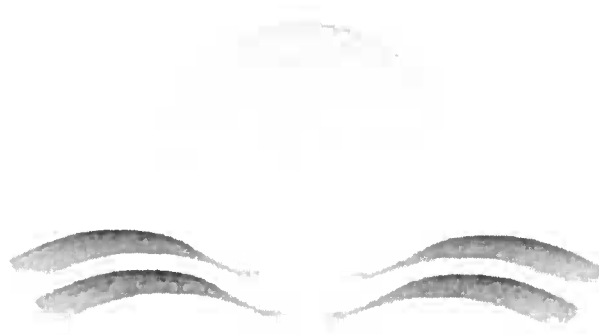


UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

“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 SUPPORT

- 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:

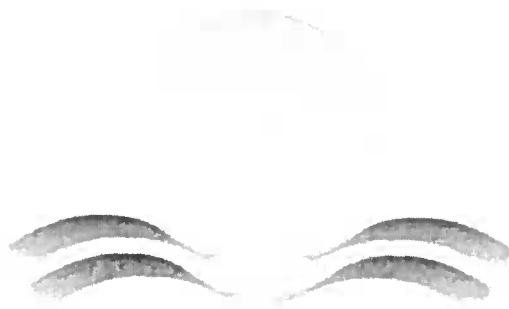
- 16.1 The Sanitation Rebate subsidy will apply to a household per dwelling and not to an individual.
- 16.2 Each household shall receive a rebate on the fixed sanitation basic charge as determined by Council.
- 16.3 The legal owner of a dwelling who is responsible for the payment of the water and sanitation 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

“The Municipality”



CASH, BANKING AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY

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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.

“Act” means the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000.

“Accounting Principles” mean stipulated guidelines to be followed.

“Acquisition” means acquiring goods or services through procurement policies.

“Agents” mean professional bodies appointed to execute a specific task on behalf of the Ugu District Municipality.

“Accounts” mean statement of moneys received.

“Assignee” means a person with a delegated authority.

“Bank” means an institution recognised by the Registrar of Banks.

“Bank Account” is the recognised statement of financial holdings on behalf of the municipality.

“Cash” means money, such as bank notes and coin, or cash equivalents.

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

“Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996” means the Supreme Law of the Republic of South Africa.

“Cash Management” means efficient and effective management of funds.

“Delegate” means an official/person delegated to perform tasks on behalf of another person.

“Delegated Authority” means any person/persons/committee delegated with the authority to act for on behalf of Ugu District Municipality.

“Diversification of Investments” means investing in more, or more than one type of financial instrument.

“Investment Ethics” mean ethical framework within which investments must take place.

“Liquidity” means the ease with which financial instruments can be converted to cash or cash equivalents.

“Municipal Entity” means the developmental arm of the municipality established in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, in particular.

“Municipality” means the Ugu District Municipality.

“Ownership” means that all investments must be made in the name of the Ugu District Municipality.

“Short term investment” means a financial instrument with a lifespan or maturity of less than or equal to 1 year.

“Long term investment” means financial instrument with a lifespan or maturity of greater than a year.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 In terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003, Section 13(2): "Each Municipal Council and Governing body shall adopt by resolution cash, banking and investment policy regarding the investment of its cash resources not immediately required.
- 2.2 An Accounting Officer has an obligation to ensure that cash resources are managed as effectively, efficiently and economically as possible. Competitive investment and effective cash management ensures both short term and long-term viability and sustainability of the Municipality. Hence, it is critical for the Municipality to have its own cash, banking and investment management policy located within the local government legislative framework. This Policy should be read and understood against this background.
- 2.3 The primary and the ultimate goal of the investing funds is to earn the safety of returns on investment principal, an amount invested whilst managing liquidity requirements and, providing the highest return on investment at minimum risk, within the parameters of authorised instruments as per the MFMA

3. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Opening of a Bank Account

The Chief Financial Officer will ensure that the Municipality opens and maintains the following minimum bank accounts:

- a) General Bank Account – normal municipal receipts and payments
- b) External Financing Fund – to record loan receipts and accumulations towards the repayment of such loans
- c) Capital Replacement reserve – this reserve must be cash backed at all times and therefore requires a separate bank account
- d) Unutilised Capital Receipts – this is to account for unutilised conditional grant monies and developer contributions, requires a separate bank account and must be cash backed.
- e) Consumer deposits – this is to account for consumer deposits received and must be cash backed and requires a separate bank account.
- f) A specific account will be identified as a primary bank account and all the allocations from national, provincial and other spheres of government will be deposited into this account

3.2 Management of a Bank Account

Only the Accounting Officer or his/her delegate is authorised to withdraw money from the Municipality's bank account and the delegated powers shall be in accordance with limits which will be specified by the Accounting Officer

The responsibility for the management of all the Municipal bank accounts will be allocated by the Chief Financial Officers to the officials of the Treasury department in accordance with their job descriptions. The Chief Financial Officer or his/her delegate will review reconciliations of all the Municipal bank accounts on a monthly basis.

4. CASH MANAGEMENT

4.1 All monies received by the Municipality must be deposited into the Municipal primary bank account promptly.

The Chief Financial Officer will establish an internal control procedure for the operation and maintenance of the following process with regards to cash management:

- a) Receipting, and banking of and reconciliations of daily cash and cheques
- b) Returned cheque register
- c) Unallocated receipts/deposit registers

4.2 The Chief Financial Officer, inter-alia, has to ensure financial viability and sustainability of the Municipality. In order to achieve this in a sustainable manner, the Chief Financial Officer must ensure that internal financial systems and controls are in place that will enable the Municipality to detect the mismanagement of funds.

4.3 Cash Collection:

4.3.1 All monies due to the Municipality must be collected as soon as possible, either on or immediately after due date, and banked on a daily basis. Cash left in the safe can pose a security risk, could necessitate additional insurance coverage and does not earn any interest. Special deposits should be arranged for larger amounts to ensure that these are banked on the next working day they are received.

