



MARULENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN
2026/2027 – 2030/2031

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FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN: 2026- 2031

1) INTRODUCTION

This plan is prepared in terms of section 26 (h) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, as amended, which stipulates that a financial plan must be prepared as part of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

The five-year financial plan includes an Operating Budget, a Capital Investment Programme, and the sources of funding for the Capital Investment Programme, financial strategies and programmes, various financial management policies adopted by council, key financial targets, key performance indicators, and a budget according to the IDP priorities.

2) PURPOSE

To create a medium term strategic financial framework for allocation municipal resources, through the municipal budgeting process to ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the municipality's investments and operations.

3) RESPONSIBILITY

The finance department collects revenues due to the municipality and pays all amounts due for payrolls and outside vendors. The finance department also manages the investments of municipal funds and municipal borrowings, if any.

The Finance Department is therefore charged with the responsibility of compiling the financial plan in close consultation with the municipal manager, heads of department, IDP, Representative forum, and council or the mayor.

A Finance Portfolio Committee assisted by competent financial planners (Treasurers) should assist in the formulation of alternative financial strategies to be presented to the IDP Representative Forum under the leadership of the councillor Responsible for financial matters.

It is important to note that the priority issue from a financial perspective is the viability and sustainability of the municipality. This goal can best be achieved through efficient and effective financial management. The plans and the strategies that have been formulated were prepared with this in mind.

Maintaining healthy financial base that fully supports municipal services according to mayoral priorities requires constant vigilance. This too is reflected in restructuring and reshaping municipal services, implementing new financial management systems, securing sound recurring revenues and making responsible spending adjustments in light of the revenue growth limitations to achieve a balanced budget.

Budget assumptions and parameters are determined in advance of the budget process to allow budgets to be constructed to support the achievement of the longer-term financial and strategic targets.

The municipal fiscal environment is influenced by a variety of macro – economic control measures. National Treasury determines the ceiling of year-on-year increases in the total Operating Budget. Various government departments also affect municipal service delivery through the level of grants and subsidies.

4) CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET ESTIMATES

The financial plan includes an Operating Budget (Table 1), the capital investment programme per GFS Classification (Table 2) and the capital investment per funding source (Table 3) for the five years ending 30 June 2031. The information contained in these tables is based on information available at the time of drafting this document and these estimates could therefore possibly change in the future.

As reflected in Table 1 below, the municipality expects to break – even in the period under review. Selected key assumptions relating to this budget are as follows.

Government grants are as per Division of Revenue Act; and the estimation are as per municipal populations. The inflation rate has been estimated to be 3.4% to 3.2 % per annum.

Growth in the salary and wage bill has been provided for in the budget at 4.1 % per annum, growth in the remaining expense items in general, range from 0 -10 % per annum.

Provision has been made for tariff increases relating to property rates at an average of 3.4 % per annum. The amount for contribution expense included in the budget relates largely to leave provision and the provision for bad debts.

Equitable share capital portion as well as other conditional grants reflected in the funding sources for capital investment programme (Table 2) may also be allocated to revenue.

Table 1: Operating Budget (Revenue and Expenditure)

LIM335 Maruleng - Table A4 Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue and expenditure)

Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Current Year 2025/26				2026/27 Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework		
				Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	Full Year Forecast	Pre-audit outcome	Budget Year 2026/27	Budget Year +1 2027/28	Budget Year +2 2028/29
R thousand	1	Audited Outcome	Audited Outcome	Audited Outcome						
Revenue										
Exchange Revenue										
Service charges - Electricity	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Service charges - Water	2	(21)	(531)	0	-	-	1 133	-	-	-
Service charges - Waste Water Management	2	(2)	531	(15)	-	-	112	-	-	-
Service charges - Waste Management	2	4 923	5 385	5 707	5 300	5 300	5 114	6 533	6 749	6 985
Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services	2	4 245	4 257	4 344	3 477	4 888	3 643	5 069	5 236	5 434
Agency services	2	239	180	290	3 132	3 500	3 500	3 630	3 749	3 859
Interest										
Interest earned from Receivables	2	14 322	18 582	(3 499)	1 495	716	(2 465)	742	767	792
Interest earned from Current and Non Current Assets	2	8 337	11 055	12 257	12 854	9 600	9 600	9 955	19 284	10 613
Dividends	2	-	-	-	-	-	7 099	-	-	-
Rent on Land	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rental from Fixed Assets	2	-	-	73	438	425	425	441	455	470
License and permits	2	2 861	3 897	2 587	3 132	3 743	3 743	3 881	4 009	4 138
Special rating levies	2	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Construction Contract Revenue	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development Charges	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operational Revenue	2	438	429	1 277	422	40	4 365	41	43	44
Non-Exchange Revenue										
Property rates	2	125 251	172 692	185 026	222 681	222 681	172 031	230 921	238 541	246 174
Surcharges and Taxes	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fines, penalties and forfeits	2	1 055	870	433	1 045	491	491	510	526	543
Licences or permits	2	2 730	2 840	3 100	3 816	150	150	156	161	166
Transfer and subsidies - Operational	2	158 022	169 349	187 658	184 005	213 724	182 977	198 185	173 311	185 434
Interest	2	-	-	21 434	19 836	22 115	19 967	22 934	23 691	24 448
Fuel Levy	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operational Revenue	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on disposal of Fixed and Intangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Gains	2	-	2	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Discontinued Operations										
Total Revenue (excluding capital transfers and contributions)		323 471	388 639	623 776	483 493	488 374	488 374	480 438	487 823	488 061
Expenditure										
Employee related costs	2	85 861	93 338	101 171	124 320	117 637	117 637	(93 315)	134 178	142 228
Remuneration of councillors	2	11 820	11 977	12 518	13 377	13 377	13 377	(12 146)	13 759	14 584
Bulk purchases - electricity	2	718	565	611	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inventory consumed	2	4 708	4 147	4 863	15 000	9 750	9 750	(13 368)	10 400	10 743
Debt impairment	2,3	25 643	38 441	58 491	35 976	55 000	55 000	(29 453)	57 400	59 294
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	2	27 692	27 421	30 742	37 000	34 500	34 500	(28 443)	36 500	37 705
Interest, Dividends and Rent on Land	2	1 429	1 919	2 436	2 100	2 700	2 700	(327)	2 800	2 892
Contracted services	2	51 522	50 962	84 404	85 265	165 571	165 571	(149 197)	138 116	113 559
Transfers and subsidies	2	-	102 198	59 754	-	-	-	-	-	-
Irrecoverable debts written off	2	-	-	(1 058)	-	5 000	5 000	-	-	-
Operational costs	2	42 859	47 900	55 882	79 004	76 776	76 776	4 500	4 649	4 797
Disposal of Fixed and Intangible Assets	2	1 519	277	559	500	500	500	(44 982)	80 016	82 657
Other Losses	2	-	179	120	15	200	200	300	310	320
Total Expenditure		253 771	389 324	414 693	387 682	601 911	601 911	(371 233)	478 218	488 274
Surplus/(Deficit)		69 700	214	9 282	79 080	(12 436)	(12 436)	771 680	4 780	(1 387)
Transfers and subsidies - capital (monetary allocations)	6	73 822	78 319	66 232	37 817	85 355	85 355	43 774	31 167	34 296
Transfers and subsidies - capital (in-kind)	6	7 351	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) after capital transfers & contributions		150 878	78 733	76 614	105 897	72 768	72 768	816 442	35 947	36 077
Income Tax		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) after income tax		150 878	78 733	76 614	105 897	72 768	72 768	816 442	35 947	36 077
Share of Surplus/Deficit attributable to Joint Venture		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of Surplus/Deficit attributable to Minorities		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to municipality		150 878	78 733	76 614	105 897	72 768	72 768	816 442	35 947	36 077
Share of Surplus/Deficit attributable to Associate		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intercompany/Parent subsidiary transactions		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		150 878	78 733	76 614	105 897	72 768	72 768	816 442	35 947	36 077

