporate in respect of the common property,
- (ii) or a section as defined in such Act, the person in whose name such section is registered under a sectional title deed and includes the lawfully appointed provider of such person;

2. THE SCOPE OF THIS POLICY:

- 2.1 This Policy shall apply solely in respect of all levies, fees, surcharges on fees, service charges and any other monetary amounts due to the Municipality and levied in terms of the Municipality's existing tariffs;
- 2.2 Any interest which has already or shall in the future accrue to the Municipality in respect of the rendering of the services;
- 2.3 Any collection charges lawfully due to the Municipality.

3. THE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS OF THIS POLICY:

- 3.1 The adoption of this Policy has as its principal objective the fulfilment of the requirements of Section 97(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, namely to provide for:-
 - a) Credit Control Procedures and Mechanisms;
 - b) Debt Collection Procedures and Mechanisms;
 - c) Provision for indigent debtors that is consistent with its rates and tariff policies and any national policy on indigents;
 - d) Realistic targets consistent with:-
 - i) generally recognised accounting practices and collection ratios; and
 - ii) the estimates of income set in the budget less an acceptable provision for bad debts;
 - e) Interest on arrears, where appropriate;
 - f) Extension of time for payment of accounts;

- g) Termination of services with the restriction of the provision of services when payments are in arrears;
 - h) Matters relating to unauthorised consumption of services, theft and damages; and
 - i) Any other matters that may be prescribed by Regulation in terms of Section 104 of the Municipal Systems Act.
- 3.2 To the extent that the differentiation envisaged in Section 97(2) of the Municipal Systems Act is discretionary,
- 3.3 The ~~Ugu District~~ Municipality has in terms of Section 98 of the Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 adopted By-laws to give effect to this Credit Control and Debt Collection policy, its implementation and enforcement and for this reason it is not necessary within the framework of this Policy to indicate the procedures of implementation, delegation or, otherwise, administration of this Policy apart from what is mentioned further herein.

4. SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

In terms of Section 99 of the Municipal Systems Act a municipality's executive committee or executive mayor, must:-

- 4.1 oversee and monitor:-
 - a) the implementation and enforcement of the Municipality's Credit Control and Debt Collection policy and any by-laws enacted in terms of Section 98; and
 - b) the performance of the Municipal Manager in the implementing of this policy and any by-laws;
- 4.2 When necessary, evaluate or review the policy and any by-laws, or the implementation of the policy and any such by-laws, in order to improve efficiency in Credit Control and Debt Collection mechanisms, processes and procedures; and
- 4.3 At such intervals as may be determined by the Council report to a meeting of the Council, except when the Council itself performs the duties mentioned in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2.

5. ROLE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

In terms of Section 100 of the Municipal Systems Act the Municipal Manager or service provider must:-

- 5.1 Implement and enforce the Municipality's Credit Control and Debt Collection policy and any by-laws enacted in terms of Section 98;

- 5.2 In accordance with the Credit Control and Debt Collection policy and any such by-laws, establish effective administrative mechanisms, processes and procedures to collect money that is due and payable to the Municipality; and
- 5.3 At such intervals as may be determined by the Council report prescribed particulars to a meeting of the Supervisory Authority referred to in Section 99.

6. SERVICE AGREEMENTS:-

- 6.1 The Credit Control procedure shall commence with an application by a potential consumer for the provision of services;
- 6.2 The application aforesaid shall contain at least the following:-
- a) the full name of the Applicant/s;
 - b) the identity number (in the case of a natural person) or registration number; copies of relevant registration certificate together with certified copy of the resolutions that give permission to apply on behalf of the legal person in the case of a corporate entity or any other legal person;
 - c) the postal address and physical address (which in the case of legal persons must include the address of their accounting officer or principal place of business);
 - d) a copy of the Applicant/s 's identity document or in the case of a legal person its proof of registration; copies of relevant registration certificate together with certified copy of the resolutions that give permission to apply on behalf of the legal person;
 - e) in the event that the Applicant/s is/are not the owner/s of the property at which the services will be supplied then the application must contain:-
 - i) the consent of the owner to the supply of services on credit to the Applicant;
 - ii) the owner/s 's full details including a copy of the owner/s 's identity document or proof of registration as envisaged in the preceding paragraphs;
 - iii) The aforesaid consent shall make provision that in the event of the Applicant/s defaulting in the payment of any amounts due that the owner/s will be held responsible therefore;
 - f) the Applicant's contact details including :
 - i) telephone numbers (home, work and cellular phone numbers); and
 - ii) e-mail address (where applicable);
 - g) The amount of the deposit shall be calculated as per policy and payable in advance prior to connection of the service;
- 6.3 Every such application shall constitute an offer to the Municipality to enter into an agreement with the Applicant for the rendering of the services applied for which upon

acceptance shall constitute a binding agreement between the Municipality and the consumer/s;

- 6.4 Illiterate Applicants must be assisted in the completion of the forms and must affix their mark to the form which mark must be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths as the mark of the Applicant;
- 6.5 The name, address and details of the Applicant's employer shall also be stated;
- 6.6 The Applicant shall also consent on the application form to:-
 - a) an adverse listing with the credit bureau in the event of a default in payment.

7. THE RENDERING OF ACCOUNTS:

- 7.1 Consumers on the billing system will receive an understandable and accurate bill from the Municipality, which bill will consolidate all service costs for that property.
- 7.2 Accounts will be produced in accordance with the meter reading cycle and due dates will be linked to the statement date.
- 7.3 Accounts will be rendered monthly in cycles of approximately 30 days at the address last recorded with the municipality or its authorised agent.
- 7.4 It is the consumer's responsibility to ensure that postal address and other contact details are correct.
- 7.5 It is the consumer's responsibility to make enquiries and ensure timeous payments in the event of accounts not received.
- 7.6 Settlement or due dates will be as indicated on the statement.
- 7.7 Payments can be made at:-
 - a) Ugu District Municipalities offices in Port Shepstone, Oslo Beach, Harding, Park Rynie offices as well as Satellite Offices;
 - b) The South African Post Office and their agencies;
 - c) ABSA Bank; and
 - d) Easy-Pay outlets, example Pick 'n Pay and Checkers;
 - e) Selected credit card payments can be made at Port Shepstone, Park Rynie, Harding and Oslo Beach offices.
 - f) In addition to the above, Municipality offers debit order facilities and details can be obtained from any of the municipal offices
- 7.8 All Ugu District Municipal Councillors and employees who are deemed to be consumers must not be in arrears for a period longer than 90 days, the Municipality reserves the right to recover any such amounts from monies due to the employee in terms of Clause 10, Schedule 2. of the local Government: Municipal Systems Act.

8. INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE

- 8.1 Consumers who are in arrears with their municipal account and who have not made arrangements with the Council will have their supply of water, and other municipal services, suspended, restricted or terminated.
- 8.2 The restriction of service may happen when the Municipal account is one day overdue.
- 8.3 Council reserves the right to deny or restrict the sale of water to consumers who are in arrears with their municipal charges.
- 8.4 Upon the liquidation of arrears, or the conclusion of acceptable arrangements for term payment, the service will be reconnected as soon as conveniently possible.
- 8.5 The cost of the restriction and the reconnection, will be determined by tariffs approved by Council, and will be payable by the consumer.
- 8.6 Interest can be raised as a charge on all accounts not paid by the due date.

9. DEBT COLLECTION PROCEDURE:

- 9.1 The Municipality or any duly authorised collection agent or service provider for the collection of outstanding debt may, in addition to the normal legal procedures for the collection of arrear accounts, also –
 - a) terminate or restrict the supply of services; and
 - b) allocate any payments or pre-payments toward the liquidation of any arrears in terms of section 12 below;
- 9.2 Where an account is not settled in full, any lesser amount tendered and accepted shall not be deemed to be in full and final settlement of such an account.
- 9.3 The Municipality may, when a debtor is in arrears and all other credit control actions have been exhausted, commence legal process against that debtor, which process could involve final demands, restrictions, summonses, judgements, garnishee orders and as a last resort sales in execution of property.
- 9.4 All costs of legal process, including interest, service discontinuation costs are for the account of the debtor.
- 9.5 Uncollectable Arrears
 - 9.5.1 The effective implementation of the present policy also implies a realistic review of the Municipality's debtor's book at the conclusion of each financial year. The Municipal Manager shall as soon as possible after 30 June each financial year present to the Council a report indicating the amount of the arrears which it is believed is uncollectable, together with the reasons for this conclusion.
 - 9.5.2 The Council shall then approve the write off of such arrears, if it is satisfied with the reasons provided.

10. INSTALMENT AGREEMENTS (ARREARS ONLY):**DOMESTIC ACCOUNTS**

10.1 The Municipality recognises that in certain instances domestic consumers may experience difficulty with the payment of a lump sum arrear amount and in such instances will accommodate any domestic consumers who require paying their arrears over an extended period;

10.2 In these instances the Municipality shall require:-

- a) an agreement stipulating:
 - i) the extended period;
 - ii) the amount payable by the consumer;
 - iii) any deposits payable.

In such instances all deposits shall be payable either in cash or by bank guarantee.

10.3 It shall be a condition for the conclusion an arrangement that the consumer is bound to pay every current municipal account in full and on time during the period over which such arrangement extends.