4.3.2 All monies collected by the Council must be banked in the primary bank account of the Municipality.

4.3.3 The respective responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer and other Heads of Departments in this regard are defined in a procedures manual approved by the Municipal Manager and the Chief Financial Officer.

- 4.3.4 It is important that all monies owing to the Council are correctly reflected in the debtors system. The following control measures are necessary:
- a) A well managed debtors and banking control system will ensure that funds owed to the Council are received and banked; and
 - b) It is also important to review debt collection performance by comparing the debtors outstanding in relation to total revenue and then comparing this to previous financial years, in order to determine whether the debt collection process is deteriorating or improving.
- 4.3.5 The unremitant support of and commitment to the Municipality's credit control Policy, both by the Council and the Municipality's officials, is an integral part of proper cash collections, and by approving the present Policy the Council pledges itself to such support and commitment.

4.4 Petty Cash

- a) The Municipality keeps petty cash floats at two of its offices, that is Treasury office and Park Rynie office. Each petty cash float will be limited to R2 000 for the Treasury office.
- b) Each transaction of petty cash shall not exceed R2 000.-
- c) The officials who are responsible for petty cash management will be independent of all other cash functions like cashiering
- d) An imprest system of petty cash will be used.

5. CASH FLOW ESTIMATES

- 5.1 Before money can be invested, the Accounting Officer or his/her delegate must determine whether there will be surplus funds after meeting the necessary obligations.
- 5.2 To be able to make investments for any fixed terms; it is essential that cash flow estimates are prepared.
- 5.3 The Auditor-General requires the financial institution, where the investment is made, to issue a certificate for each investment made. This certificate must state that no commission has, nor will, be paid to any agent or third party, or to any person nominated by the agent or third party.

6. INVESTMENT ETHICS

- 6.1 The Accounting Officer and his/her delegate are responsible for the investment of funds and must ensure that there is no interference in these processes.

- 6.2 Under no circumstances may the Accounting Officer and his/her delegate ~~he/she~~ accept bribes into making an investment.
- 6.3 No member of staff may accept any gift unless that gift can be deemed so small that it would not have an influence on his/her relationship with the said institution.
- 6.4 The gift must be declared to the Municipality.
- 6.5 The Accounting Officer and his/her delegate must act according to their discretion and must report any serious cases of payment in kind or gifts, to the Municipal Council. Excessive gifts and hospitality should be avoided at all costs.

7. INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

7.1 Risk management

The preservation of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. To attain this objective, diversification is required to ensure that the Accounting Officer or his/her nominee prudently manages risk exposure. Risk profiles should be minimised by only placing investments with institutions and instruments approved by the Public Investment Commission or the Republic of South Africa: National Minister of Finance.

7.2 Prudence

Investments shall be made with care, skill, prudence and diligence. The approach must be that which a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with investment matters would use in the investment of funds of like character and with like aims, to safeguard the principal and maintain the liquidity needs of the Municipality. Investment officials are required to:

- a) Adhere to written procedures and policy guidelines.
- b) Exercise due diligence.
- c) Prepare all reports timeously.
- d) Exercise strict compliance with all legislation.

7.3 Ownership

All investments must be made in the name of the Ugu District Municipality.

7.4 Risk and Return

Although the objective of the Accounting Officer and/ Chief Financial Officer in making investments on behalf of the Municipality shall always be to obtain the best interest rate on offer, this consideration must be tempered by the degree of risk involved in regard to both the financial institution and the investment instrument concerned. No investment shall be made with an institution where the degree of risk is perceived to be higher than the average

risk associated with investment institutions. Deposits shall be made only with registered deposit-taking institutions (see Gazette 27431 1 April 2005).

8. INVESTMENT PROCEDURE

8.1 After determining whether there is cash available for investment and fixing the maximum term of investment, the Municipal Manager must consider the way in which the investment is to be made.

8.2 Short-term Investment

- a) The term of investment shall not be more than 12 months.
- b) Quotations must be obtained from a minimum of three financial institutions, for the term of which the funds will be invested.
- c) Should one of the institutions offer a better rate for a term, other than the term originally quoted for, the other institutions which were approached, must also be asked to quote a rate for the other term.
- d) Quotations can be obtained telephonically, as rates generally change on a regular basis and time is a determining factor when investments are made
- e) No attempts must be made to make institutions compete with each other.

8.3 Long-term investment

- a) Written quotations must be obtained for investments made for periods longer than twelve months.
- b) The prior approval of the Council must be obtained for all investments made for periods longer than twelve months after considering the cash requirement for the next three years.

8.4 Investment maturity

- a) Upon maturity of the investment the Municipality shall do one of the following:
 - i. Shall withdraw the whole amount invested.
 - ii. Shall re-invest 100% interest plus the original amount that had been invested, in terms of the investment procedure, unless if Council wishes to utilise the original money or the interest.
 - iii. Shall withdraw the interest and re-invest the original capital amount.

8.5 Early withdrawal of invested funds

- a) When investing the funds with the banking institutions the Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that such funds are not withdrawn earlier than the maturity date agreed upon,

by so doing the Municipality will not incur fruitless and wasteful expenditures in form of penalties resulting from early withdrawal of investments.

- b) The Chief Financial Officer shall only withdraw funds if :
 - i) the banking institution concerned has agreed to exempt any penalties due to early withdrawal of investment or;
 - ii) the Accounting Officer may grant approval to withdraw the invested funds after he/she has satisfied himself/herself that the urgency was unforeseeable at the time when funds were invested and that the need for funds far outweighs the penalties being paid for such early withdrawal.

