

Oversight report - Mayor's Speech

Mr. Speaker, Councillors, Members of the Public, Officials, and all Stakeholders.

This morning, I rise to table the Oversight Report on the 2024/2025 Draft Annual Report of the George Municipality to this Council today.

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive account of the Municipality's performance over the past financial year. It outlines our achievements, identifies areas where we have fallen short, and presents our financial position with transparency. However, it is through the oversight process that this report gains its true value, as it is interrogated, evaluated, and strengthened through the collective efforts of Council and the public.

The Oversight Report before you today is the product of careful review by the Municipal Public Accounts Committee. It reflects inputs from various oversight structures, public participation processes, and engagements with stakeholders. I wish to extend my appreciation to all Councillors, officials, and members of the community who contributed their time and insights to this important exercise. The oversight process kicked off immediately after the draft annual report was tabled to Council in January 2026 and involved engagements with management, the MPAC, our assurance structures, external stakeholders, as well as the general public. A product of these engagements was the Oversight Report and a final Annual Report for 2024/2025 which were accepted by the MPAC committee insert date of acceptance in line with their delegation and was referred to this Council.

Councillors, oversight is not about fault-finding alone, it is about ensuring that we continuously improve in serving our residents. It is about ensuring that public resources are utilised efficiently, effectively, and in the best interests of our community.

In the past financial year, I can highlight that our financial viability remained within the norms. We reported a gearing ratio of 28.99%, service debtors at 12.01%, cash coverage ratio at 3.68, a capital expenditure of 114% that is well above the original capital budget expenditure of target of 95%.

As we table this Oversight Report, we must remain mindful of the challenges faced during the period under review including economic pressures, infrastructure demands, and the growing needs of our population. Yet we must also recognise the resilience of this Municipality and the progress that has been made despite these challenges. We are aware of the need to push for a better collection ratio beyond the 92.43% that we achieved. It is our pursuit to provide more job opportunities through the EPWP programme than the 807 that we reported, we want to provide more indigent subsidies to households that qualify, and basic services to all households as we should.

This report therefore serves as both a mirror and a guide: a mirror reflecting our performance, and a guide directing our future actions.

I encourage all Councillors to engage constructively with the contents of this report. Let us approach this process with integrity, objectivity, and a shared commitment to improving the lives of the people of George.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm that this administration remains dedicated to accountability, transparency, and responsive governance. Together, let us use the findings and recommendations of this Oversight Report to build a stronger, more effective Municipality.

I hereby table the Oversight Report on the Draft Annual Report, as well as the subsequent final Annual Report for the 2024/2025 financial year, for consideration and adoption by Council.

Thank you

Draft TLSDBIP – Mayor’s Speech

Honourable Speaker, Councillors, Municipal Manager, Senior Management, and Members of the Public,

It is my privilege to present to Council the 2026/2027 Draft Top Layer Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan, commonly referred to as the SDBIP.

The SDBIP is not merely a compliance document. It is a critical implementation tool that translates our Integrated Development Plan and approved budget into measurable service delivery targets and clear performance indicators. It is, in essence, our contract with the community, outlining what we intend to deliver, how we will deliver it, and within what timeframes.

Honourable Councillors,

This Draft Top Layer SDBIP sets out the strategic priorities of the George Municipality for the 2026/2027 financial year. It aligns directly with our developmental objectives and responds to the needs and expectations of our residents. It reflects our continued commitment to improving basic service delivery, maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, promoting economic growth and job creation, and ensuring sound financial management.

Through this plan, we continue placing emphasis on mandated focus areas, including:

- The provision and maintenance of reliable water, sanitation, electricity, and refuse removal services;
- Investment in infrastructure to support growth and sustainability;
- Enhancing local economic development and job creation opportunities;
- Strengthening governance, accountability, and institutional performance;
- Improving community safety and social well-being.

The Top Layer SDBIP provides a high-level overview of organisational performance, linking strategic objectives to key performance indicators and quarterly targets. It enables Council and the public to track progress and hold the administration accountable throughout the financial year.

Importantly, this draft SDBIP has been prepared in alignment with the approved Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework. It ensures that our planned activities are financially viable and that resources are allocated in a manner that maximises impact and value for money.

Honourable Speaker,

Transparency and accountability remain at the heart of our governance approach. The tabling of this draft SDBIP marks the beginning of a process that includes further refinement, performance agreements, and ongoing monitoring. It also provides an opportunity for Councillors, stakeholders and the general public to engage with the proposed targets and ensure that they are realistic, measurable, and responsive to community needs.

We are mindful of the challenges that lie ahead, including potential effects of international geopolitical instability pressures, financial constraints, rising service delivery demands, and the need to build resilience in the face of environmental and economic pressures. However, through careful planning, disciplined implementation, and strong oversight, we are confident in our ability to deliver on our

mandate. We will solicit input from the public and other stakeholders during the IDP/Budget roadshow in April 2026 before finalisation of the budget and the SDBIP.

Let us remember that the success of this SDBIP will not be measured only by the achievement of targets, but by the tangible improvements in the quality of life of our residents.

In closing, I wish to thank the Municipal Manager and the administration for their work in compiling this draft plan. I also thank Councillors for their ongoing commitment to good governance and service delivery excellence.

I hereby table the 2026/2027 Draft Top Layer SDBIP before Council for noting.

I thank you.