10.4 Each request is treated on its individual merits, however, collection staff will be guided by the following minimum guidelines in entering into agreements of this nature:-

- a) First time request:-
 - i) any amount in arrears – a deposit of 10% of the arrear amount is payable immediately with the balance payable over eleven months;
- b) In case of a default, complete disconnection will be effected and free basic water can be collected from the Ugu Market premises. The full amount becomes due and payable immediately before re-instatement of the supply;
- c) In respect of repeat requests by domestic defaulting consumers or domestic consumers with agreements as envisaged in sub-paragraph (a) above or first time tampering consumers:-
 - ii) any amount in arrears – a deposit of 25% of the arrear amount is payable immediately with the balance payable over eleven months;
- d) In case of a default, complete disconnection will be effected and free basic water can be collected from the Ugu Market premises. The full amount becomes due and payable immediately before re-instatement of the supply.

0.5 Reconnection fees and additional deposits must be paid in full before any agreement as aforesaid can be entered into;

- 10.6 In the event of such agreements being negotiated with legal entities, then, the agreement must be duly signed by a duly authorised officer of the same and this must be accompanied by personal sureties of a natural person. All such agreements must be accompanied by a resolution of the entity authorising the signatory to sign as aforesaid;
- 10.7 In instances where agreements as envisaged in this clause are entered into, a consumer may be required to complete a debit order authority for the payment of the arrears in terms of the agreement.

11. DISHONoured CHEQUES

The refusal or failure by a bank to honour any cheque payment or debit order by a consumer shall be regarded as non-payment. In this regard:-

- 11.1 The consumer will be contacted telephonically and requested to make a cash deposit equivalent to that of the dishonoured cheque or debit order into the Municipality's bank account within 24 hours of such request;
- 11.2 Should the Municipality be unable to contact the consumer as aforesaid, the Municipality shall issue a final demand and proceed as envisaged earlier herein;
- 11.3 Should the cheque payment or debit order relate at all to an agreement for extension or reconnection, the supply of the service will immediately be disconnected without any further notice to the consumer and will only be reconnected once the consumer has made payment of the full outstanding balance in cash;
- 11.4 In the event of a consumer not having sufficient funds in cash to settle the amount equivalent to the amount of a dishonoured cheque then the Municipality shall be entitled but not obliged to proceed with the institution of criminal charges of fraud against the consumer;
- 11.5 All dishonoured cheques shall be retained by the Municipality and only returned to the consumer upon request therefore by the consumer and after reversal of the dishonoured payment;
- 11.6 The Municipality shall be entitled to levy an administration fee in order to recover all bank charges and administrative work involved in reversing the entries which fee shall be levied irrespective of the reason for dishonour or non-payment;
- 11.7 Details of all dishonoured cheque payments may be forwarded to the credit bureau for processing against the consumer's credit profile.

12. ALLOCATION OF PART-PAYMENTS AND APPROPRIATION OF DEPOSITS

- 12.1 If an accountholder pays only part of any municipal account due, the Accounting Officer shall allocate such payment as follows:
- 12.1.1 Firstly, to any unpaid charges levied by the Municipality in respect of unacceptable cheques, notices, legal expenses and reconnections or reinstatements of services in respect of the account or property concerned;
 - 12.1.2 Secondly, to any unpaid interest raised on the account;
 - 12.1.3 Thirdly, to any unpaid sanitation charges;
 - 12.1.4 Fourthly, to any unpaid water charges.
- 12.2 This sequence of allocation shall be followed notwithstanding any instructions to the contrary given by the accountholder.

13. METER TAMPERING

- 13.1 Water metering and connection equipment remain the property of the Municipality and any person involved in the tampering with, damaging or theft thereof will be liable to criminal prosecution;
- 13.2 Where there is evidence of any illegal reconnection of a supply, or the tampering therewith, the supply will be immediately terminated. Reconnection of the supply after such termination shall only be effected if the relevant penalty tariff charges has been paid and satisfactory arrangements have been made for the settlement of any outstanding arrears;
- 13.3 The detection of any further instances of tampering as envisaged herein will result in termination of the water supply and the removal of any connection equipment. Consumers in such instances will then be required to pay the full costs of a new connection together with a penalty on consumption equivalent to the average usage over the six months preceding the date of tampering together with all outstanding arrear charges before replacement of the equipment and reconnection of the supply will be considered.

14. UNOCCUPIED PREMISES

- 14.1 When a consumer terminates a consumption account and no new consumer is registered the property shall be deemed to be unoccupied;
- 14.2 In such instances, a courtesy letter shall be forwarded for the attention of any actual new occupier (should there be one) and served at the premises where the supply has been rendered, requiring the new occupier within 7 (seven) days of the aforesaid letter to register with the Municipality as a consumer and detailing the registration procedures to be followed;

- 14.3 A failure by a new occupier to respond to the aforesaid letter will result in the termination/disconnection of the service supplied;
- 14.4 In such instances, the property will be linked to the registered owner's name and any basic charges in terms of the tariff shall be levied on a monthly basis and sent by ordinary mail to the most recent recorded address of the registered owner of the property for payment;
- 14.5 In the event of water consumption being recorded at a property that has been deemed unoccupied in terms hereof, every effort shall be made to establish the identity of the person responsible for the aforesaid consumption and such person shall be charged accordingly as if he or she were a consumer;
- 14.6 However, should attempts at establishing the identity of such person fail then the registered owner of the property shall be liable for any water consumed at the property.

15. NEW DEPOSITS

- 15.1 All new consumers are required to pay a minimum deposit in accordance with the applicable Municipality tariff;
- 15.2 The calculation of the minimum deposit is based on a three month's estimate consumption as indicated by the consumer;
- 15.3 In respect of domestic consumers the Municipality applies four scales of tariffs to determine the deposit payable, namely:-
- a) Scale 1: 0 – 200 litres per day;
 - b) Scale 2: 201 – 500 litres per day;
 - c) Scale 3: 501 – 750 litres per day;
 - d) Scale 4: 751 – 1000 litres per day.
- 15.4 The deposit amount is calculated on the following formula: $3 \times (\text{tariff} \times \text{estimated consumption plus basic charge and Value Added Tax})$;

16. ADDITIONAL DEPOSITS

- 16.1 The value of the original deposit paid or any guarantees held in respect of the aforesaid deposit will be reviewed on a regular basis;
- 16.2 Upon such review the Municipality may require a consumer not previously required to pay a deposit for whatever reason, to pay a deposit on request within 10 (ten) days from the date of such request.

17. COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS

- 17.1 In these instances where commercial accounts fall into arrears, the Municipality shall require:-
- a) Arrears to be paid in full before water supply is re-instated
 - b) No instalment arrangement shall be accepted for any commercial account
 - c) In such instances deposits shall be adjusted and payable either in cash or by bank guarantee
 - d) Reconnection fees and additional deposits must be paid in full before water supply is re-instated
- 17.2 The Municipality shall review consumption patterns whenever meter readings are received;
- 17.3 Should the amount of the deposit or guarantee held be deemed inadequate after such review, the Municipality shall send a letter requesting the payment of an additional deposit;
- 17.4 The value of any such increase in deposit shall be added to the next monthly account.

18. PERSONS AND BUSINESS WHO TENDER TO THE MUNICIPALITY

- 18.1 The Procurement Policy and Tender Conditions of the Municipality will include the following:
- a) When inviting tenders for the provision of services or delivery of goods, potential contractors may submit tenders subject to a condition that consideration and evaluation thereof will necessitate that the tenderer obtain from the municipality a certificate stating that all relevant municipal accounts owing by the tenderer and/or its directors, owners or partners have been paid or that suitable arrangements (which include the right to set off in the event of non-compliance) have been made for payment of any arrears.
 - b) No tender will be allocated to a person/contractor until a suitable arrangement for the repayment of arrears, has been made. No further debt may accrue during contract period.
 - c) A condition allowing the municipality to deduct any moneys owing to the municipality from contract payments.

19. DOMESTIC ACCOUNTS

- 19.1 In the event of the Municipality detecting an irregular and unacceptable payment pattern then the Municipality shall be entitled to review the deposit held in respect of residential consumers;

- 19.2 In the event of such review the relevant consumer shall be sent a request by the Municipality for the payment of an additional deposit;
- 19.3 The value of any such increase of the deposit as aforesaid shall be added to the consumer's next account.

20. FORFEITING DEPOSITS

- 20.1 A deposit shall be forfeited to the Municipality if it has not been claimed within a period of 36 months from the date of termination of a service.

21. CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

- 21.1 Certificates are issued in terms of Section 118 of Systems Act
- 21.2 In addition to the afore going the Municipality shall require a deposit equivalent to the cost of three month's average consumption on water and sanitation charges (where applicable);In case of a vacant stand,
- 21.3 Upon payment of the amounts referred to in 1 and 2 above, the Municipality shall issue a clearance certificate within 5 (five) working days of the request for such certificate.