8.6 Call deposits and fixed deposits:

- a) Before making any call or fixed deposits, the Chief Financial Officer, shall obtain quotations from at least three registered financial institutions.
- b) Given the volatility of the money market, the Chief Financial Officer, shall, whenever necessary, request quotations telephonically, and shall record in an appropriate register the name of the institution, the name of the person contacted, and the relevant terms and rates offered by such institution, as well as any other information which may be relevant (for example, whether the interest is payable monthly or only on maturity, and so forth).
- c) Once the best investment terms have been identified, written confirmation of the telephonic quotation must be immediately obtained (by facsimile, e-mail or any other expedient means).
- d) Any monies paid over to the investing institution in terms of the agreed investment (other than monies paid over in terms of part 8 below) shall be paid over only to such institution itself and not to any agent or third party. Once the investment has been made, the Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that the Municipality receives a properly documented receipt or certificate for such investment, issued by the institution concerned in the name of the Municipality.

9. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

- 9.1 The delegation to authorise investments must distinguish between short term & long-term investments. The authority to make long-term investments as provision of security, is vested with the Municipal Council in terms of Section 48 of the MFMA and with reference to section 11(1) (h) of the MFMA dealing with cash management, the responsibility to make short investments lies with the Accounting Officer or Chief Financial Officer or any other senior financial officer authorised by either the Accounting Officer or the Chief Financial Officer/ relevant assignee.

- 9.2 The Local Government Municipal Systems Act of 2000, Section 3, (60) (2) states that the Municipal Council may only delegate to an Accounting Officer, Executive Committee, Mayor or Chief Financial Officer decisions to make investments on behalf of the municipality within a policy framework determined by the Minister of Finance.
- 9.3 The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the investment of municipality's funds that are made under section 13 of the Municipal Finance Management Act.

10. INVESTMENT ISSUE PERTAINING TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL APPROVAL

- 10.1 In the event that an investment that needs to be made, quotations are required from at least three registered financial institutions. In the case of telephonic quotations, the following information is required:
- a) The name of the Institution,
 - b) The name of the person, who gave the quotation,
 - c) The relevant terms and rates and
 - d) Other facts such as if interest is payable on a monthly basis or on a compound basis upon maturation.
- 10.2 All investment documents must be signed by two authorised cheque signatories.
- 10.3 The Chief Financial Officer must ensure that a bank, insurance company or other financial institution, which at the end of a financial year holds, or at any time during a financial year held, an investment for the Municipality must:
- a) Within 30 days after the end of that financial year, notify the Auditor-General, in writing, of that investment, including the opening and closing balances of that investment in that financial year and
 - b) Promptly disclose information regarding the investment when so requested by the National Treasury or the Auditor-General.
 - c) Promptly disclose information of any possible or actual change in the investment portfolio, which could or will have a material adverse effect.

11. MUNICIPAL ENTITIES

The board of Directors of all municipal entities must adopt this cash management and investment policy. Further, the same municipal entities must submit reports, as detailed in the reporting and monitoring procedures, in the same manner as Ugu District Municipality, to the Mayor.

12. POLICY REVIEW

This Policy must be reviewed annually and be tabled to the Municipal Council for approval.

13. INTERNAL CONTROL PROCEDURES

- 13.1 An investment register should be kept of all investments made. The following facts must be indicated:
- a) Name of institution;
 - b) Capital invested;
 - c) Date invested;
 - d) Interest rate; and
 - e) Maturity date and
 - f) Interests earned on investments.
- 13.2 The investment register and accounting records must be reconciled on a monthly basis.
- 13.3 The investment register must be examined on a fortnightly basis by the senior official under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer/ assignee as instructed, to identify investments falling due within the next two weeks. An investment plan must then be established for the next calendar month bearing in mind the cash flow requirements.
- 13.4 Interest, correctly calculated, must be received timeously, together with any distributable capital. The Chief Financial Officer or his/her assignee must check that the interest is calculated correctly, in terms of sound universally accepted financial management practices.
- 13.5 Investment documents and certificates must be safeguarded in a fire resistant safe, with dual custody. The following documents must be safeguarded:
- a) Fixed deposit letter or investment certificate;
 - b) Receipt for capital invested;
 - c) Copy of electronic transfer or cheque requisition;
 - d) Schedule of comparative investment figures;
 - e) Commission certificate indicating no commission was paid on the investment; and
 - f) Interest rate quoted.
- 13.6 All investment must be denominated in South African Rand (ZAR)
- 13.7 The Chief Financial Officer or his/her assignee is responsible for ensuring that the invested funds have been invested with registered financial institutions approved by the Republic of

South Africa: National Minister of Finance, Public Investors Commission or with a bank rating of AA and endeavour to minimise risk exposure.

14. REPORTING AND MONITORING PROCEDURES

- 14.1 The Accounting Officer must within 10 days of the end of each month submit to the Mayor or Finance, Budget Control & Monitoring Committee a report describing in detail the investment and cash flow position of the Municipality as at the end of the month.
- 14.2 The report must contain a statement, prepared in compliance with generally recognised accounting principles/generally accepted municipal accounting principles, that states the:
- a) beginning market value for the period
 - b) additions and changes to the market value during the period
 - c) ending market value for the period
 - d) fully accrued interest/yield for the reporting period
 - e) the credit risk rating for the institutions whose securities are held by the Municipality as at beginning and end of the reporting period
 - f) investments disposed of due to adverse changes in credit ratings
 - g) diversification of investments
 - h) any investments locked into a time period with an institution that has a rating that is not acceptable according to Fitch, Naspers or CA-ratings.

15. PERMITTED INVESTMENTS

- 15.1 The Republic of South Africa: National Minister of Finance may identify by regulation in terms of Section 168 of the Municipal Finance Management Act instruments or investments other than those referred to below in which Municipality may invest:
- a) Deposits with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act No. 94 of 1990);
 - b) Securities issued by the National Government;
 - c) Investments with the Public Investment Commissioners as contemplated by the Public Investment Commissions Act, 1984 (Act No. 5 of 1984);
 - d) Listed corporate bonds with an investment grade rating from a nationally or internationally recognized credit rating agency;
 - e) Deposits with the corporation for Public Deposits as contemplated by the Corporation for Public Deposits Act, 1984 (Act 46 of 1984);
 - f) Banker's acceptance certificates or negotiable certificates of deposits of banks registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act 94 of 1990);
 - g) Municipal Bonds issued by a Municipality
 - h) Guaranteed endowment policies with the intention of establishing a sinking fund; and

- i) Repurchase agreements with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act 94 of 1990)

16. EXISTING INVESTMENTS

Current investments that were not permitted investments at the time of purchase do not have to be liquidated.