Table 2: Capital Expenditure by vote and funding source

Vote Description	R thousand	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Current Year 2025/26				2026/27 Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework		
		Audited Outcome	Audited Outcome	Audited Outcome	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	Full Year Forecast	Pre-audit outcome	Budget Year 2026/27	Budget Year +1 2027/28	Budget Year +2 2028/29
Capital expenditure - Vote	1										
<u>Multi-year expenditure to be appropriated</u>	2										
Vote 1 - EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 2 - BUDGET AND TREASURY		-	37 791	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 3 - CORPORATE SERVICES		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 4 - PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 5 - COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 6 - SPORT AND RECREATION		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 7 - WASTE MANAGEMENT		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 8 - WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 9 - ROADS AND TRANSPORT		12 604	1 406	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 10 - WATER		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 11 - PUBLIC SAFETY		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 12 - ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 13 -		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 14 -		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 15 -		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital multi-year expenditure sub-total	7	12 604	38 199	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Single-year expenditure to be appropriated</u>	2										
Vote 1 - EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL		1 441	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 2 - BUDGET AND TREASURY		53 390	7 731	56 453	7 100	5 410	5 410	-	14 850	5 570	26 465
Vote 3 - CORPORATE SERVICES		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 4 - PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 5 - COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES		27 882	4 410	34 847	34 149	34 568	34 568	-	21 563	14 550	27 796
Vote 6 - SPORT AND RECREATION		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 7 - WASTE MANAGEMENT		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 8 - WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 9 - ROADS AND TRANSPORT		170 393	126 676	147 862	152 757	133 631	133 631	-	146 596	139 811	70 554
Vote 10 - WATER		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 11 - PUBLIC SAFETY		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 12 - ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION		1 582	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 13 -		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 14 -		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vote 15 -		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital single-year expenditure sub-total		254 608	133 118	239 283	194 006	174 229	174 229	-	183 031	159 931	126 816
Total Capital Expenditure - Vote		267 411	172 317	239 283	194 006	174 229	174 229	-	183 031	159 931	126 816
Capital Expenditure - Functional											
Governance and administration		54 830	45 522	56 453	7 100	5 410	5 410	1 926	14 850	5 570	26 465
Executive and council		1 441	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance and administration		53 390	45 522	56 453	7 100	5 410	5 410	1 926	14 850	5 570	26 465
Internal audit		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community and public safety		27 882	4 410	34 847	34 149	34 568	34 568	30 079	21 683	14 650	27 796
Community and social services		27 882	4 410	34 847	34 149	34 568	34 568	30 079	21 563	14 550	27 796
Sport and recreation		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public safety		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Housing		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economic and environmental services		183 187	122 384	147 862	152 757	133 631	133 631	91 263	146 596	139 811	70 554
Planning and development		1 815	2 064	1 121	1 347	489	489	389	2 200	2 700	2 883
Road transport		181 382	120 321	146 862	151 439	133 342	133 342	90 894	144 396	137 111	67 671
Environmental protection		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading services		1 582	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Energy services		1 582	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water management		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waste water management		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waste management		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Expenditure - Functional	3	267 411	172 317	239 283	194 006	174 229	174 229	123 287	183 031	159 931	126 816
Funded by:											
National Government		57 045	39 964	2 515	26 797	74 256	74 256	40 882	27 191	29 823	30 687
Provincial Government		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District Municipality		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies - capital (monetary allocations) (Nat./Prov./Deptm)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agencies, Households, Non-profit institutions, Private Enterprises, Public Corporations, Higher Educ Institutions)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers recognised - capital	4	57 045	39 964	2 515	26 797	74 256	74 256	40 882	27 191	29 823	30 687
Borrowing	5										
Internally generated funds		161 152	813 546	121 819	167 306	96 972	96 972	82 735	155 929	130 109	96 126
Total Capital Funding	7	218 197	953 509	124 334	194 006	174 229	174 229	123 287	183 031	159 931	126 816

For 2026/27 an amount of R144.3 million has been appropriated for the development of Transport and roads which represents 78.89 per cent of the total capital budget. In the outer years this amount totals R137.1 million, 85.7 per cent and R67.6 million, 53.36 per cent respectively for each of the financial years. Transport and roads receives the highest allocation when compared to other capital expenditure followed by community and social services by 11.8 percent with an amount of 21.5 million in 2026/27 financial period and finance and administration by 8.11 percent with an amount of 14.8 million.

The Capital Expenditure Programme will be subject to the availability of funding.

5. FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Managing municipal finances involves both a strategic and operational component. Strategically, the finances must be managed to accommodate fluctuations in the economy and the resulting changes in costs and revenues. Operationally, the municipality must put in place clear financial goals, policies, and tools to implement its strategic plan.

It must be noted that not all municipalities are the same and this should be kept in mind when assessing the financial health of and the setting of benchmarks for a municipality. A municipality can be categorized into either:

- Developed – maintenance
- Developing – growing

Maruleng Local Municipality can be categorized as a developing – growing municipality. Such municipalities require significant additional resources and funding to conduct the growth that is expected of them. In contrast, already developed – maintenance municipalities are mainly concerned with the need to maintain existing infrastructure.

With the demands for growth, come risks that need to be managed. Wherever possible, the Municipality will set benchmarks appropriate for a developing – growing municipality and strive to achieve these benchmarks within the medium term.

As mentioned at the beginning of this plan, the priority from the financial perspective is viability and sustainability of the Municipality. The financial plan and related strategies will need to address several key areas to achieve this goal. The areas which have been identified are detailed below.

5.1 The Financial Framework

5.1.1 Revenue Adequacy and Certainty

It is essential that the municipality has access to adequate sources of revenue, from both its own operations and intergovernmental transfers, to enable it to carry out its functions. It is furthermore necessary that there is a reasonable degree of certainty with regard to source, amount and timing of revenue. The Division of Revenue Act has laid out the level of funding from national government that will be received in 2026/27 to 2030/31 financial years.

It is important to track the respective sources of revenue received by the municipality as they can be quite different and can vary substantially depending upon the phase that the municipality is in. Knowledge of the sources of funds will illustrate the municipality's position more accurately. Its ability to secure loans relative to its income streams and its borrowing capacity.

I. Cash / Liquidity position

Cash and cash management is vital for the short- and long-term survival and good management of any organisation. The appropriate benchmarks which can assist in assessing the financial health of the municipality is:

The current ratio expresses the current assets as a proportion to current liabilities. "current" refers to those assets that could be converted into cash within 12 months and those liabilities which could be settled within 12 months. A current ratio in excess of 1.3 is considered to be healthy.

Debtors' collection measurements have a great impact of liquidity of the municipality.

II. Sustainability

The Municipality needs to ensure that the budget is balanced (income covers expenditure). As there are limits on revenue, coupled with the increased reliance on government grants to fund operational needs, it is necessary to ensure that the services are provided at levels that are affordable and that the full costs of service delivery are recovered.