22. WATER AND SANITATION RATES

- 22.1 Water and sanitation rates are an availability charge which is levied against properties where there is water reticulation and waterborne sanitation system in place is charged to the registered owner of the property
- 22.2 The water rates year commences on the 1st July of each year and terminates on the 30th June of the following year. Upon the declaration of the rates tariffs, these are advertised as required in terms of existing legislation;
- 22.3 Rate payers currently have the option of paying their rates on an annual basis or by monthly instalments. Monthly rates are payable over a maximum period of 10 months commencing on the 1st September of the rates year and terminating on the 30th June of the rates year;
- 22.4 Water rates accounts are posted by ordinary mail during September of each year and the final date for annual payments is the last working day of November in that year;
- 22.5 Water rates that are not paid by the final date incur a late payment penalty calculated at 1.25% per month on outstanding rates from the 1st December each year. In the event that these rates remain unpaid after the 31st January of the following year, a once-off collection charge equivalent to 10% of the rates outstanding at the time is levied; however, penalties continue to accrue on the outstanding rates due notwithstanding the once-off charge aforesaid;

- 22.6 After the final date for payment of the water rates has expired and in the event of no payment being received by the Municipality a final notice shall be despatched by registered mail to the consumer requiring the payment of the arrear amount and any penalties and interest;
- 22.7 Upon expiry of the period reflected in the final notice the Municipality shall :-
- a) compile a schedule of all arrear rate payers;
 - b) conduct deeds offices searches in respect of ownership of property;
 - c) authorise and institute the necessary tracing action in instances where the consumer's whereabouts are unknown;
 - d) engage legal assistance for the institution of civil legal proceedings against the consumer.
- 23. TEMPORARY MEASURES OF ASSISTANCE:**
- 23.1 The Municipality recognises that there are instances where rate payers face temporary hardships caused by personal circumstances, poor economic conditions, unemployment, temporary disablement or illness and in such instances the Municipality is willing to accommodate arrangements to settle outstanding arrears;
- 23.2 In such instances the following procedures shall apply:-
- a) consumers may approach the Municipality for arrangements to be made for a maximum period extending up to the 30th June of the current financial year, and in exceptional circumstances, up to 1 (one) month before the final date for payment of rates in respect of the next financial year;
 - b) these arrangements envisage the consumer paying in equal instalments all outstanding amounts including any interest and collection charges that may have been levied by the Municipality;
- 23.3 Once such an arrangement has been made the consumer must sign an Acknowledgement of Debt for this purpose and should the consumer renege on this arrangement then the whole outstanding arrear amount, inclusive of penalties and interest shall become immediately due and payable and shall be subject to the normal collections procedures envisaged herein;
- 23.4 In exceptional circumstances and so as to ensure payment of the capital sums of rates due and in order to avoid the accrual of further legal costs and other charges, the Municipality may, by resolution waive the payment of any interest, penalties and/or collection charges for a maximum period of 6 (six) months calculated from the date of signature of the Acknowledgement of Debt.

24. INDIGENT SUBSIDY

- 24.1 Customers may apply for an indigent subsidy on the conditions as stipulated in the Municipality's Indigent policy.

25. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- a) Violation of or non-compliance with this Policy will give a just cause of disciplinary steps to be taken.
- b) It will be the responsibility of Accounting Officer to enforce compliance with this Policy.

26. EFFECTIVE DATE

The policy shall come to effect upon approval by Council.

27. POLICY ADOPTION

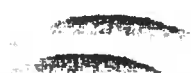
This policy has been considered and approved by the COUNCIL OF UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY as follows:

Resolution No:.....

Approval Date:.....

UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

“The Municipality”



INDIGENT SUPPORT POLICY

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1. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS section 74 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000, requires that the Council should, in formulating a Tariff Policy for the municipality, at least take into consideration the extent of subsidisation of tariffs for poor households;

WHEREAS Council therefore needs to approve an Indigent Support Policy;

WHEREAS such policy must provide procedures and guidelines for the subsidisation of basic services and tariff charges to its indigent households; and

WHEREAS the Council has committed itself to render a basic level of services necessary to ensure an acceptable and reasonable quality of life, which takes into account health and environmental considerations;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Ugu Municipality has adopted the Indigent Support Policy set out hereunder:

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall bear the same meaning in this policy, and unless the context indicates otherwise –

“**Act**” means the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), as amended from time to time;

“**Authorised Officer**” means any official of the Council who has been authorised by the Council to administer, implement and enforce the provisions of this Policy;

“**by-law**” means a by-law adopted by the Council;

“**Municipal manager**” means the Accounting Officer of the Municipality

“**Council**” means the Council of the Ugu Municipality

“**indigent person**” means a person who meets criteria on qualification for indigent support.

“**municipality**” means Ugu District Municipality

“services” means the basic services referred to in this Policy

“household” means all the people who permanently reside in the dwelling

“dwelling” means property registered in the deeds office or allocated to a family by the Traditional Authority, with an Ugu water connection

3. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to ensure the following:

- 3.1 The provision of basic services to the community in a sustainable manner, within the financial means of Council; and
- 3.2 To provide procedures and guidelines for the subsidisation of service charges and rates to its indigent households, using a portion or the whole of the Equitable Share for this purpose.
- 3.3 Council also recognises that many of the residents can simply not afford to pay the required service charges and rates, and Council will endeavour to ensure affordability through:
- 3.4 Setting rates and tariffs which will balance the economic viability of continued service delivery; and
- 3.5 Determine appropriate service levels.

4. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION FOR INDIGENT SUPORT

- 4.1 The indigent subsidy shall apply to a household per dwelling and not an individual.
- 4.2 The property must be zoned residential.
- 4.3 The total gross monthly income of all members of the household must not exceed two old age grants (excluding disability and child grant).
- 4.4 Indigent support will apply to all households whose total monthly income is less than or equal to the above-mentioned amount, irrespective of the source of income.
- 4.5 Household's dependant on social welfare grants only may also apply.
- 4.6 Child headed households dependant on foster care social grants qualifies.
- 4.7 The applicant as well as any other member of the household shall not own other fixed property other than the one on which they reside, whether within or outside of the municipal area.
- 4.8 Multi unit residential - bulk users and Non Government Organizations are excluded from this Policy.

5. APPLICATION FOR INDIGENT SUPPORT

- 5.1 The legal owner of a dwelling who is responsible for the payment of the water and sanitation services account must apply for the household to be registered as indigent.
- 5.2 Application forms are available from any of the Water Services Offices within the Ugu District Municipality and can also be posted on request and the following documents should be submitted together with the application form:
 - a) Copies of identity documents for household members 18 years and above.
 - b) Copies of birth certificates of household members younger than 18 years.
 - c) Copies of proof of income or written affidavits confirming status of employment or circumstances from each household member 18 years and above
 - d) Proof of ownership or occupancy e.g. Title deed or letter from ward councillor confirming occupancy status
 - e) Where property owner or account holder is deceased, copy of the death certificate and letter from ward councillor confirming that applicant resides in the dwelling.

6. AVENUES FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS

- 6.1 Submit through Ward Councillor.
- 6.2 Submit personally to any of Ugu District Municipality offices.

7. PROCESSING OF APPLICATION

- 7.1 Each application will be given a number, for reference purposes
- 7.2 Indigent Support Application register and an Indigent Support Application card will be issued to the applicant for control purposes.
- 7.3 The application will be processed within two weeks of receipt by the Municipality in a manner prescribed by the internal processes.
- 7.4 A letter informing the applicant of the status of the application will be sent to the applicant within two weeks of finalizing the application scrutiny process.
- 7.5 For the purposes of transparency, on an annual basis the following key information of the recipient's indigent support shall be displayed on all Councils and notice boards of Local Municipalities:
 - a) Names of Households benefiting from the Indigent Support
 - b) Stand number where services are rendered to the recipients
- 7.6 Any resident may query the qualification of a recipient in writing within days from the date of publication of such listings.
- 7.7 A report on Indigent Support shall be done to the Budget and Finance Committee quarterly.

8. DURATION OF THE INDIGENT SUPPORT BENEFIT

- 8.1 Indigent support is only provided for a period of 12 months, from date of approval, where after the applicant must submit Form UIS 3, confirming that its circumstances has not changed since its initial application and that it still qualifies for indigent support in terms of the latest criteria.
- 8.2 The Municipality will send a written notice to the approved household, at least two months prior to expiry of the approval, but the onus still rests on the applicant or another permanent adult occupant on the property to submit Form UIS 3.

9. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIGENT SUPPORT APPLICANT/ BENEFICIARY

- 9.1 Should, at the most, 21 days lapse without receiving any feedback regarding the application, the applicant should enquire as to the status of the application through the call centre.
- 9.2 The onus is on the beneficiary to inform the Municipality of any change in his/her status or personal household circumstances that might affect their Indigent status.
- 9.3 A household must immediately request de-registration if their circumstances have changed to the extent that the household no longer meets the requirements set out in this Policy. Failure to disclose will result in such a person being immediately liable to repay to the Municipality all the debt accumulated from such date of change in indigent status, and immediately removed from the indigent register of the Municipality. Such debt will be recovered in terms of the applicable Credit Control Debt Collection policy.

10. USAGE IN EXCESS OF THE BASIC SERVICE LEVELS

- 10.1 All services used in excess of the basic municipal services level shall be levied at the current scale of tariff and payable on the due date and a device will be installed to control water usage.
- 10.2 If the excess account is not paid for as and when due, the services shall be restricted to the basic level and the normal Credit Control and Debt Collection policy shall be implemented.