17. INVESTMENT DIVERSIFICATION

The Chief Financial Officer must ensure that available money is not invested with one institution. Investment will be restricted to institutions with a minimum credit rating of [AA]. The maximum term for any investment, may be 2 years, other than ceded investments.

18. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- 18.1 The performance of the investment portfolio must be evaluated quarterly. The time weighted yield attributable to the investment portfolio must be calculated each quarter and compared with the prevailing returns available on securities issued by the National Government.

- 18.2 A report discussing the performance of the investment portfolio must be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer within 10 days of the end of each quarter.

19. USE OF INDEPENDENT INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Should the need arise to use an investment manager at any time; one will be appointed using Supply Chain Management principles and practices.

20. UNALLOCATED RECEIPTS

All unclaimed and unidentified deposits older than three (3) years shall be publicised in a local newspaper on an annual basis and if unclaimed within the specified time frame, such monies will be transferred to sundry income.

21. PAYMENT OF CREDITORS

- 21.1 Due to the high bank charges with regard to cheque payments, it is essential to limit the payment of creditors to one payment per creditor per month. Should the facility be available, payments should be done by electronic transfer (subject to strict controls).
- 21.2 When considering the time to pay a creditor, proper consideration must be given to the conditions of credit terms of payment offered.

- a) In cases where a cash discount is given for early settlement, the discount, if the relevant time scale is taken into account, must in most cases be more than any investment benefit that could be received from temporarily investing the funds.
- b) If discounts are offered for early settlement they must be properly considered and utilised.

21.3 Besides this, the normal conditions of credit terms of payment offered by suppliers, must also be considered and utilized to the full by paying on the due date and not earlier, provided that no worthwhile discount is available or offered.

22. BANK AND CASH IN TERMS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT Act NO.56 of 2003, Chapter 3, Part 1.

- 22.1 All names of bank accounts must be changed to the name of the newly created municipality,
- 22.2 New bank accounts must be opened if required,
- 22.3 All cheques received from the disestablished municipalities must be banked,
- 22.4 All bank accounts currently held and transferred to the municipality must be accounted for in the new accounting system,
- 22.5 The official responsible must ensure that the name change on the accounts has been effected,
- 22.6 All bank and cash must be made in terms of the Cash Management Policy,
- 22.7 Every municipality must open and maintain at least one bank account in the name of the municipality and
- 22.8 All money received by a municipality must be paid into its bank account in the name of the municipality as per the abovementioned legislative framework.

23. MANAGEMENT OF STOCK

Cash management must be improved by seeing that adequate stock control is exerted over all goods kept in stock.

24. SHORT- AND LONG-TERM DEBT

A municipality may only incur debt in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003. The municipality may incur two types of debt, namely short-term and long-term debt.

24.1. SHORT-TERM DEBT

24.1.1 A municipality may incur short-term debt only when necessary to bridge:

- a) Shortfalls within a financial year during which the debt is incurred, in expectation of specific and realistic anticipated income to be received within that financial year or

- b) Capital needs within a financial year, to be repaid from specific funds to be received from enforceable allocations or long-term debt commitments.

24.1.2 A municipality:

- a) Must pay off short-term debt within a financial year and
- b) May not renew or refinance its short-term debt.

24.2. **LONG-TERM DEBT**

A municipality may incur long-term debt for purposes of financing its long-term strategic objectives, as outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996, and Chapter 7 on Local Government.

- a) To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities,
- b) To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner,
- c) To promote social and economic development,
- d) To promote a safe and healthy environment and
- e) To encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in the matters of local government.

25. **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.

26. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

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

27. **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”



FUNDING AND RESERVES POLICY

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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

"Council" means the Council of Ugu District Municipality

"MFMA" means the Municipal Financial Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003)

"Municipality" means Ugu District Municipality

"GRAP" means Generally Recognised Accounting Practices standards.

2. **OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY**

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- a. Ensure that the Medium Term Revenue/Expenditure Framework (Annual Budget) of the Municipality is appropriately funded.
- b. Ensure that cash resources and reserves are maintained at the required levels to avoid unfunded liabilities.
- c. To achieve financial stability in order to provide sustainable levels of service delivery to the community.

3. **SCOPE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE**

- 3.1 The Funding and Reserves policy aims to ensure that the Municipality has sufficient funding in order to achieve its objectives through the implementation of its operating and capital budgets.
- 3.2 This Policy aims to set guidelines towards ensuring financial viability over both the short- and long-term which includes reserves requirements.

4. **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

The legislative framework governing funding of the Annual Budget is:

- a. Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003);
and,

- b. Local Government: Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulation, Regulation 393, published under Government Gazette 32141, 17 April 2009.

5. FUNDING OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET

5.1 An annual budget may only be funded from:

- a. Cash backed accumulated funds from previous years' surpluses and reserves not committed for any other purpose;
- b. Realistically anticipated revenues to be collected;
- c. Borrowed funds only for capital expenditure, and
- d. Grants and subsidies.

5.2 Realistic anticipated revenue projections must take into account:

- a. Projected revenue for the current year based on the previous year's billing information.
- b. Actual revenue collected in previous financial years.

6. OPERATING BUDGET

6.1 The operating budget provides funding to departments for their medium term expenditure as planned. The Municipality categorises services rendered to the community according to its revenue generating capabilities in line with the tariffs policy

- a) Trading services – services that generate surpluses that can be used for cross subsidisation to fund other services.
- b) Economic services – services that break even with no surpluses.
- c) Rates and general services – services that are funded by surpluses generated by trading services, and/or other revenues generated such as, interest received, grants and subsidies etc.