However, to ensure that households which are too poor to pay for even a proportion of service costs, at least have access to basic services, there is a need for subsidisation of these households.

III. Effective and Efficient Use Of Resources

In an environment of limited resources, it is essential that the municipality make maximum use of the resources at its disposal by using them in an effective, efficient and economical manner. Efficiency in operations and investment will increase poor people's access to basic services.

IV. Accountability, Transparency and Good Governance

The municipality is accountable to the people who provide the resources, for what they do with the resources. The budgeting process and other financial decisions must therefore be open to public scrutiny and participation. In addition, the accounting and financial reporting procedures must minimise opportunities for corruption. It is also essential that accurate financial information is produced within acceptable timeframes.

V. Equity and Redistribution

The municipality must treat people fairly and justly when it comes to the provision of services. In the same way, the municipality should be treated equitably by national and provincial government when it comes to inter-governmental transfers. "The equitable share" from national government will be used primarily for targeted subsidies to poorer households. In addition, the municipality reserves the right to cross subsidize between high- and low-income consumers within a specific service or between services.

VI. Development and Investment

To deal effectively with backlogs in services there is a need for the municipality to maximise its investment in municipal infrastructure (see table 2). In restructuring the financial systems of the municipality, the underlying policies should encourage the maximum degree of private sector investment.

VII. Macro-Economic Investment

As the municipality plays a significant role in the area, it is essential that it operates efficiently within the national macro – economic framework. The municipality's financial and developmental activities should therefore support national fiscal policy.

VIII. Borrowing

The strong capital market in South Africa (banks and other lending institutions like DBSA, etc) provides an additional instrument to access financial resources. However, it is clear that the municipality cannot borrow to balance its budget and pay for overspending.

Safeguards need to be put in place to ensure that the municipality borrows in a responsible way. In order to have access to this market, the Municipality will need to have accurate and appropriate financial accounting policies and procedures and effective reporting systems.

The manner in which the municipality manages debt or takes on new debt to finance activities will have a significant impact on the solvency and long – term viability of the council.

6. STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES

With the above financial framework as a background, strategies and programmes have been identified and form part of the financial plan to achieve the desired objective – the financial viability and sustainability of the municipality. In terms of time frames, each of the projects have been identified will be embarked on and completed during a five-year plan.

6.1 Revenue Raising Strategies and Programmes

The following are some of the more significant program that has been identified:

The development and implementation of a credit control and debt collection policy.

This policy and relevant procedures will detail all areas of credit control, debt collection of amounts billed to consumers, procedures for non- payment, etc.

The development and implementation of an indigent support policy.

This policy will define qualification criteria of an indigent, the level of free basic services that will be enjoyed by indigent households, penalties for abuse, etc.

The development and implementation of a uniform tariff policy.

This policy will ensure that fair tariffs are charged in a uniform manner throughout the municipal area.

The development and implementation of a customer incentive policy

This policy will detail the incentive and prizes that will be made available to encourage customers to pay their accounts promptly.

Project consolidate – Free basic services, billing systems and municipal service debt

This project aims to enhance the delivery of free basic services to poor households and assist the municipality in developing innovative, reliable and integrated billing systems that would allow for improved delivery of services and an effective and efficient billing system for the debtors / consumers of the municipality.

Improved Payment Strategy

This strategy aims at implementing innovative cost-effective processes to encourage customers to pay their accounts fully on time every month. Ensure that effective and efficient customer care and repayment procedures are implemented.

Customer care and Prepayment

Ensure that effective and efficient customer care and prepayment procedures are implemented.

Ensuring Effective and Efficient Customer Services

The municipality 's technological advancement needs must be continually assessed and updated. The municipality must perform an analysis of strategies to strengthen its Citizens Relationship Management systems that should result in operational efficiencies and improved customs service. An implementation plan must be developed to improve the handling of citizen service calls and implement supporting technology in selected front – line agencies

6.2 Asset Management Strategies and Programmes

The following are some of the more significant programs that has been identified:

The implementation of a fixed asset register and asset control system as well as maintenance thereof.

This programme will involve the formulation of policies regarding fixed assets, the purchase of suitable system, and the capture of all assets onto this system and the maintenance of this system in terms of GRAP requirements.

The development and implementation of a disaster recovery plan.

This plan will detail the procedures to be followed regarding the operations and administration of the municipality in the event of a disaster, to ensure that there is the least possible disruption and loss of service rendition. The plan will detail alternative locations, IT arrangements, back –up / start – up procedures, etc.

The establishment of a disaster recovery centre the building and or equipping of an alternative site from which to manage the municipality 's operations, in the event of a disaster rendering the current operational centres unusable.

The development and implementation of a repairs and maintenance policy.

Such a policy will set out the details regarding repairs and maintenance of all assets categories e.g. Infrastructure assets, buildings, motor vehicles, etc. the intention is to ensure that planned and preventive maintenance is always on going

The development and implementation of fleet management systems. This system will ensure that the municipality 's fleet is managed in the most effective manner and that up- to- date and comprehensive e information required for the fleet is readily available.