11. WITHDRAWAL OF INDIGENT SUPPORT BY THE MUNICIPALITY

- 11.1 The Indigent support shall be withdrawn by the Municipality in the event of the beneficiary misusing the system or providing incorrect information.
- 11.2 In this regard the Municipality shall recover from the recipient the amount of relief furnished by debiting the beneficiary's account.

- 11.3 The Municipality shall apply its credit control policy in accordance with the Credit Control and Debt Collection policy.
- 11.4 The Municipality shall institute a criminal charge of fraud against the beneficiary and may not again be considered for indigency relief for a period extending for two years beyond the financial year in which the misconduct is detected.
- 11.5 The Indigent support will cease should the form UIS 3 not be supplied to the Municipality.

12. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- 12.1 In the event of death of one of the member of the household, and where the flow has been limited, full flow will be reinstated from the day of death to the day of the funeral after which the flow shall be limited again.
- 12.2 In the event of a household member suffers from a sickness requiring excessive usage of water and is under a home based care programme, such a household will be eligible to apply for additional allocation of water, approval of which is subject to the Municipality's conditions.

13. WHAT DOES THE INDIGENT SUPPORT BENEFIT COVER

On approval of the application the Municipality shall provide the following

- 13.1 Basic Municipal Services which include:
 - a) Access to a minimum safe water supply i.e. 6kl of water free of charge on a monthly basis or as determined by Council
 - b) Adequate sanitation as determined by Council
 - c) Once off credit equivalent to the outstanding balance on the dwelling at the date of approval.
- 13.2 Where there are leaks after the meter or in the property, they may be attended to in terms of the bylaws S58 (4) (c) and the cost may be recovered from the Indigent Support allocation.
- 13.3 Cost of restriction shall be recovered from the Indigent Support allocation.
- 13.4 Excess usage in the event of death shall be recovered from the Indigent Support allocation.

14. MISCELLANEOUS

- 14.1 Should any circumstances not covered by this policy regarding the administration of the Indigent Support policy arise, and is urgent, it shall be referred to the General Manager, Treasury.

15. COMMUNICATION

- 15.1 From time to time the Municipality will endeavour to communicate its Policy adequately, so that members of the community are apprised of the existence of such a policy or any amendments that may have been done by Council.
- 15.2 Structures, processes and or platforms that shall be used to communicate the benefits of the policy shall include:
- a) The Ward Committee
 - b) The Ward Councillors
 - c) Community meetings
 - d) Budget and IDP road shows
 - e) Special events
 - f) Local media
- 15.3 Any communication issued by the Municipality must be coordinated by the Communications Unit or the Municipal Manager or his delegated authority.

16. SANITATION REBATE

All applications will be considered on the following basis:

- 16.1 The Sanitation Rebate subsidy will apply to a household per dwelling and not to an individual.
- 16.2 Each household shall receive a rebate on the fixed sanitation basic charge as determined by Council.
- 16.3 The legal owner of a dwelling who is responsible for the payment of the water and sanitation services account must apply for the household to be registered as a sanitation rebate beneficiary.
- 16.4 The applicant as well as any other member of the household shall not own other fixed property other than the one on which they reside.
- 16.5 The sanitation rebate shall be withdrawn by the Municipality in the event of the beneficiary misusing the system or providing incorrect information.

17. EFFECTIVE DATE

The policy shall come to effect upon approval by Council.

UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

ASSETS MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Asset Management encompasses planning/demand management, acquisitions, use, maintenance, and disposal of assets. Ugu District Municipality should use assets to affect efficient and effective service delivery to the community within the Ugu District.

The purpose of the Asset Management Policy is to govern the management of assets owned by Ugu District Municipality (both operationally and financially) to ensure that they are managed, controlled, safeguarded, and used in an efficient and effective manner.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **Accounting Standards Board** means the board established in terms of section 87 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). The section refers to the function of the board, which is to establish standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) as required by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
- 2.2. **Assets** are resources controlled by an entity as the result of past events and from which future economic benefits or future service potential are expected to flow to the entity.
- 2.3. **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 council's standards, policies, procedures, and guidelines.
- 2.4. **Infrastructure** means assets that usually display some or all of the following characteristics
 - 2.4.1. they are part of a system or network;
 - 2.4.2. they are specialised in nature and do not have alternative uses;
 - 2.4.3. they are immovable; and
 - 2.4.4. they may be subject to constraints on disposal
 - 2.4.5. Examples of infrastructure assets include road networks, sewer systems, water
 - 2.4.6. and power supply systems and communication networks
- 2.5. **Investment properties**-are defined as properties that are acquired for economic and capital gains. Examples are leased office buildings and underdeveloped land acquired for the purpose of resale in future years.
- 2.6. **Attractive items** are items of property, plant or equipment that are not significant enough for financial recognition but are attractive enough to warrant special safeguarding.
- 2.7. **Capitalization** is the recognition of expenditure as an Asset in the Financial Asset Register.
- 2.8. **Carrying amount** is the amount at which an asset is included in the balance sheet after deducting any accumulated depreciation thereon. is the amount at which an asset is recognised after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses
- 2.9. **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.
- 2.10. **Cost of acquisition**" is all the costs incurred in bring an item of plant, property or equipment to the required condition and location for its intended use.

- 2.11. Component** is a part of an asset with a significantly different useful life and significant cost in relation to the rest of the main asset. Component accounting requires that each such part should be separately accounted for and is treated separately for depreciation, recognition and derecognition purposes. It is also referred to as separately depreciable parts
- 2.12. Depreciation** is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.
- 2.13. Depreciable amount** is the cost of an asset, or other amount of an asset, or other amount substituted for cost in the financial statements, less its residual value.
- 2.14. Economic Life** is either:
- 2.14.1.** the period over which an asset is expected to yield economic benefits or service potential to one or more users, or
 - 2.14.2.** the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the
 - 2.14.3.** asset by one or more users
- 2.15. Enhancement/Rehabilitation** is an improvement or augmentation of an existing asset (including Separately depreciable parts) beyond its originally recognised service potential for example, remaining useful life, capacity, quality, and functionality
- 2.16. Fair value** is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.
- 2.17. Financial asset register** is the controlled register recording the financial and other key details for all municipal assets recognized in accordance with this policy. is a record of information on each asset that supports the effective financial and technical management of the assets, and meets statutory requirements.
- 2.18. Financially Sustainable**, in relation to the provision of a municipal service, means the provision of a municipal service in a manner aimed at ensuring that the financing of that service from internal and external sources, including budgeted income, grants and subsidies for the service, is sufficient to cover the costs of—the initial capital expenditure required for the service; operating the service; and maintaining, repairing and replacing the physical assets used in the provision of the service
- 2.19. Property, plant, and equipment** are tangible assets that: *Are held by a municipality for use in the production of goods or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, for administrative purpose, and are expected to be used during more than one period.*
- 2.20. Recoverable amount** is the amount that the municipality expects to recover from the future use of an asset, including its residual value on disposal. is the higher of a cash-generating asset's or units net selling price and its value in use.
- 2.21. Recognition** is the process by which expenditure is included in the Financial Asset Register as an asset.

- 2.22. Recognition** is the process of incorporating in the statement of financial position or statement of financial performance an item that meets the definition of an element (of financial statements) and satisfies the criteria for recognition, namely:
- 2.22.1.** It is probable that any future economic benefit or service potential associated with the item will flow to or from the entity and
 - 2.22.2.** The item has a cost or value that can be measured reliably
- 2.23. Refurbishment/Maintenance** to an asset will restore or maintain the originally assessed future economic benefits or service potential that an entity can expect from an asset and is necessary for the planned life to be achieved
- 2.24. Residual value** is the net amount that the municipality expects to obtain for an asset at the end of its useful life after deducting the expected costs of disposal. is the estimated amount that an entity would currently obtain from disposal of the asset, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life
- 2.25. Remaining Useful Life** is the time remaining (of the total estimated useful life) until an asset ceases to provide the required service level or economic usefulness
- 2.26. Service Potential** is a tangible capital asset's output or service capacity, normally determined by reference to attributes such as physical output capacity, quality of output, associated operating costs and useful life
- 2.27. Stewardship** is the act of taking care of and managing property, plant or equipment on behalf of another.
- 2.28. Useful life** is either:
- 2.28.1.** *The estimated period of time over which the future economic benefits or future service potential embodied in an asset are expected to be consumed by the municipality, or*
 - 2.28.2.** *The estimated total service potential expressed in terms of production or similar units that is expected to be obtained from the asset by the municipality.*

3. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.** To ensure the effective and efficient control, utilization, safeguarding and management of Ugu District Municipality's property, plant, and equipment.
- 3.2.** To ensure Senior managers are aware of their responsibilities in regards of infrastructure assets.
- 3.3.** To set out the standards of physical management, recording and internal controls to ensure property, plant and equipment are safeguarded against inappropriate loss or utilisation.
- 3.4.** To specify the process required before expenditure on property, plant and equipment occurs.
- 3.5.** To prescribe the accounting treatment for property, plant and equipment in Ugu District Municipality including:
 - 3.5.1.** The criteria to be met before expenditure can be capitalised as an item of property, plant, and equipment,
 - 3.5.2.** The criteria for determining the initial cost of the different items of property, plant, and equipment,

- 3.5.3. The method of calculating depreciation for different items of property, plant, and equipment,
- 3.5.4. The criteria for capitalising subsequent expenditure on property, plant, and equipment,
- 3.5.5. The policy for scrapping and disposal of property, plant, and equipment,
- 3.5.6. The classification of property, plant, and equipment

4. PRESCRIPTIVE/LEGAL FRAMEWORK

4.1. This policy must comply with all relevant legislative requirements including:

- 4.1.1. The constitution of the republic of south Africa, 1996
- 4.1.2. Municipal systems act, 2000
- 4.1.3. Municipal Finance Management Act

4.2. This policy does not over rule the requirements to comply with other policies such as:

- 4.2.1. Supply Chain Management Policy
- 4.2.2. Asset Management Policy
- 4.2.3. Disposal Policy
- 4.2.4. Fleet Management Policy
- 4.2.5. Insurance Policy
- 4.2.6. Security Policy
- 4.2.7. Facilities Management Policy

4.3. This policy is informed by the four Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), the following standards are components of fixed assets i.e.

