

George Municipality – 2026/2027

Honourable Speaker, Executive Deputy Mayor, Councillors, Municipal Manager, Senior Management, Stakeholders and Residents of George,

It is with a strong sense of responsibility and commitment that I present the Draft 5th Generation Review of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the 2026/2027 financial year.

This draft review reflects Council's continued dedication to integrated planning, sustainable development and responsive governance, as we work collectively to address the evolving needs of our growing and dynamic community.

George Municipality has continued to make social and economic progress in the provision of basic services and sound financial management. These achievements demonstrate our commitment to responsible governance and long-term developmental planning. At the same time, we recognise that increasing population growth, rising service delivery demands, economic pressures and environmental challenges require the Municipality to ensure responsiveness, accountable and transparent governance that meets the needs of all residents.

The Integrated Development Plan remains the Municipality's primary strategic planning instrument, guiding development priorities and aligning municipal programmes with national and provincial policy frameworks, while responding to the unique needs of our local communities.

Council's strategic focus remains directed at stimulating local economic growth, maintaining and expanding critical infrastructure, promoting environmental sustainability, improving community safety and enhancing access to affordable and quality municipal services. These priorities are essential to creating an enabling environment that supports investment, job creation and improved quality of life for all residents of George.

This document, tabled today, represents the final review of the concluding year of the current Integrated Development Plan (IDP) cycle. In accordance with the principles of participatory governance and legislative requirements, the Municipality will embark on a comprehensive public participation process during April 2026. This will provide residents, businesses, community organisations and other stakeholders with the opportunity to engage meaningfully with the draft IDP, submit inputs and influence the Municipality's final development agenda.

Following this consultation process, all comments and representations will be carefully considered and incorporated where appropriate, before the Final Reviewed IDP is tabled before Council for approval.

The draft IDP further reinforces the Municipality's commitment to good governance, accountability, ethical leadership and financial sustainability. It provides a coordinated framework for planning, budgeting, implementation and performance monitoring, ensuring that developmental objectives are translated into measurable outcomes across all wards.

On behalf of Council, I wish to express appreciation to municipal officials and stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of this draft review. We also call on all residents of George to actively participate in the upcoming public engagement sessions, as their inputs are vital in shaping a municipality that is inclusive, resilient and future-focused.

Together, through collaboration and shared responsibility, we can continue building a safe, clean, green and opportunity-driven George, where all people can live, work and thrive.

I hereby table the Draft 5th Generation Review of the Integrated Development Plan for the 2026/2027 financial year for consideration.

Thank you.

Ald. B. Johnson
Executive Mayor