6.3 Financial Management Strategies and Programmes

The following are some of the more significant programs that has been identified:

The development and implementation of an integrated information technology plan.

Such a plan will ensure that the municipality 's IT needs are met in the most cost-effective manner, that the IT resources are well – managed and secured and that the administrators and users are well -trained.

Integration of all computerised systems and acquisition of hardware and software required.

Financial management is supported through the municipality 's Munsoft accounting systems. This integrated financial management system is designed to track and control s daily activities and report the financial position and performance of the municipality. This system supports the rigorous monitoring control and reporting requirements required of the municipality.

The integration of all other computerised to this financial management system and the acquisition of the required hardware and the software must be finalized to ensure that information is accurate, relevant and prompt, which in turn will facilitate the smooth running and effective management of the municipality.

Upgrading and restructuring of the budget office in line with the budget reform process initiated by National Treasury. This will result in better control of expenditure and improved reporting.

6.4 Capital Financing Strategies and Programmes

The following are some of the more significant programs that has been identified:

The development and implementation of a debt capacity policy

This policy will ensure that any borrowings taken by the municipality will be done in a responsible manner and that the repayment and servicing of such a debt will be affordable.

The development and implementation of a large-scale economic policy.

This policy, including targeted procurement, will set out ways in which the municipality can become more effective in attracting large scale economic investment. It will be the framework to provide an environment that is investor friendly, efficient (with quick decision – making ability) and will detail any incentives, which may be given to attract large business.

The development and implementation of a policy for accessing donor finance

This policy will create a framework for the accessing of funds from local and overseas donors. It will detail the type of projects for which funding will be sought, the procedures to be used and donor conditions which are acceptable or unacceptable.

6.5 Operational Financing Strategies and Programmes

The following programme has been identified:

Investigation of service delivery options and public/private partnerships

This refers to the ongoing investigation into how the Municipality can service the community in the most efficient and effective manner, including an investigation of public/private partnerships for service delivery.

6.6 Strategies to enhance Cost-effectiveness

The following are some of the more significant programmes that have been identified:

The establishment of benchmarks and performance indicators are paramount. This will include:

- Training and development of financial (and other) staff
The aim of this project will be to constantly ensure that the financial staffs (and other) receive the training they require to ensure a cost – effective and efficient service of the municipality.
- Enhanced budgetary controls and timeliness of financial data

To improve the operation of the budget office, in respect of producing financial information and the monitoring and reporting of budget variances. Some of the more significant measures of acceptable performance in this area will be, financial bottom line matched to forecast to a 10% variance level, receipt of unqualified audit reports, monthly financial statements produced within 10 working days of month end, etc.

7) FINANCIAL MANAGENT POLICIES

7.1 General Financial Philosophy

The financial policy of the Maruleng Municipality is to provide a sound financial base and the resources necessary to sustain a satisfactory level of municipal services for the citizens of the municipality.

It is the goal of the municipality to achieve a strong financial position with the ability to:

- Withstand local and regional economic impact
- Adjust efficiently to the community 's changing service requirements
- Effectively maintain and improve and expand the municipal infrastructure ;
- Manage the municipality 's budget and cash flow to the maximum benefit of the community ;
- Prudently plan , coordinate and implement responsible and sustainable community development and growth;
- Provide a high level of social services to assure public health and safety

Maruleng Municipality's financial policy shall address the following fiscal goals:

- Keep the municipality in a sound financial position in both the short and long term ;
- Maintain sufficient financial liquidity through regular reviews and adjustments to meet normal operating and contingent obligations ;
- Apply a credit control and debt collection policies which maximise collection while providing relief for the indigent;
- Credit control and debt collection policies that recognises the basic policy for customer care and convenience
- Operate utilities in a responsive and fiscally sound manner ;
- Maintain existing infrastructure and capital assets;
- Provide framework for prudent use of debt financing ;
- Direct the municipality's financial resources toward meeting the goals of the municipality's Integrated Development plan.

7.2 Budget Policies

The annual budget is the central financial planning document that embodies all operating revenue and expenditure and capital budget decisions. It establishes the level of services to be provided by such department.

The municipal manager shall priorities in the formulation of the preliminary and final budget proposal.

The budget will be subject to a monthly control and be resorted to council with recommendations of action to be taken to achieve the budget's goals. The budget will be subject to a mid- term review, which may result in an adjustment budget. The budget shall balance recurring operating expenses to recurring operating revenues.

The budget will have Revenue plans based on realistically expected income and expenditure figures. Plans will be included to achieve maximum revenue collection percentages.

7.3 Capital Infrastructure Investment Policies

The municipality will establish and implement a comprehensive rolling five years Capital Investment Plan (CIP). This plan will be updated annually. The capital planning process must be synchronized with the annual operating budget cycle, allowing for the regular reassessment of capital needs and projections, as well as the update of

the rolling five year capital plan. An annual capital investment budget will be developed and adopted by the municipality as part of the annual budget. The Municipality will make all capital improvements in accordance with the CIP. Unexpected capital project budget shall not be carried forward or rolled over to future fiscal years unless the projected Expenditure is omitted or funded from grant funding.