- 4.3.1. Property, Plant and Equipment, GRAP 17
- 4.3.2. Inventories, GRAP 12
- 4.3.3. Investment Property, GRAP 16 and
- 4.3.4. Impairment of Non-cash generating assets, GRAP 21

4.4. The Chief Financial Officer will provide guidance or adjust this policy where an apparent conflict exists between this policy and other policies, legislation, or regulations

5. POLICY APPLICATION

5.1. This policy applies to all Ugu District Municipality's permanent and temporary employees: internal or external contractors (hereafter referred to as "Users" and "Third Parties") who utilise the Municipality's assets.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1. The Municipal Manager

- 6.1.1. is responsible for the management of the assets of the municipality, including the safeguarding and the maintenance of those assets.
- 6.1.2. Shall ensure that the municipality has and maintains a management, accounting and information system that accounts for the assets of the municipality;
- 6.1.3. Shall ensure that the municipality's assets are valued in accordance with standards of generally recognized accounting practice
- 6.1.4. Shall ensure that the municipality has and maintains a system of internal control of assets, including an asset register; and

- 6.1.5. Shall ensure that the General Managers and their departments comply with this policy
- 6.1.6. Shall ensure that all items of property plant and equipment are insured immediately at least against fire and theft, and that all municipal buildings are insured at least against fire and allied perils.
- 6.1.7. 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 cognisance of the budgetary resources of the Municipality.

6.2. The Chief Financial Officer.

- 6.2.1. The CFO shall be the custodian of the fixed asset register of the Municipality;
- 6.2.2. No amendments, deletions or additions to the fixed asset register shall be made other than by the Chief Financial Officer or by an official acting under the written instruction of the Chief Financial Officer.
- 6.2.3. Appropriate systems system of financial management and internal control are established and carried out diligently around asset management;
- 6.2.4. Shall ensure that the financial and other resources of the municipality are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically, and transparently;
- 6.2.5. Shall ensure that any unauthorized, irregular, or fruitless or wasteful expenditure, and losses resulting from criminal or negligent conduct, are prevented;
- 6.2.6. Shall provide the Auditor-General or his personnel, on request, with the financial records relating to assets belonging to Council as recorded in the Fixed Asset Register.
- 6.2.7. Shall ensure that financial processes are established and maintained ensure the municipality's financial resources are optimally utilized through appropriate asset plan, budgeting, purchasing, maintenance and disposal decisions.
- 6.2.8. Shall ensure that the municipal manager is appropriated advised on the exercise of powers and duties pertaining to the financial administration of assets;
- 6.2.9. Shall ensure that this policy and any supporting procedures or guidelines are established, maintained, and effectively communicated

6.3. Asset Manager:

- 6.3.1. Shall ensure that complete asset registers kept, verified, and balanced regularly.
- 6.3.2. Shall ensure that all movable and immovable assets are properly bar coded and accounted for.
- 6.3.3. Shall ensure that quarterly physical verification for movable assets are conducted
- 6.3.4. Shall ensure that annual physical verification for immovable assets are conducted.
- 6.3.5. Shall ensure that adequate bar codes and equipment to exercise the function relating to asset management is available at all times.
- 6.3.6. Shall ensure that all assets are insured in accordance with the Insurance Policy.
- 6.3.7. Shall ensure that the Fixed Asset Register is balanced quarterly and annually with the general ledger and the Trial balance/financial statements.
- 6.3.8. Shall ensure that the relevant information relating to the calculation of depreciation is obtained from the departments and provided to the Budget Treasury Office department in the prescribed format.
- 6.3.9. Shall ensure that asset acquisitions are allocated to the correct asset code.

- 6.3.10. Shall ensure that, before accepting an obsolete or damaged asset, a completed asset disposal form, counter signed by the Asset Management Section, is presented.
- 6.3.11. Shall ensure that a verifiable record is kept of all obsolete, damaged, and unused asset or asset inventory items received from all the departments.
- 6.3.12. Shall issue an asset control sheet which shall serve as a control register for all moveable assets of the Municipality. The responsible official shall sign the asset control sheet to confirm the receipt and custody of the list of assets in their offices.
- 6.3.13. Shall compile a list of the items to be auctioned in accordance with the Supply Chain Management (SCM) Policy.
- 6.3.14. Shall compile and circulate a list of unused movable assets to enable other departments to obtain items that are of use to them.
- 6.3.15. Shall ensure that the SCM unit is notified of any auctioning or disposing of written-off asset.

6.4. General Managers

- 6.4.1. Shall ensure that employees in their departments adhere to the approved Asset Management Policy.
- 6.4.2. Shall ensure that an assets coordinator with delegated authority has been nominated to implement and maintain physical control over assets in the department. The Asset Management Section must be notified of who the responsible person is. Although authority has been delegated the responsibility to ensure adequate physical control over each asset remains with the general manager.
- 6.4.3. Shall ensure that employees who contravenes the operational procedure or who use the municipal assets negligently and for their personal gain are disciplined accordingly.
- 6.4.4. Shall be directly responsible for the physical safekeeping of any asset controlled or used by the Department in question.
- 6.4.5. In exercising this responsibility, shall adhere to any written directives issued by the Municipal Manager to the Department in question, or generally to all Departments, in regard to the control of or safekeeping of the Municipality's fixed assets.

6.5. General Manager responsible for Infrastructure Assets.

- 6.5.1. Shall ensure that a maintenance policy is approved and properly implemented.
- 6.5.2. Shall develop a maintenance plan for the infrastructure assets for their section.
- 6.5.3. Shall ensure that their departments have implemented operational procedures.
- 6.5.4. Shall ensure that assets are properly maintained in accordance with the maintenance policy.
- 6.5.5. Shall ensure that the assets of the council are not used for private gain.
- 6.5.6. Shall ensure that all their movable assets as reflected on the Fixed Asset Register and are bar coded where possible.
- 6.5.7. Shall ensure that the Asset Management Section is notified of any changes in the status of the assets under the department's control.
- 6.5.8. Shall certify in writing that they have assessed and identified impairment losses on all assets at year end.
- 6.5.9. Shall ensure that all obsolete and damaged asset items, accompanied by the relevant asset form and attached disposal forms, are handed in to the Asset Management Section without delay.

- 6.5.10. Shall ensure that the correct cost element and description are being used before authorizing any requisitions.
 - 6.5.11. Shall assist during the annual physical verification of infrastructure assets including the land and building.
 - 6.5.12. Shall develop an infrastructure assets management plan for their department such as Water supply, Sanitation, Solid waste, and other Properties.
 - 6.5.13. Shall unbundled or componentized and assign estimated useful life to each component of all completed projects during the financial year and submit the componentized list to the Asset Management Unit for updating the asset register.
 - 6.5.14. Shall sign and date declarations stating that the list of componentized assets for their departments is complete & accurate except for the discrepancies as reported to Asset Management Unit.
- 6.6. All Municipal Personnel**
- 6.6.1. Shall ensure that assets assigned to them are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically, and transparently
 - 6.6.2. Shall ensure that the assets of the municipal are not used for private gain
 - 6.6.3. Shall notify the assets coordinators and assets management section of all obsolete, damaged, and stolen assets, without delay.
 - 6.6.4. Shall make available the assets under their possession for verification by the assets management unit quarterly and annually.
 - 6.6.5. Shall ensure that all assets under their possession are properly bar-coded.
 - 6.6.6. Shall ensure that on termination of service they returned the assets to their supervisors and complete a termination assets clearance form.
 - 6.6.7. Shall notify the asset coordinators and assets management unit of the movement and transfer of assets assigned to them by completing an assets transfer form.
 - 6.6.8. Shall ensure that they comply with the operational procedures.

