

## **IDP: Local Pathway to Sustainable Development in South Africa**

### **BACKGROUND**

Integrated Development Planning (IDP) is one of the key tools used by the South African Government to tackle its new developmental role. In contrast to the role planning has played in the past, integrated development planning is a function of municipal management and is part of an integrated system of planning and service delivery. The IDP process is meant to arrive at decisions on key issues such as municipal budgets, land management, promotion of local economic development and institutional transformation in a consultative, systematic and strategic manner. It therefore not only informs municipal management on key issues, but also guides the activities of other spheres of government, corporate service providers, NGO's and the private sector.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF IDP**

The purpose of IDP is to foster more appropriate service delivery by providing the framework for economic and social development within the municipality. In doing so it:

#### **i) Contributes toward eradicating the development legacy of the past**

By being the local strategic mechanism to restructure our cities, town and rural areas, integrated development planning ensures:

- a shared understanding of spatial and development opportunities are created
- specific pro-poor strategies are being pursued
- an overview of planned public and private investment is provided
- mechanisms to promote social equality through participatory processes of democratisation, empowerment and social transformation are put in place
- instruments to address sustainability in its three facets: ecological, economic, social are accessible

The Integrated and participatory nature of IDP therefore allows service delivery and development to be addressed in a multifaceted way within the limits of scarce resources.

#### **ii) Operationalises the notion of developmental local government**

IDP ensures that local government transformation can take place by making sure that:

- integrated and sustainable projects and programmes are formulated
- the foundation for community building is laid
- a strategic framework that facilitates improved municipal governance is in place
- a conduit for attracting investment is provided for by elaborating on clear and agreed upon medium term financial and capital investments
- more effective and efficient resource allocation and utilisation takes place, and
- political accountability and municipal performance can be monitored and evaluated against documented decisions.

### **iii) Fosters a culture of co-operative governance**

IDP is a mechanism for alignment and co-ordination between different spheres of government and sectors of development because it:

- serves as a basis for communication and interaction between spheres and sectors
- ensures accountability and partnership by debating concrete issues, planning and resource allocation decisions
- promotes integration of sectorally divided departments at local level
- harnesses all public resources of the three spheres of government behind common goals and within a framework of municipal support

In this way, co-operative governance is encouraged so that service delivery to the most needy can be expedited.

## **WHAT IS AN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN?**

An Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is development plan for a municipal area containing short, medium and long-term objectives and strategies. It serves as the principal strategic management instrument for municipalities. It is legislated by the Municipal Systems Act 2000 (MSA) and supersedes all other plans that guide development at a local level.

The IDP approach has to conform to specific methodological principals. It has to reflect the priority needs of the municipality and its residents and ensure that available resources are used in an objective orientated manner. The plan should be strategic and has to be based on an informed and implementation orientated process. It must be specific enough to inform budgets, business plans and land use management decisions within the municipality. This process is facilitated through the application of specific methodological tools, designed to support the integrated development planning process.

## **THE METHODOLOGY**

To arrive at an integrated development plan the municipality needs to follow a number of distinct phases. These are as follows:

### **PHASE O: PREPARATION PHASE**

- Programme for different planning steps
- Procedures for consultation and participation
- Identification of binding plans and planning requirements

### **PHASE ONE: ANALYSIS**

- Assess existing level of development through
  - Compilation of existing information

- Community and Stakeholder Issue Analysis
- Municipal Analysis
  - Economic
  - Environmental
  - Institutional
  - Spatial
  - Socio-economic
- Agree on Priority Issues
- In depth Analysis of Priority Issues through assessing context, causes, dynamics, resources and potential related to priority issues

## **PHASE TWO: STRATEGIES**

- Formulation of long term shared vision (25-30 years)
- Setting of mid-term municipal objectives with related targets and indicators
- Deciding on appropriate strategies to address priority issues and achieve municipal objectives and targets
- Identification of projects

## **PHASE THREE: PROJECTS**

- Make preliminary budget allocations for capital and operational expenditure
- Design Project proposals and set project objectives, targets and indicators.

## **PHASE FOUR: INTEGRATION**

- Screen Project proposals (incl. EIA)
- Integrate projects and programmes
- Draft Integrated Plans and Programmes
  - *5 year Action Plan*
  - *5/7 year Financial Plan*
  - *Institutional Plan*
  - *Integrated Environmental Programme*
  - *Integrated LED Programme*
  - *Integrated Poverty reduction and gender Equity programme*
  - *Integrated HIV/Aids Programme*
  - *Spatial Development Framework*
- **Draft Sector Programmes**
  - *Water Services Development Plan*
  - *Integrated Waste Management Plan*
  - *Integrated Housing Plan*
  - *Integrated Transport Plan*

## **PHASE FIVE: APPROVAL**

- Inviting and Incorporating Public Comments
- Adoption by council

## **PHASE SIX 6 A: MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- Monitor and collate information on implementation management, the achievement of organizational objectives and new information that may have a bearing on IDP
- Evaluate the implications of input from the performance management system, the impact and relevance of new information, the achievement of objectives, the impact of intergovernmental and municipal budget review process

## **PHASE SIX B: ANNUAL REVIEW**

- Use the insights gained through monitoring and evaluating and redraft the relevant sections of the IDP document.

## **CORE OBJECTIVES AND IMPACTS**

The IDP has a number of clear objectives and intended impacts:

As a **consultative process**, it aims to become a tool for democratic local government by ensuring that:

- engagement is structured
- community participation is institutionalised
- Bottom-up and top-down decision making processes of engagement are inter-linked.
- focused analysis takes place and a forum for debate on real issues affecting service delivery is created

As a **strategic process**, IDP aims to ensure that within a municipality:

- most effective use is made of scarce resources
- innovative and cost saving solutions are sought for local problems
- Underlying causes and not symptoms are addressed

As an **implementation orientated** process, IDP aims to become a tool for better and fast delivery by:

- ensuring concrete proposals are designed
- close planning- budget links are made
- institutional preparedness is addressed

IDP therefore ensures that local municipalities are informed about their environment and that municipal management is informed specific issues that would affect budgetary land use management decisions. It also facilitates intergovernmental relations by ensuring that all developmental activities within a municipal area is consolidated and contributes to the furthering of the vision of that municipality. The fact that the responsibility of IDP lay with the municipality's Executive Committee or Mayor ensures that IDP and its implementation receives the top priority within decision-making structures.

## **HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE IDP PROCESS?**

All residents have a responsibility to be actively involved in municipal affairs. The IDP process offers residents including organised stakeholder groups an opportunity to shape the development of the towns and cities they live in.

Contact your ward councillor, participate in activities of your ward committee or contact your municipal administration to find out more about the IDP process effecting your area. Make suggestions for addressing development challenges facing your locality and propose innovative solutions that can put your area on a pathway to sustainable development. Make a better life for your children and their children. Governance and development is a collective effort.

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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