Routine and administrative capital needs shall be financed from current revenues (Capital Replacement Reserve) as opposed to the issuance of long – term debt. The municipality will maintain all assets at a level adequate to protect the Municipality's capital investment and to minimize future maintenance and replacement costs.

7.4 Revenue Policies

The municipality will estimate annual revenues through a conservative, prudent, objective and analytical process based on realistically expected income. The municipality will consider market rates charged levied by other public and private organisations for similar services in establishing tariffs and charges. The municipality will set fees and user charges at a level that fully supports the total direct and indirect cost of operations. Tariffs will be set to reflect the Development and Social Policies of the Municipality. The municipality will continue to identify and pursue grants and appropriations from provincial and national government and other agencies that are consistent with the municipality's goals and strategic plan. The municipality will follow an aggressive policy of collecting revenues.

7.5 Credit Control and Debt Collection Policies and Procedures

The municipality must adopt a credit control and debt collection policy

The principles supported in this policy, amongst others, should cover at least the following:

- The administrative integrity of the municipality must be maintained at all costs. The democratically elected councillors are responsible for the policy making, while it is the responsibility of the Municipal Manager to ensure the execution of these policies.
- All customers must complete an official application form, formally requesting the municipality to connect them to a service supply. Existing customers may be required to complete new application forms from time to time, as determined by the municipal manager.
- A copy of the application form, conditions of service and relevant exactions of the council 's credit control and debt collection policy and by –laws must be handed to every customer on request, at such fees as may be prescribed by council.
- Billing to be accurate, timeous and understandable.
- Customer is entitled to reasonable access to pay points and to a variety of reliable payments methods.
- Customer is entitled to an efficient and effective and reasonable response to appeals and should suffer no disadvantage during the processing of a reasonable appeal.
- Enforcement of payment must be prompt, consistent and effective.
- Unauthorised consumption and connection and re- connection, the tempering with or theft of meters, service supply equipment and the reticulation network and any fraudulent activity in connection with the provision of municipal services will lead to disconnection, penalties, loss of rights and criminal prosecutions.
- Incentives and disincentives may be used in collection procedures.
- The collection process must be cost- effective.
- Results will be regularly and efficiently reported by the Municipal Manager and the mayor.
- Application forms will be used to, inter- alias, categorise customers according to credit risk and to determine relevant levels of service and deposits required.
- Targets for performance in both customer service and debt collection will be set out and remedies implemented for non – performance.

The policy document must, amongst others cover:

- Duties and Functions of Council, Mayor, Ward Councillors, Municipal Manager and of the communities.
- Area of Application
- Application of services
- Deposits and guarantees
- Accounts and billing
- Metering of services
- Customer Assistance Programmes
- Communication
- Payment facilities and Methods
- Enquiries and appeals
- Tenders for business
- Debt collection
- Theft and fraud
- Reporting and performance management
- Income collection target
- Application of the policy

Impact of the National Credit Act.

A document titled "Debt Collection Procedures" must support or form an integral part of the Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy.

7.6 Indigent Support Policy

An indigent support policy must be adopted by council.

This policy should identify the conditions that must be satisfied to be regarded as an indigent and the process to be followed to apply for indigent status.

The form of subsidy is identified, as is the process of auditing the indigent applications.

In addition, procedures which will be followed in the event of a death of an indigent and a false indigent application must be covered. Finally, the treatment of the outstanding debt of a customer on becoming an indigent must be addressed.

7.7 Investment and Cash Management Policies

In terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003, and section 13 (2): "Each Municipal Council shall adopt by resolution an investment policy regarding the investment of its money not immediately required.

Investment of the municipality shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to enable the municipality to meet daily cash flow demands and conform to all state and local requirements governing the investment of public funds. The preservation of the principal amount is the foremost objective of the investment program.

The municipality will continue with the current cash management and investment practices, which are designed to emphasize safety of capital first, sufficient liquidity to meet obligations second and the highest possible yield third.

Investments shall be made with care, skill, practice 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 fund of like character and with like aims, to safeguard the principal amount and maintain the liquidity need of the municipality. The standard of prudence to be used by investment officials shall be the "prudent person" standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall investment portfolio.

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

The municipality shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific requirement, the municipality will not directly invest in securities maturing more than two years from date of issue.

The municipality's financial information systems will provide adequate information concerning cash position and investment performance. The municipality will not invest monies in contradiction to the policy guidelines as adopted by council. The Municipality is also discouraged from investing more than 30 % of available funds with a single institution.

The minister of finance may identify by regulation of section 168 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, instrument or investments other than those referred to below in which municipality may invest.