7. POLICY PRINCIPLES: ASSET MANAGEMENT PART

7.1. Pre-Acquisition Planning:

- 7.1.1. Before a capital project is included in the budget for approval, the senior manager of the relevant department must demonstrate that they have considered:
 - 7.1.2. The projected cost over all the financial years until the project is operational;
 - 7.1.3. The future operational costs and revenue on the project, including tax and tariff implications;
 - 7.1.4. The financial sustainability of the project over its life including revenue generation and
 - 7.1.5. The physical and financial stewardship of that asset through all stages in its life including acquisition, installation, maintenance, operations, disposal, and rehabilitation;
 - 7.1.6. The inclusion of this capital project in the integrated development plan and future budgets;
 - 7.1.7. The chief financial officer is accountable to ensure the senior manager of the relevant department receives all reasonable assistance, guidance, and explanation to enable them to achieve their planning requirements.

7.2. Approval to Acquire Property Plant and Equipment:

7.2.1. Money can only be spent on a capital project if:

- 7.2.1.1.** The money has been appropriated in the capital budget,
- 7.2.1.2.** The project, including the total cost, has been approved by the council,
- 7.2.1.3.** The CFO confirms that funding is available for that specific project, and
- 7.2.1.4.** Any contract that will impose financial obligations beyond two years after the budget year must be appropriately disclosed.
- 7.2.1.5.** Acquisition of the Assets will then follow the normal process of the Supply Chain
- 7.2.1.6.** Management Policy and Procedures

7.3. Funding of capital projects

Within the municipality's on-going financial, legislative, or administrative capacity, the chief financial officer will establish and maintain the funding strategies that optimise the municipality's ability to achieve its Strategic objectives as stated in the integrated development plan.

7.4. Disposal of property plant and equipment

- 7.4.1.** The municipality may dispose of an asset in line with the Asset Disposal Policy

7.5. Establishment and Management of the Financial Asset Register

- 7.5.1.** The Chief Financial Officer will establish and maintain the Asset Register containing key financial data on each item of Property, Plant or Equipment that satisfies the criterion for recognition. Asset Manager are responsible for establishing and maintaining any additional register or database required to demonstrate their physically management of their assets.
- 7.5.2.** The Asset Manager is responsible to ensure that sufficient controls exist to substantiate the quantity, value, location and condition all assets in the registers.

7.6. Contents of the Financial Asset Register

- 7.6.1.** The fixed 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.
- 7.6.2.** The fixed asset register shall reflect at least the following information:
 - 7.6.2.1.** A brief but identifiable description of each asset
 - 7.6.2.2.** classification of each asset
 - 7.6.2.3.** the date on which the asset was acquired for use
 - 7.6.2.4.** the location of the asset
 - 7.6.2.5.** the departments within which the assets will be utilized
 - 7.6.2.6.** the responsible person for this asset
 - 7.6.2.7.** the title deed number, in the case of fixed property
 - 7.6.2.8.** the stand number, in the case of fixed property
 - 7.6.2.9.** a unique identification number
 - 7.6.2.10.** the original cost or fair value if no costs are available

- 7.6.2.11.** the (last) effective date of revaluation of the fixed assets subject to revaluation
 - 7.6.2.12.** the revalued value of such fixed assets
 - 7.6.2.13.** the valuer who did the (last) revaluation
 - 7.6.2.14.** accumulated depreciation to date
 - 7.6.2.15.** the carrying value of the asset
 - 7.6.2.16.** whether this is a cash or non-cash generating asset
 - 7.6.2.17.** the method and, where applicable, the rate of depreciation
 - 7.6.2.18.** impairment losses
 - 7.6.2.19.** impairment recovery
 - 7.6.2.20.** the source of financing
 - 7.6.2.21.** whether the asset is required to perform basic municipal services;
 - 7.6.2.22.** the date on which the asset is disposed of
 - 7.6.2.23.** the disposal proceeds
 - 7.6.2.24.** the date on which the asset is retired from active use, and held for disposal
 - 7.6.2.25.** the residual value of each asset
 - 7.6.2.26.** measurement model
- 7.6.3.** An asset shall be capitalised, that is, recorded in the fixed assets 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 an asset.
 - 7.6.4.** An asset shall remain in the fixed assets register for as long as it is in physical existence. The fact that a fixed asset has been fully depreciated shall not in itself be a reason for writing off such an asset.

7.7. Physical Verification of all assets

- 7.7.1.** The Asset Management Section shall conduct a physical verification quarterly for movable assets and annually for immovable assets.
- 7.7.2.** The cooperation of all Municipal personnel shall be required in accomplishing the physical Verification task in attempt to minimize the time demanded of them.
- 7.7.3.** The designated officials in the different Departments within municipality must execute the functions listed below:
 - 7.7.3.1.** Ensure that the bar code number and location number are reflected on the asset movement form by the relevant official on the receipt of the asset. Where applicable, the serial number or registration number should be included
 - 7.7.3.2.** Complete the asset movement form when transfers occur and forward the completed original form to Asset Management Section.
 - 7.7.3.3.** Ensure that a completed asset disposal form is submitted when an asset item is disposed of after the necessary approval has been obtained.

7.8. Classification, aggregations & components

7.8.1. Classification of Assets

7.8.1.1. Assets that meet the definition and the recognition criteria shall be capitalized in the fixed assets register and be classified as follows

7.8.1.2. Property Plant and equipment if its meet the definition of property plant and equipment as per GRAP 17,

7.8.1.3. Intangibles assets if its meet the definition of an intangible assets as GRAP 102,

7.8.1.4. Investment properties if it's the definition of the investment properties as per GRAP 16

7.8.2. Major Component

7.8.2.1. The Asset Manager may, with agreement of the Chief Financial Officer, treat specified major Components of an item of property plant or equipment as a separate asset for the purposes of this Policy.

7.8.2.2. These major components may be defined by its physical parameters or its financial parameters.

7.8.2.3. In agreeing to these treatments, the CFO must be satisfied that these components:

7.8.2.3.1. *Have significantly a different useful life or usage pattern to the main asset,*

7.8.2.3.2. *Align with the asset management plans,*

7.8.2.3.3. *The benefits justify the costs of separate identification,*

7.8.2.3.4. *It is probable that future economic benefits or potential service delivery associated with the asset will flow to the municipality,*

7.8.2.3.5. *The cost of the asset to the municipality can be measured reliably,*

7.8.2.3.6. *The municipality has gained control over the asset,*

7.8.2.3.7. *The asset is expected to be used during more than one financial year.*

7.8.2.4. Once a major component is recognized as a separate asset, it may be acquired, depreciated, and disposed of as if it were a separate asset.

7.8.2.5. All other replacements, renewals of refurbishments of components will be expensed.

8. POLICY PRINCIPLES: ACCOUNTING POLICY PART:

8.1. Recognition of Assets

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment shall be recognised as an asset if, and only if:

8.1.1. it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the entity, and

8.1.2. the cost or fair value of the item can be measured reliably

8.2. Measurement at recognition.

8.2.1. An item of assets that qualifies for recognition as an asset shall be measured at its cost.

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

8.3. *Elements of cost*

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment comprises:

- 8.3.1.** Its purchase price, including import duties and non-refundable purchase taxes, after deducting trade discounts and rebates.
- 8.3.2.** 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.
- 8.3.3.** 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.
- 8.3.4.** Examples of directly attributable costs are:
 - 8.3.4.1.** Costs of employee benefits (as defined in the Standard of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice on *Employee Benefits*) arising directly from the construction or acquisition of the item of property, plant, and equipment,
 - 8.3.4.2.** costs of site preparation,
 - 8.3.4.3.** initial delivery and handling costs,
 - 8.3.4.4.** installation and assembly costs,
 - 8.3.4.5.** costs of testing whether the asset is functioning properly, after deducting net proceeds from selling any items produced while bringing the asset to that location and condition
 - 8.3.4.6.** Professional fees.

8.4. *Measurement after recognition*

After recognition as an asset, an item of property, plant and equipment shall be carried at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses

- 8.4.1.** Each part of an item of property, plant, and equipment with a cost that insignificant in relation to the total cost of the item shall be depreciated separately
- 8.4.2.** The depreciation charge for each period shall be recognised in surplus or deficit unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.
- 8.4.3.** Depreciation of an asset begins when it is available for use, i.e. when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.
- 8.4.4.** Depreciation of an asset ceases when the asset is derecognised.
- 8.4.5.** Therefore, depreciation does not cease when the asset become idle or is retired from active use held for disposal unless the asset is fully depreciated.
- 8.4.6.** The depreciable amount of an asset is determined after deducting its residual value.
- 8.4.7.** The residual value for infrastructure assets, Heritage assets, community assets and intangible assets shall be zero at initial measurement.

8.5. *Initial determination useful life*

- 8.5.1.** The asset management unit needs to determine the useful life of a particular item or class property, plant and equipment through the development of a strategic asset management plan that forecasts the expected useful life that

asset. This should be developed as part of the Pre-Acquisition Planning that would consider the following factors:

- 8.5.1.1.1. The operational, maintenance, renewal and disposal program that will optimize the expect long term costs of owning that asset,
- 8.5.1.1.2. economic obsolescence because it is too expensive to maintain,
- 8.5.1.1.3. functional obsolescence because it no longer meets the municipalities needs,
- 8.5.1.1.4. technological obsolescence,
- 8.5.1.1.5. social obsolescence due to changing demographics, and
- 8.5.1.1.6. Legal obsolescence due to statutory constraints

8.6. Rate of depreciation

- 8.6.1. The Chief Financial Officer shall assign a useful operating life to each depreciable asset recorded on the Municipality's fixed asset register. In determining such a useful life the Chief Financial Officer shall adhere to the useful lives of assets set out in this Policy document. *Refer to Annexure A: Useful Lives*
- 8.6.2. In the case of an asset which is not listed in useful lives of assets, 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 asset in question, and shall be guided in determining such useful life by the likely pattern in which the asset's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.