6.2 The operating budget is funded from the following main sources of revenue:

- a) Surpluses generated from service charges.
- b) Government grants and subsidies.
- c) Other revenue, interest received etc.
- d) Cash backed accumulated surpluses from previous years not committed for any other purposes.

6.3 The following guiding principles apply when compiling the operating budget:

- a) The annual budget must be balanced and funded.

- b) Growth parameters must be realistic taking into account the current economic conditions.
- c) Tariff adjustments must be realistic, taking into consideration the general inflation, affordability, bulk increases and the demand according to the approved Integrated Development Plan (IDP).
- d) Revenue from government grants and subsidies must be in line with allocations gazette in the Division of Revenue Act and provincial gazettes.
- e) Revenue from public contributions, donations or any other grants may only be included in the budget if there are acceptable documentation that guarantees the funds such as:
 - (i) Signed service level agreement;
 - (ii) Contract or written confirmation; or
 - (iii) Any other legally binding document.
- f) Projected revenue from service charges must be realistic based on current and past trends with expected growth considering the current economic conditions. The following factors must be considered for each service when applicable:
 - i. Metered services namely water:
 - aa) The consumption trends for the previous financial years;
 - bb) Envisaged water restrictions when applicable; and
 - cc) Actual revenue collected in previous financial years.
 - ii. Sewerage services:
 - aa) The actual number stands/consumer points receiving the service and the consumption trends per category; and
 - bb) Actual revenue collected in previous financial years.
- g) Rebates, exemptions or reductions for service charges are budgeted either as revenue foregone or as expenditure most often (grant) as per directive in MFMA Budget Circular 51 depending on the conditions thereof.
- h) Other projected income is charged in terms of the approved sundry\ tariffs and fines considering the past trends and expected growth for each category.

- i) Provision for revenue that will not be collected is made against the expenditure item bad debt and based on actual collection levels for the previous financial year and the projected annual non-payment rate.
- j) Interest received from actual long-term and or short-term investments are based on the amount reasonably expected to be earned on cash amounts available during the year according to the expected interest rate trends. The actual amount allocated for interest on investments is contributed to the Capital Replacement Reserve.
- k) Transfers from the accumulated surplus to fund operating expenditure will only be allowed for specific once-off projects and with no recurring operating expenditure resulting there from.
- l) Transfers from the accumulated surplus to offset the increased depreciation charges as a result of the implementation of GRAP 17 will be phased out over a number of years.
- m) A detailed salary budget is compiled on an annual basis. All funded positions are budgeted for in total and new and/or funded vacant positions are budgeted for six months only of the total package considering the recruitment process. As a guiding principle the salary budget should not exceed the parameter (percentage) of the aggregate operating budget component of the annual or adjustments budget, the parameters as may be contained in the budget circular issued by National Treasury from time to time.
- n) (Depreciation charges are fully budgeted for according to the asset register and to limit the impact of the implementation of GRAP 17 a transfer from the accumulated surplus is made) However the annual cash flow requirement for the repayment of borrowings must fully be taken into consideration with the setting of tariffs.
- o) To ensure the health of municipal assets, sufficient provision must be made for the maintenance of existing and infrastructure assets based on affordable levels, resulting that maintenance budgets are normally lower than the recommended levels. Therefore the mere reduction of maintenance budgets to balance annual budgets must carefully be considered. As a guiding principle repair and maintenance should constitute between 5 and 8% of the carrying value of the property, plant and equipment and should annually be increased incrementally until the required targets are achieved.
- p) Individual expenditure line items are to be revised each year when compiling the budget to ensure proper control over expenditure. Increases for these line items must be linked

to the average inflation rate and macro-economic indicators unless a signed agreement or contract stipulates otherwise.

7. CAPITAL BUDGET

- 7.1 The capital budget provides funding for the Municipality's capital programme based on the needs and objectives as identified by the community through the Integrated Development Plan and provides for the eradication of infrastructural backlogs, renewal and upgrading of existing infrastructure, new developments and enlargement of bulk infrastructure.
- 7.2 Capital expenditure may only be incurred on a capital project if:
- a. The funding for the project has been appropriated in the capital budget.
 - b. The total cost for the project has been approved by Council.
 - c. The future budgetary implications and projected cost covering all financial years until the project is operational has been considered.
 - d. The implications of the capital budget on municipal tax and tariff increases been considered.
 - e. The sources of funding are available and have not been committed for other purposes.
- 7.3 Provisions on the capital budget will be limited to availability of sources of funding and affordability. The main sources of funding for capital expenditure are:
- (a) Accumulated cash backed internal reserves;
 - (b) Borrowings;
 - (c) Government grants and subsidies; and
 - (d) Public donations and contributions.
- 7.4 The following guiding principles apply when considering sources of funding for the capital budget:
- (a) Government grants and subsidies:
 - i. Only gazette allocations or transfers as reflected in the Division of Revenue Act or allocations as per provincial gazettes may be used to fund projects;
 - ii. The conditions of the specific grant must be taken into consideration when allocated to a specific project; and
 - iii. Government grants and subsidies allocated to specific capital projects are provided for on the relevant department's operating budget to the extent the conditions will be met during the financial year.