- Deposits with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act 1990 (Act no 94 of 1990);
- Securities issued by the National Government;
- Investment with the public investment commissioners as contemplated by the Public Investment Commissions Act, 1984 (Act no 5 of 1984);
- Listed corporate bonds with an investment grade rating from a nationally or internationally recognised credit rating agency;
- Deposits with the corporation for public deposits as contemplated by the corporation for public deposits Act 1984 (Act 46 of 1984)
- Bankers' acceptance certificates or negotiable certificates of deposits of banks registered in terms of a banks Act 1990 (Act 94 of 1990) ;
- Municipal bonds issued by a municipality;
- Guaranteed endowment policies with the intention of establishing a sinking fund; and
- Repurchase agreements with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act , 1990 (Act 94 of 1990)

7.8 Investment and Cash Management Policies

The Financial Department manages all municipal borrowings. The municipality's cash flow must be carefully managed and anchored by at least quarterly loan draw downs, so as to eliminate the need for short-term borrowings. Guidelines must be established by the Treasury Department to set forth the municipality's management policies toward rapidity of debt repayment, affordability, the limitations on the level of variable rate debt the municipality will issue and the target savings amount on debt to be refinanced.

The municipality shall incur a debt only when necessary to meet a public need and when funding for such project is not available from the current revenues, reserves or other sources.

Long term borrowings will be used to finance capital programmes, including refurbishment, as approved in the municipality 'capital investment plan.

Capital projects financed through the issuance of debt shall be financed for a period not exceeding the expected useful life of the project.

The municipality will not incur debt to finance current operations.

Leasing options, after a cost benefit analysis, may be used as a medium-term method of borrowing for the financing of vehicle, computers other specialised types of equipment, or other capital refurbishment programmes.

7.9 Asset management Policy

The objective of the asset management policy is to prescribe the accounting and administrative policies and procedures relating to Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE), which are fixed assets of the Maruleng Municipality.

A summary of the principle supported in this policy amongst others, should cover:

- A fixed asset shall mean an asset, either movable or immovable, under the control of the municipality, and from which the municipality reasonably expects to derive economic benefits, or reasonably expects to use in-service delivery, over a period extending beyond 12 months.
- The fixed asset register shall comply with the requirements of Generally Recognized Accounting Practice (GRAP) and any other accounting requirements, which may be prescribed.
- Fixed assets are classified under the following heading:
 - Land
 - Infrastructure assets
 - Community assets
 - Heritage assets
 - Investment properties
 - Other assets
- Every Head of Department shall be directly responsible for the physical safekeeping of any fixed asset controlled or used by the department in question.
- PPE is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation or fair value at date of acquisition less accumulated depreciation where assets have been acquired by grant or donation.
- Subsequent expenditure relating to property, Plant and equipment is capitalised if it is probable that future economic benefits or potential service delivery of the asset are enhanced in excess of the originally assessed standard of performance. If expenditure only restores the originally assessed standard performance, then it is regarded as repairs and maintenance and is expensed. The enhancement of an existing asset, so that its use is expanded or; the further development of an asset so that its original life is extended, are examples of subsequent expenditure which should be capitalized.
- Assets are capitalised according to a capitalization criterion and all expenditure below a capitalisation threshold, as determined in the approved policy, is expensed when incurred
- Depreciation is calculated on cost, using a straight-line method, over the estimated useful lives of the assets
- Heritage assets, which are defined, as culturally significant resources, are not depreciated as there are regarded as having an infinite life. In general, Land is also not depreciated for the same reasons; the exception to the policy is that cemetery land and landfill sited are depreciated.
- Incomplete construction work is stated at historic cost.
- The carrying amount of an item or a group of identical items of PPE will be reviewed periodically in order to assess whether or not the recoverable amount has declined below the carrying amount. When such decline has occurred the carrying amount will be reduced to the recoverable amount (also termed as impairment of assets). The amount of the reduction will be recognised as an expense immediately, unless it reverses a previous revaluation, in which case it will be charged to the revaluation non-distributable reserve.
- Assets are eliminated from the statement of financial position on disposal or retirement.
- The difference between the net book value of assets (cost less accumulated depreciation) and the sales proceeds is reflected as a gain or loss in the statement of financial performance,

7.10 Asset management Information

To ensure that assets are adequately maintained, a programme for the planned maintenance and replacement of all fixed and movable assets is essential.

The magnitude of differed maintenance due to past lack of funding must be reviewed, quantified and appropriate steps taken to address same within these next five years, whilst at the same time ensuring that the current and ongoing preventative maintenance plan does not fall behind and end up as unbudgeted for differed maintenance in future years.

8 KEY FINANCIAL TARGETS

The multi – year budget is underpinned by the following key financial target assumptions:

- Tariff increase,
- Macro Growth factor indicator
- Capital Charges
- Total expenditure increases allowed (excluding repairs and maintenance)
- Increase in repairs and maintenance.

9 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table 5 overleaf, gives details of commonly used financial ratios / benchmarks. The information in this table is the targeted position the municipality shall strive to achieve year on year, over the next five financial years.