8.7. Review of useful life, depreciation method and the residual value

- 8.7.1. The useful life, depreciation method and the residual value applied to an asset shall be reviewed at least at each reporting date and, if there has been a significant change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset, the method, useful life and residual value shall be changed to reflect the changed pattern.
- 8.7.2. Such a change shall be accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate in accordance with Standard of GRAP 3 on Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates, and Errors

8.8. Review of depreciation method

- 8.8.1. The depreciation method applied to an asset shall be reviewed at least at each reporting date and, if there has been a significant change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset, the method shall be changed to reflect the changed pattern. Such a change shall be accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate in accordance with Standard of GRAP 3 on Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates, and Errors.

8.9. Alternative methods of depreciation in specific instances

- 8.9.1. The Chief Financial Officer may employ the sum-of-units method of depreciation in the case of assets which are physically wasted in providing economic benefits or delivering services.
- 8.9.2. The Chief Financial Officer shall only employ this method of depreciation if the Head of Department controlling or using the asset in question gives a written undertaking to the Municipal Manager to provide:

8.9.2.1. estimates of statistical information required by the Chief Financial Officer to prepare estimates of depreciation expenses for each financial year; and

8.9.2.2. actual statistical information, for each financial year.

8.9.3. The Head of Department concerned shall moreover undertake to provide such statistical information at the specific times stipulated by the Chief Financial Officer.

8.9.4. Where the Chief Financial Officer decides to employ the sum-of-units method of depreciation, and the requirements set out in the preceding paragraph have been adhered to, the Chief Financial Officer shall inform the Council of the Municipality of the decision in question.

8.10. *Subsequent expenditure on property plant and equipment*

8.10.1. Assets are often modified during their life. There are two main types of modification:

8.10.1.1. Enhancements / Rehabilitation:

8.10.1.1.1. This is where work is carried out on the asset that increases its service potential. Enhancements normally increase the service potential of the asset, and or may extend an asset's useful life and result in an increase in value.

8.10.1.1.2. These expenses are not part of the life cycle of the asset. These costs normally become necessary during the life of an asset due to a change in use of the asset or technological advances.

8.10.1.1.3. Disbursements of this nature relating to an asset, which has already been recognized in the financial statements, should be added to the carrying amount of that asset. The value of the asset is thus increased when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the Council over the remaining life of the asset.

8.10.1.1.4. To be classified as capital spending, the expenditure must lead to at least one of the following economic effects:

8.10.1.1.4.1. Modification of an item or plant to extend its useful life, including an increase in its capacity;

8.10.1.1.4.2. Upgrading machine parts to achieve a substantial improvement in the quality of output;

8.10.1.1.4.2.1. Adoption of new production processes enabling a substantial reduction in previously assessed operating costs;

8.10.1.1.4.2.2. Extensions or modifications to improve functionality such as installing computer cabling or increasing the speed of a lift;

8.10.1.1.4.3. Improve the performance of the asset

8.10.1.1.5. Expenditure related to repairs or maintenance of property, plant and equipment are made to restore or maintain the future

economic benefits or service potential that a municipality can expect from the asset.

- 8.10.1.1.6.** Refurbishment of works does not extend functionality or the life of the asset, but are necessary for the planned life to be achieved. In such cases, the value of the asset is not affected, and the costs of the refurbishment are regarded as operating expense in the statement of financial performance.

8.10.1.2. *Maintenance / Refurbishments*

- 8.10.1.2.1.** Expenditure related to repairs or maintenance of property, plant and equipment are made to restore or maintain the future economic benefits or service potential that a municipality can expect from the asset.

- 8.10.1.2.2.** Refurbishment of works does not extend functionality or the life of the asset, but are necessary for the planned life to be achieved. In such cases, the value of the asset is not affected, and the costs of the refurbishment are regarded as operating expense in the statement of financial performance.

8.11. IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

- 8.11.1.** The Municipality shall assess at each reporting period whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the Municipality shall estimate the recoverable service amount of the asset
- 8.11.2.** Irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment, the Municipality shall also test an intangible asset with an indefinite life or an intangible asset not yet available for use for impairment annually by comparing its carrying amount with its recoverable amount.
- 8.11.3.** In assessing whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired the Municipality shall consider as a minimum the following indications:
 - 8.11.4. External indicators**
 - 8.11.4.1.** Cessation or near cessation of the demand or need for services provided by the asset
 - 8.11.4.2.** Significant long term changes with an adverse effect on the on the Municipality have taken place during the period or will take place in the near future, in the technological, legal or government policy environment which the Municipality operates.
 - 8.11.5. Internal indicators**
 - 8.11.5.1.** Evidence is available of physical damage of an asset
 - 8.11.5.2.** Significant long term changes with an adverse effect on the entity have taken place during the period, or are expected to take place in the near future in the extent to which or manner in which the asset is used or expected to be used. These changes include the asset becoming idle, plans to discontinue or restructure the operation to which an asset

belongs or plans to dispose of an asset before the previously expected date

- 8.11.5.3.** A decision to halt the construction of the asset before it is complete or in a usable condition
- 8.11.5.4.** Evidence is available from internal reporting that indicates that the service performance of an asset is or will be significantly worse than expected
- 8.11.6.** The Chief Financial Officer shall amend the useful operating life assigned to any asset if it becomes known that such asset 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 asset's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.
- 8.11.7.** If the value of property plant and equipment has been diminished to such an extent that it has no or a negligible further useful operating life or value such asset shall be fully depreciated in the financial year in which such diminution in value occurs.
- 8.11.8.** Similarly, if an item of property, plant and equipment 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 asset has physically ceased to exist, it shall be written off the fixed asset register.
- 8.11.9.** Every General Manager shall ensure that any incident of loss, theft, destruction, or material impairment of any asset controlled or used by the Department in question is promptly reported in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, to the Internal Auditor, and – in cases of suspected theft or malicious damage – also to the South African Police Service.
- 8.11.10.** In all the foregoing instances, the additional depreciation expenses shall be debited to the Department or Vote controlling or using the asset in question.

8.12. Derecognition Of Assets

- 8.12.1.** 23.1 The carrying amount of an item of property plant and equipment shall be derecognised:
 - 8.12.1.1.** a) On disposal, or
 - 8.12.1.2.** b) When no future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its use or disposal
- 8.12.2.** The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property plant and equipment shall be included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognised
- 8.12.3.** The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment shall be determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds if any and the carrying amount of an item.
- 8.12.4.** Every Head of Department shall report in writing to the Manager: Assets all assets controlled or used by the Department concerned which such Head of Department wishes to alienate by public auction. The Manager: Assets shall thereafter consolidate the requests received from the various Departments, and shall promptly report such consolidated information to the Disposal Committee of the Municipality, refer to Disposal Policy.

- 8.12.5. Once the item of property, plant, and equipment is disposed, the Chief Financial Officer shall delete the relevant records from the fixed asset register.
- 8.12.6. 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 above procedures, except that the process of alienation shall be by private treaty.

8.13. Other write-offs of assets

- 8.13.1. The item of property, plant, and equipment even though fully depreciated shall be written off only on the recommendation of the Head of Department controlling or using the asset concerned, and with the approval of the Council of the Municipality.
- 8.13.2. Every General Manager shall report to The Manager: Assets any items of property, plant, and equipment which such General Manager wishes to have written off, stating in full the reason for such recommendation. The Manager: Assets shall consolidate all such reports, and shall promptly submit a recommendation to the disposal committee on the assets to be written off.
- 8.13.3. The only reasons for writing off property, plant and equipment other than the alienation of such assets, shall be the loss, theft, and destruction or material impairment of the asset in question.
- 8.13.4. In every instance where a not fully depreciated asset 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 asset concerned

9. Financial Disclosure

- 9.1. The financial statements shall disclose, for each class of property, plant, and equipment recognised in the financial statements:
 - 9.1.1. the measurement bases used for determining the gross carrying amount,
 - 9.1.2. the depreciation methods used,
 - 9.1.3. the useful lives or the depreciation rates used,
 - 9.1.4. the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation (aggregated with accumulated impairment losses) at the beginning and end of the period, and
 - 9.1.5. a reconciliation of the carrying amount at the beginning and end of the period showing:
 - 9.1.5.1. additions,
 - 9.1.5.2. disposals,
 - 9.1.5.3. acquisitions through business combinations,
 - 9.1.5.4. increases or decreases resulting from revaluations and from impairment losses recognised or reversed directly in net assets under the Standard of GRAP on Impairment of Assets, impairment losses recognised in surplus or deficit in accordance with the Standard of GRAP on Impairment of Assets,
 - 9.1.5.5. impairment losses reversed in surplus or deficit in accordance with the Standard of GRAP on Impairment of Assets,
 - 9.1.5.6. depreciation,
- 9.2. The financial statements shall also disclose for each class of property, plant, and equipment recognised in the financial statements:

- 9.2.1. the existence and amounts of restrictions on title and property, plant and equipment pledged as securities for liabilities,
- 9.2.2. the amount of expenditures recognised in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant, and equipment in the course of its construction,
- 9.2.3. the amount of contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, and equipment, and
- 9.2.4. If it is not disclosed separately on the face of the statement of financial performance, the amount of compensation from third parties for items of property, plant and equipment that were impaired, lost or given up that is included in surplus or deficit.
- 9.2.5. If items of property, plant and equipment are stated at revalue amounts, the following shall be disclosed:
 - 9.2.5.1. the effective date of the revaluation,
 - 9.2.5.2. whether an independent valour was involved,
 - 9.2.5.3. the methods and significant assumptions applied in estimating the items' fair values,
 - 9.2.5.4. the extent to which the items' fair values were determined directly by
 - 9.2.5.4.1. reference to observable prices in an active market or recent market
 - 9.2.5.4.2. transactions on arm's length terms or were estimated using other
 - 9.2.5.4.3. valuation techniques,
 - 9.2.5.4.4. for each revalue class of property, plant, and equipment, the carrying amount that would have been recognised had the assets been carried under the cost model, and
 - 9.2.5.4.5. The revaluation surplus, indicating the change for the period and any restrictions on the distribution of the balance to owners of net assets.
- 9.2.6. Financial statements shall also disclose the following for each class of property, plant, and equipment:
 - 9.2.6.1. The carrying amount of temporarily idle property, plant, and equipment,
 - 9.2.6.2. The gross carrying amount of any fully depreciated property, plant and equipment that is still in use, and
 - 9.2.6.3. The carrying amount of property, plant and equipment retired from active use and held for disposal.
- 9.2.7. The financial statement shall disclose the following for each class of intangible assets, distinguishing between the internally generated intangible assets and other intangibles assets:
 - 9.2.7.1. Whether the useful lives are indefinite or finite and, if finite, the useful
 - 9.2.7.2. Lives or the amortisation rates used.
 - 9.2.7.3. The amortisation methods used for intangible assets with finite useful lives.
 - 9.2.7.4. The gross carrying amount and any accumulated amortisation
 - 9.2.7.5. (Aggregated with accumulated impairment losses) at the beginning and end of the period.
 - 9.2.7.6. The line item(s) of the statement of financial performance in which any amortisation of intangible assets is included.
 - 9.2.7.7. A reconciliation of the carrying amount at the beginning and end of the period showing:
 - 9.2.7.7.1. additions, indicating separately those from internal development and those acquired separately;

- 9.2.7.7.2. disposals;
- 9.2.7.7.3. assets classified as held for sale or included in a disposal group classified as held for sale in accordance with the Standard of GRAP on Non-Current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations;
- 9.2.7.7.4. increases or decreases during the period resulting from revaluations under paragraphs .78, .88 and .89 and from impairment losses recognised or reversed directly in net assets in accordance (if any) with the Standards of GRAP on Impairment of Assets;
- 9.2.7.7.5. impairment losses recognised in surplus or deficit during the period in accordance (if any) with the Standards of GRAP on Impairment of Assets;
- 9.2.7.7.6. impairment losses reversed in surplus or deficit during the period in accordance (if any) with the Standards of GRAP on Impairment of Assets);
- 9.2.7.7.7. any amortisation recognised during the period; net exchange differences arising on the translation of the financial statements into the presentation currency, and on the translation of a foreign operation into the presentation currency of the entity; and
- 9.2.7.7.8. Other changes in the carrying amount during the period.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 10.1. This Policy shall be monitored and evaluated by the General Manager: Budget Treasury Office and regular monitoring reports submitted to the Management Committee Meeting, Finance Portfolio Committee, Executive Committee, and Full Council Meetings.

11. COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLICY

- 11.1. This Policy shall come into effect on the date of the adoption by the Ugu District Municipality Council.

12. AMENDMENT AND/OR ABOLITION

- 12.1. This policy may be amended or repealed by the Municipality through a Council Resolution.

13. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- 13.1. Violation or non-compliance with this policy will give a just cause for disciplinary steps to be taken.

14. POLICY REVIEW

- 14.1. This Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure applicability and relevance.

15. APPEAL PROCESS/ GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 15.1. The policy must also state what will happen if one of the users thereof is not satisfied or there is a violation with the implementation process.

16. RECORDS OF APPROVAL

ANNEXURE A: ASSET USEFUL LIVES

1. INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

The following is the list of infrastructure assets, with the estimated useful life in years indicated in brackets in each case.

1.1. WATER

1.1.1. Mains	(20)
1.1.2. Supply and reticulation networks	(20)
1.1.3. Reservoirs and storage tanks	(20)
1.1.4. Meters	(15)
1.1.5. Rights (that is, the right to draw water from a particular source belonging to another party)	(20)

1.2. SEWERAGE

1.2.1. Sewer mains	(20)
1.2.2. Outfall sewers	(20)
1.2.3. Sewage purification works	(20)
1.2.4. Sewerage pumps	(15)
1.2.5. Sludge machines	(15)

1.3. PEDESTRIAN MALLS

1.3.1. Footways	(20)
1.3.2. Kerbing	(20)
1.3.3. Paving	(20)

1.4. SECURITY MEASURES

1.4.1. Access control systems	(5)
1.4.2. Security systems	(5)
1.4.3. Security fencing	(3)

2. INVESTMENT ASSETS

2.1. It is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of investment assets, as the actual list will depend very much on the local circumstances of each municipality. However, the following will be among the most frequently encountered:

2.1.1. Office parks (which have been developed by the municipality itself or jointly between the municipality and one or more other parties)	(30)
2.1.2. Shopping centres (again developed along similar lines)	(30)
2.1.3. Housing developments (that is, developments financed and managed by the municipality itself, with the sole purpose of selling or letting such houses for profit)	(30)

3. **BUILDINGS**

3.1. The following is a list of buildings assets, again showing the estimated useful life in years in brackets:

3.1.1. Abattoirs	(30)
3.1.2. Asphalt plant	(30)
3.1.3. Cable stations	(30)
3.1.4. Caravan parks	(30)
3.1.5. Compacting stations	(30)
3.1.6. Hostels used to accommodate the public or tourists	(30)
3.1.7. Hostels for municipal employees	(30)
3.1.8. Housing schemes	(30)
3.1.9. Kilns	(30)
3.1.10. Laboratories	(30)
3.1.11. Fresh produce and other markets	(30)
3.1.12. Nurseries	(30)
3.1.13. Office buildings	(30)
3.1.14. Old age homes	(30)
3.1.15. Quarries	(30)
3.1.16. Tip sites	(30)
3.1.17. Training centres	(30)
3.1.18. Transport facilities	(30)
3.1.19. Workshops and depots	(30)

4. **OTHER ASSETS**

4.1. The following is a list of other assets, again showing the estimated useful life in years in brackets:

4.1.1. **OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

4.1.1.1. Computer hardware	(5)
4.1.1.2. Computer software	(3-5)
4.1.1.3. Office machines	(3-5)
4.1.1.4. Air conditioners	(5-7)

4.1.2. **FURNITURE AND FITTINGS**

4.1.2.1. Chairs	(7-10)
4.1.2.2. Tables and desks	(7-10)
4.1.2.3. Cabinets and cupboards	(7-10)
4.1.2.4. Bins and containers Household refuse bins	(5)
4.1.2.5. Bulk refuse containers	(10)
4.1.2.6. Emergency equipment Fire hoses	(5)
4.1.2.7. Other fire-fighting equipment	(15)
4.1.2.8. Emergency lights	(5)

4.1.3. **MOTOR VEHICLES**

4.1.3.1. Ambulances	(5-10)
4.1.3.2. Fire engines	(20)
4.1.3.3. Buses	(15)
4.1.3.4. Trucks and light delivery vehicles	(5-7)
4.1.3.5. Ordinary motor vehicles	(5-7)
4.1.3.6. Motor cycles	(3)

4.1.4. **PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

4.1.4.1. Graders	(10-15)
4.1.4.2. Tractors	(10-15)
4.1.4.3. Mechanical horses	(10-15)
4.1.4.4. Farm equipment	(5)
4.1.4.5. Lawn mowers	(2)
4.1.4.6. Compressors	(5)
4.1.4.7. Laboratory equipment	(5)
4.1.4.8. Radio equipment	(5)
4.1.4.9. Firearms	(5)
4.1.4.10. Telecommunication equipment	(5)
4.1.4.11. Cable cars	(15)
4.1.4.12. Irrigation systems	(15)
4.1.4.13. Cremators	(15)
4.1.4.14. Lathes	(15)
4.1.4.15. Filling equipment	(15)
4.1.4.16. Conveyors	(15)
4.1.4.17. Feeders	(15)
4.1.4.18. Tippers	(15)
4.1.4.19. Pulverising mills	(15)

4.1.5. **OTHER**

4.1.5.1. Aircraft	(15)
4.1.5.2. Watercraft	(15)