- (b) In the case of public contributions, donations and/or other grants, such capital projects may only be included in the annual budget if the funding is guaranteed by means of:
 - i. Signed service level agreement;
 - ii. Contract or written confirmation; and/or
 - iii. Any other legally binding document.
- (c) Public donations, contributions and other grants are provided for on the relevant department's operating budget to the extent the conditions will be met during the financial year.
- (d) The borrowing requirements, to be used as a basis to determine the affordability of external loans over the Medium Term Income and Expenditure Framework. The ratios to be considered to take up additional borrowings:
 - i. Long-term credit rating of BBB;
 - ii. Interest cost to total expenditure to not exceed 8%;
 - iii. Long-term debt to revenue (excluding grants) not to exceed 50%;
 - iv. Collection rate of above 95%;
 - v. Percentages of capital charges to operating expenditure less than 18%.
- (e) Allocations to capital projects from cash backed internal reserves will be based on the available funding for each ring-fenced reserve according to the conditions of each reserve as follows:
 - i. Infrastructure projects to service new developments and the revenue is received through the sale of stands/land/site must be allocated to the capital reserve for services;
 - ii. Capital projects of a smaller nature such as office equipment, furniture, plant and equipment etc. must be allocated to the capital reserve from revenue which is funding from the revenue budget for that specific year. A general principle is that these types of capital expenditure should not exceed more than 1% of total operating expenditure;
 - iii. Capital projects to replace and/or upgrade existing assets may be allocated to the capital replacement reserve;
 - iv. Capital projects to upgrade bulk services will be allocated to the capital bulk contributions reserve for each service.

7.5 All capital projects have an effect on future operating budget therefore the following cost factors should be considered before approval:

- a) Additional personnel cost to staff new facilities once operational;
- b) Additional contracted services, that is, security, cleaning etc.
- c) Additional general expenditure, that is, services cost, stationery, telephones, material etc.
- d) Additional other capital requirements to the operate facility, that is, vehicles, plant and equipment, furniture and office equipment etc.
- e) Additional costs to maintain the assets;
- f) Additional interest and redemption in the case of borrowings;
- g) Additional depreciation charges;
- h) Additional revenue generation. The impact of expenditure items must be offset by additional revenue generated to determine the real impact on tariffs.

8. CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The availability of cash is the most important requirement for financial sustainability and must be closely monitored by the Chief Financial Officer. In doing so the Chief Financial Officer must ensure a minimum cash on hand to cover 90 days operational expenditure.
- 8.2 Surplus cash not immediately required for operational purposes must be invested in terms of the Municipality's Cash Banking and Investment Policy to maximise the return on cash.

9. MANAGEMENT OF DEBTORS

- 9.1 Debt is managed in terms of the Municipal credit control and debt collection policy.
- 9.2 The provision for bad debts is budgeted as an expense and is based on the projected annual non-payment rate for each service.

10. DONATIONS, GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES.

- 10.1 Revenue from donations or any other grants may only be included in the budget if there is acceptable documentation that guarantees the funds such as:
 - a) Signed service level agreement;
 - b) Contract or written confirmation; or
 - c) Any other legally binding document.
- 10.2 The conditions of the specific grant must be taken into consideration when allocated to a specific project. Government grants and subsidies allocated to specific capital projects are provided for on the relevant department's operating budget to the extent that the conditions will be met during the financial year.

11. THE CAPITAL REPLACEMENT RESERVE

- 11.1 All reserves must be “ring fenced” and “cash backed” as internal reserves within the accumulated surplus, except for provisions as allowed by GRAP.
- 11.2 Once the Municipality has reached its maximum gearing ability, no further borrowings can be taken up. The Municipality must invest in a capital replacement reserve. This reserve provides internal funding for the Municipality’s capital replacement and renewal programme. Contributions to the capital replacement reserve through the operating budget will be:
- a) Interest received on investments;
 - b) Proceeds from sale of assets.

12. THE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

These supplement capital expenditure for the necessary expansions and upgrading of bulk infrastructure. Revenue generated from capital contributions is allocated to this reserve for each applicable service. The unspent contributions must be cash backed to ensure availability of cash when the infrastructure upgrades are required.

13. PROVISIONS

A provision is recognised when the Municipality has a present obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable, more likely than not, that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are revised annually and those estimates to be settled within the next twelve (12) months are treated as current liabilities.

The Municipality has the following provisions:

(a) Leave provision

Liabilities for annual leave are recognised as they accrue to employees. An annual provision is made from the operating budget to the leave provision. Due to the fact that not all leave balances are redeemed for cash, only 75% of the leave provision is cash backed.

(b) Long services awards

Municipal employees are awarded leave days according to years in service at year end. Due to the fact that not all long service leave balances are redeemed for cash, only 75% of the long service leave provision is cash backed.

(c) *Post employment medical care benefits*

The Municipality provides post-retirement medical care benefits by subsidising the medical aid contributions to retired employees and their legitimate spouses. The entitlement to post-retirement medical benefits is based on employees remaining in service up to retirement age and the completion of a minimum service period. The expected cost of these benefits is accrued over a period of employment.

14. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CASH BACKED

14.1 Unspent conditional grant funding

Revenue received from conditional grants is recognised as revenue to the extent that the municipality has complied with any of the criteria, conditions or obligations embodied in the agreement. Amounts in relation to the unspent grant funding are therefore retained in cash and are not available to fund any other items on the operating or capital budget other than that for which it was intended for.

14.2 Consumer Deposits

Consumer deposits are partial security for a future payment. Deposits are considered a liability as the deposit is utilised once the agreement is terminated. The funds are owed to consumers and can therefore not be utilised to fund the operating or capital budget. Consumer deposits should be retained in cash and be ring-fenced.

15. POLICY REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it complies with changes in applicable legislation and accounting standards.

16. 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.

17. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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 SUPPORT

- 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

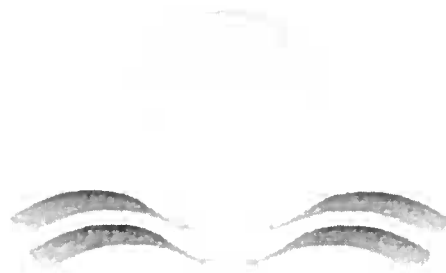
All applications will be considered on the following basis:

- 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
("the Municipality")



BORROWING POLICY

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1. Definitions

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

“Disclosure statements” means a statement issued or to be issued by:

- a municipality which intends to incur debt by issuing municipal debt instruments; and
- a person who intends to incur debt by issuing securities backed by municipal debt.