TABLE 5: Targeted Ratio Analysis / Financial Benchmarks, Year on Year, over the next five financial years

LM335 Maruleng - Supporting Table S48 Performance indicators and benchmarks											
Description of financial indicator	Basis of calculation	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Current Year 2025/26				2026/27 Medium Term Revenue & Expenditure Framework		
		Audited Outcome	Audited	Audited	Original	Adjusted	Full Year	Pre-audit	Budget Year	Budget Year	Budget Year
Borrowing Management											
Credit Rating											
Capital Charges to Operating Expenditure	Interest & Principal Paid / Operating	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%
Capital Charges to Own Revenue	Finance charges & Repayment of borrowing	0.2%	0.0%	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	0.1%	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%
Borrowed funding of own capital expenditure	Borrowing/Capital expenditure excl. transfers	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Safety of Capital											
Gearing	Long Term Borrowing/ Funds & Reserves	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Liquidity											
Current Ratio	Current assets/current liabilities	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	(1.4)	(1.2)	1.3	0.9	0.7
Current Ratio adjusted for aged debtors	Current assets less debtors > 90 days/current	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	(1.0)	(0.9)	0.4	0.0	(5.3)
Liquidity Ratio	Monetary Assets/Current Liabilities	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	(0.3)	(0.4)	0.2	(0.2)	(0.3)
Revenue Management											
Annual Debtors Collection Rate (Payment Level %)	Last 12 Mths Receipts/Last 12 Mths Billing	0.0%	12.2%	1540.2%	1590.5%	1725.9%	1540.1%	1540.1%	1722.6%	1527.9%	1527.9%
Current Debtors Collection Rate (Cash receipts % of Ratepayer & Other revenue)		12.2%	1540.2%	150.5%	1725.9%	1540.1%	1540.1%	1722.6%	1527.9%	1527.9%	1532.4%
Outstanding Debtors to Revenue	Total Outstanding Debtors to Annual Revenue	88.2%	72.5%	77.2%	85.3%	86.0%	86.0%	86.5%	45.2%	56.2%	61.1%
Longstanding Debtors Recovered	Debtors > 12 Mths Recovered/Total Debtors										
Creditors System Efficiency	% of Creditors Paid Within Terms (within MFMA's 65%)										
Creditors to Cash and Investments		36.9%	52.0%	53.8%	104.8%	91.9%	-61.9%	-78.8%	2384.3%	-285.4%	-258.7%
Other Indicators											
	Total Volume Losses (tW) technical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Volume Losses (tW) non technical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electricity Distribution Losses (2)	Total Cost of Losses (Rand '000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% Volume (units purchased and generated less units sold)/units purchased and generated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Volumes - System input	Bulk Purchase	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Water treatment works	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Natural sources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Volume Losses (tW)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Cost of Losses (Rand '000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Distribution Losses (2)	% Volume (units purchased and generated less units sold)/units purchased and generated	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Employee costs	Employee costs/Total Revenue - capital	26.5%	24.0%	23.0%	26.5%	24.1%	24.1%	23.3%	27.8%	30.4%	30.8%
Remuneration	Total remuneration/Total Revenue - capital	30.5%	27.0%	26.8%	29.8%	26.8%	26.8%	26.8%	30.8%	33.5%	34.0%
Repairs & Maintenance	R&M/Total Revenue excluding capital	1.3%	1.8%	3.1%	3.3%	4.1%	4.1%	3.9%	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%
Finance charges & Depreciation	FC&D/Total Revenue - capital revenue	9.0%	7.5%	7.8%	8.5%	7.6%	7.6%	-7.2%	8.1%	8.7%	8.8%
IDP reputation financial viability indicators											
TOP coverage	(Total Operating Revenue - Operating	2920.1%	295.9	33.0	48.2	50.9	50.9	40.2	47.0	44.1	46.1
TOP Service Debtors to Revenue	Total outstanding service debts/annual	2920.1%	2782.9%	3082.1%	3328.8%	2783.3%	2783.3%	2888.1%	1359.6%	1569.0%	1770.8%
TOP Coverage	(Available cash - Investments)/monthly fixed										

10. SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

The five-year financial plan includes an Operating Budget, a Capital Investment Programme, and the Sources of Funding for the Capital Investment Programme, financial strategies and programmes, various finances. Management policies adopted by Council, key financial targets, key performance indicators, and a budget according to the IDP priorities.

A municipality can be categorized as either:

- Developed - maintenance
- Developing – growing

Maruleng Local Municipality can be categorized as a developing - growing municipality. Such a municipality requires significant additional resources and funding to conduct the growth that is expected of it. In contrast, already developed - maintenance municipalities are mainly concerned with the need to maintain existing infrastructure.

The five-year financial plan forms an integral part of the integrated development plan of the municipality. These exact ingredients are in fact the financial plan, for without it being included in the integrated development plan, service delivery would cease to exist.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council **approved** the five-year financial plan to be integrated with integrated development plan and budget.

SIGNED BY



MUROA ML

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

DATE

28/05/2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

SC07/05/2026