“Financing agreement” means any loan agreement, lease, instalment, purchase arrangement under which a municipality undertakes to repay a long-term debt over a period of time.

“Lender” means a person who provides debt finance to the Municipality.

“Long term debt” means debt repayable by the Municipality over a period exceeding one (1) year.

“Municipal debt” means:

- (a) A monetary liability or obligation on a municipality by:
 - a financing agreement, note, debenture, bond or overdraft; and
 - the issuance of municipal debt instruments.
- (b) A contingent liability such as that created by guaranteeing a monetary liability or obligation of another.

“Municipality” means Ugu District Municipality

“Security” means any mechanism intended to secure the interest of a lender or investor and includes any of the mechanisms mentioned.

“Short term debt” means debt that is repayable over a period not exceeding one (1) year.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a borrowing framework for the Municipality and to set out the objectives, policies, statutory requirements and guidelines for the borrowing of funds, in order to:

- 2.1. Manage interest rate and credit risk exposure;
- 2.2. Maintain debt within specified limits and ensure adequate provision for the repayment of debt;
- 2.3. Ensure compliance with all Legislation and Council policy governing borrowing of funds.

3. Legislative Framework

All borrowings made by the Municipality shall be subject to the requirements of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Act, 2003 ("the MFMA") and the Municipal Regulations on Debt Disclosure ("the Disclosure Regulations") made there under and published under GN R 492 in Government Gazette 29966 of 15 June 2007.

4. Types of Debt

- 4.1. This Policy applies to the debt incurred by the Municipality through the issue of municipal debt instruments or in any other way.
- 4.2. Without derogating from the generality of the preceding subparagraph, this policy will apply:
 - 4.2.1. To any debt, whether short -term or long term;
 - 4.2.2. To any debt incurred pursuant to any financing agreement, which includes any of the following agreements under which the Municipality undertakes to repay a long-term debt over a period of time:
 - 4.2.2.1. Loan agreements;
 - 4.2.2.2. Leases;
 - 4.2.2.3. Instalment purchase contracts;
 - 4.2.2.4. Hire purchase arrangements;
 - 4.2.3. To any debt created by the issuance of municipal debt instruments, including:
 - 4.2.3.1. Any note;
 - 4.2.3.2. Bond; or
 - 4.2.3.3. Debenture; and

- 4.2.4. To any contingent liability such as that created by guaranteeing a monetary liability or obligation of another.

5. Principles Guiding Borrowing Practices

The following principle shall guide the borrowing practices of the Municipality, namely:

- 5.1. Risk Management: The need to manage interest rate risk, credit risk exposure and to maintain debt within specified limits is the foremost objective of the borrowing policy. To attain this objective, diversification is required to ensure that the Chief Financial Officer prudently manages interest rate and credit risk exposure;
- 5.2. Cost of Borrowings : The borrowings should be structured to obtain the lowest possible interest rate, on the most advantageous terms and conditions, taking cognisance of borrowing risk constraints, infrastructure needs and the borrowing limits determined by Legislation;
- 5.3. Prudence: Borrowings shall be made with care, skill, prudence and diligence. To this end, officials of the Municipality are required to:
- 5.3.1. adhere to this policy, and other procedures and guidelines;
 - 5.3.2. exercise due diligence;
 - 5.3.3. prepare all reports in a timely fashion;
 - 5.3.4. ensure strict compliance with all Legislation and Council policy.

6. Factors to be taken into account when borrowing

- 6.1. The Municipality shall take into account the following factors when deciding whether to incur debt:
- 6.1.1. the type and extent of benefits to be obtained from the borrowing;
 - 6.1.2. the length of time the benefits will be received;
 - 6.1.3. beneficiaries of the acquisition or development financed by the debt;
 - 6.1.4. the impact of interest and redemption payments on both current and forecast income;
 - 6.1.5. the current and future capacity of the Municipality's revenue base to pay for borrowings;

- 6.1.6. other current and projected sources of funds;
 - 6.1.7. likely movements in interest rates for variable rate borrowings;
 - 6.1.8. competing demands for funds;
 - 6.1.9. timing of money market interest rate movements and the long term rates on the interest rate curve.
- 6.2. The Municipality will, in general, seek to minimise its dependence on borrowings in order to minimise future revenue committed to debt servicing and redemption charges.

7. Sources of Borrowings

- 7.1. Subject to any particular determination of the Council of the Municipality, the Municipality may enter into financing agreements with:
- 7.1.1. Registered South African Banks;
 - 7.1.2. The Development Bank of Southern Africa;
 - 7.1.3. Vendors of goods acquired under instalment purchase contracts or hire purchase arrangements;
 - 7.1.4. Any other institution approved by the Council from time to time.
- 7.2. Unless the Council of the Municipality specifically determines otherwise, the Municipality shall not incur any debt by the issuance of any municipal debt instruments.

8. Short-term Debt

- 8.1. The Municipality may incur short –term debt only in accordance with and in the circumstances contemplated in Section 45 of the MFMA.
- 8.2. In particular, the provisions of section 45 (1) of the MFMA must be noted, these requiring that the Municipality may incur short –term debt only when necessary to bridge:
- 8.2.1. Shortfalls within a financial year during which the debt is incurred, in expectation of specific and realistic anticipated income to be received within that financial year;
or
 - 8.2.2. Capital needs within a financial year, to be repaid from specific funds to be received from enforceable allocations or long-term debt commitments.

- 8.3. Furthermore, as required by section 45 (4) of the MFMA, the Municipality must pay off short term debt within the financial year.

9. Overdraft Facility

- 9.1. Overdraft facilities are regulated by Section 45(3) of the MFMA.

10. Long Term Debt

- 10.1. The Municipality may incur long-term debt only in accordance with and in the circumstances contemplated in Section 46 of the MFMA.

- 10.2. Long-term debt may be incurred only for the purposes contemplated in Section 46(1) of the MFMA, namely:

- 10.2.1. Capital expenditure on property, plant or equipment to be used for the purpose of achieving the objects of local government, as set out in Section 152 of the Constitution; or

- 10.2.2. Re-financing existing long term debt, subject to section 46(5).

11. Council approval

Sections 45(2) and 46(2) require that short-term debt and long-term debt respectively may be incurred only if:

- 11.1. A resolution of the Council, signed by the Mayor, has approved the debt agreement;

- 11.2. The Accounting Officer has signed the agreement or other document which creates or acknowledges the debt.

12. Refinancing

- 12.1. Short-term debt may not be renewed or refinanced where that would have the effect of extending the short-term debt into a new financial year.

- 12.2. The Municipality may borrow in order to refinance long-term debt subject to the conditions contained in Section 46(5) of the MFMA.

13. Early repayment of loans

- 13.1. No loans will be repaid before due date unless there is a financial benefit to the Municipality.
- 13.2. The Municipality shall therefore assess the nature and extent of any benefits of early repayment before it makes any such early repayment.
- 13.3. Cognisance must be taken of any early repayment penalty clauses in the initial loan agreement, as part of the assessment.

14. Debt Repayment Period

- 14.1. As far as is practical, cognisance must be taken of the useful lives of the underlying assets to be financed by the debt for purposes of determining the duration of the debt.
- 14.2. Should it be established that it is cost effective to borrow the funds for a duration shorter than that of the life of the asset, the Municipality should endeavour to negotiate terms for the loan agreement on a shorter duration.

15. Provision for Redemption of Loans

- 15.1. The Municipality may set up sinking funds to facilitate loan repayments, especially when the repayment is to be met by a bullet payment on the maturity date of the loan.
- 15.2. Such sinking funds may be invested directly with the Lender's Bank.
- 15.3. The maturity date and accumulated value of such investment must coincide with the maturity date and amount of the intended loan that is to be repaid.

16. Non-Repayment or Non-Servicing of Loan

- 16.1. The Municipality must honour all its loan obligations.
- 16.2. Failure to effect prompt payment may jeopardise the Municipality's credit rating and adversely affect the ability of the Municipality to raise loans in the future loans at favourable interest rates.

16.3. In addition to ensuring the timely payment of the loans, the Municipality must adhere to the covenants stipulated in the loan agreements, including, in particular, the following where applicable:

16.3.1. furnishing audited annual financial statements;

16.3.2. maintaining long-term credit rating;

16.3.3. reporting of material changes in financial position of the Municipality.

17. Borrowing for Investment Prohibited

The Municipality shall not under any circumstances borrow funds for the purposes of investing them.

18. Security

18.1. Section 48 of the MFMA provides that the Municipality may provide security for any of its debt obligations in any of the forms referred to in Section 48(2).

18.2. Such security shall be given only pursuant to a resolution of the Council, which resolution must comply with the provisions of Section 48(3), (4) and (5) of the MFMA.

19. Disclosure

19.1. Section 49 of the MFMA requires that any person involved in the borrowing of money by a municipality must, when interfacing with a prospective lender or when preparing documentation for consideration by a prospective investor Any Official involved in the securing of loans by the Municipality must, when interacting disclose all relevant information in that persons possession or within that person's knowledge that may be material to the decision of that lender or investor, and take reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of any information disclosed.

19.2. In addition the Disclosure Regulations establish detailed requirements for the disclosure of information to prospective lenders and investors. Regulations 2, 3, 4, 5, 15, 16 and 17 are of particular importance to the Municipality, given the nature of the borrowings which it intends to make.

20. Guarantees

The Municipality may issues guarantees only in accordance with the provisions of Section 50 of the MFMA.

21. Internal Control

The Accounting Officer shall ensure that mechanisms, procedures and systems are put in place to ensure that:

- 21.1. Duties are separated in order to prevent fraud, collusion and other misconduct;
- 21.2. loan agreements and contracts are kept in proper safe custody;
- 21.3. there is a clear delegation of duties relating to the borrowing process;
- 21.4. senior officials check and verify all transactions;
- 21.5. transactions and repayments are properly documented;
- 21.6. a Code of ethics and standards is established and adhered to;
- 21.7. procedures relating to the borrowing process are established.

22. National Treasury Reporting and Monitoring Requirements

The Municipality shall promptly submit all returns and reports relating to borrowings as required by National Treasury, including reports on the Municipality's external interest paid each month, and the quarterly itemization of all of its external borrowings.

23. Other Reporting and Monitoring Requirements

- 23.1. The Municipality shall on a monthly basis perform the following control and reporting functions relevant to borrowings:
 - 23.1.1. Reconciliation of bank accounts;
 - 23.1.2. Payment requisition verification and authorization;
 - 23.1.3. Completion of South African Reserve Bank returns;
 - 23.1.4. Maintain schedule of payment dates and amounts;
 - 23.1.5. Complete National Treasury Cash Flow returns;
 - 23.1.6. Submission of particulars of borrowings as required by Section 71 of MFMA;
 - 23.1.7. Perform analysis of ratios;
 - 23.1.8. Scrutinise loan agreements to ensure compliance with loan covenants.

23.2. The Municipality shall on a quarterly basis perform the following control and reporting functions relevant to borrowings:

23.2.1. Submit National Treasury Borrowings return

23.2.2. Prepare debt schedules for reporting to the Executive Committee.

24. Related Policies

This Policy must be read in conjunction with the following other policies of the Municipality:

24.1. Budget Process Policy;

24.2. Cash Management and Investment Policy;

24.3. Virement Policy.

25. Municipal Manager to Implement Policy

The Municipal Manager, as Accounting Officer of the Municipality, shall be responsible for implementing this Policy, provided that he or she may delegate in writing any of his or her powers under this Policy to any other official of the Municipality.

26. Effective Date

The Policy shall come to effect upon approval by Council.

27. 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:.....