

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CITY ENTERPRISES

Development Planning Environment and Management

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The Programme Steering Committee
Urban Environmental Management Programme
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Private Bag X447
Pretoria 0001

Attention: The Chair, Ms Joanne Yawitch

Dear Madam

UEM PROGRAMME 2006/07: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND BUDGET

The purpose of this submission is to request an amendment to the 2006/07 PSC approved budget for the eThekweni Municipality's UEM Programme projects. It would be appreciated if this could be considered and approved prior to the 15 January deadline for the 2006/07 project progress reports, in order that eThekweni's progress report accurately reflects these projects. A detailed motivation for the requested budget changes follows.

1. Background

A total budget of R2,225,000 was allocated the eThekweni Municipality for projects in the 2006/07 financial year, of which R500,000 was allocated to Output 1: UEM integrated into city planning cycle and city management (refer to red text in Table 1 attached). This amount was to be spent on completing the North and South Spatial Development Plans and initiating the first phase of the Central Spatial Development Plan, as outlined in section 2 of our approved Business Plan and the related Annexure.

Unfortunately, due to a range of factors the City has not progressed as far as it would have liked in the completion of the North and South Spatial Development Plans to a point where the full amount allocated to this aspect of the UEM programme can be spent in the 2006/07 financial year. Furthermore the Central Spatial Development Plan has not been initiated due to a lack of capacity to run with this project (internally and within the consulting environment).

In addition, the 2010 focus for the Inner City a key component of the Central Spatial Development Plan is advancing well, together with other precinct plans and local area plans - Back of Beach Precinct Plan, Berea Corridors Precinct Plan, Point Precinct Plan, Ports City Precinct Plan, Back of Port City Local Area Plan etc are also being developed that have an impact for Central Spatial Development Plan. Hence the real value of a Central Spatial Development Plan at this point in time is less compared to various other precinct plans and therefore energy and resources are being shifted to Precinct and Local Area Plans within the Central Spatial Development Plan area.

2. Motivation for reallocation of funding

In order to ensure that the UEM budget allocated to Output 1 is spent within this financial year, while still meeting the specific objectives of the programme, the Municipality would like to more specifically allocate funding to certain projects. It should be noted that the overall intention, focus and UEM principles as approved for the original business plan and this submission with the changes requested is in no way compromised.

The Municipality would therefore like to:

- Reduce the budgets allocated to the North and South SDPs; and
- Reallocate the remaining budget to two other projects which are already underway but which require additional funding.

Table 2 indicates how the budget is reallocated (see bold text) . Further details are provided below:

- (1) North Spatial Development Plan – The draft plan is nearing completion and needs to be presented to the public for their comments and input.
- (2) South Spatial Development Plan – The draft Plan requires some additional work in the area of understanding property trends in the area prior to being presented to the public.
- (3) Ohlanga-Tongati Local Area Plan and Coastal Management Plan – This project was initiated in March 2006 to provide a detailed framework for guiding development in the coastal area between the Ohlanga and Tongati Rivers in the northern area of the city. A coastal management plan forms part of the project to ensure that land use and coastal management are well integrated and meets the UEM programme requirements of mainstreaming environment into planning.

Both plans will lead to improved quality of life for the poor through improved, maintained and secured public accessibility to the coast and its resources (given the growing trend for private estates and privatisation of the coast and its resources), improving the public realm in specific areas along the coast, the identification of areas for different densities of residential development, and ultimately job creation through tourism and residential developments that take place in accordance with these plans. Five informal settlements consisting of over 1200 households are located in the area and would require specific attention in finalising this plan. The project is proceeding well, and the Municipality has already contributed to half of the project costs.

- (4) Port Interface Local Area Plan – The Port Interface area consists of a mix of industrial and special residential properties situated in strategic area adjacent to the Port of Durban (within an 8-10 km range from the Port). On-going conflicts over some 60 years between industrial and residential land uses and the associated impacts on quality of life and environmental quality (for example, poor air quality caused by industrial pollution and traffic emissions) require that the city engages carefully and strategically with the local community in the context of wider economic imperatives facing the city, viz. Port expansion and continued growth of Port related activities. A property survey, an updated and comprehensive land use assessment and health study is urgently required to augment the work already being done by the Municipality, and to inform the decisions to be made about the future of this area.

The relevant sections of the 2006/07 Business Plan and Annexure 6 have been amended to reflect these proposed projects (attached).

3. Consistency with the UEM Programme objectives

The amended sections of the 2006/07 Business Plan and Annexure 6 indicate that all of these projects are consistent with and support the objectives of the UEM Programme. All these projects form part of the Municipality's integrated planning system (package of plans) which guide the location of land uses, taking cognisance of the constraints of the natural environment, and ensure that poorer communities are physically, socially and economically integrated into the broader city fabric.

It is also noted that the proposed changes are in line with eThekweni's five year budget which remains unchanged, i.e. R500,000 for 2006/07 continues to be allocated to the theme 'Integration of UEM into city planning cycle' (see Table 1 and 2 below).

4. Approval of changes by Municipality

The proposed changes to the budget still fall under the programme 'Develop and implement a sustainable and integrated spatial planning system' in the Municipality's 2006/07 Integrated Development Plan as approved by the City's Executive Committee, and therefore no changes are required.

5. Expenditure by end of 2006/07 financial year

Each of the projects identified forms part of an existing project that is already in progress. Consequently considerable momentum already exists to ensure that these projects will be completed by the end of the financial year. Consultants still need to be appointed for two of the projects (South SDP and Port Interface LAP) but it is possible to use shortened appointment procedures where necessary.

I trust that you will look favourably on our request to change the 2006/07 budget as outlined above, and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

MS ST MOONSAMMY
HEAD: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING ENVIRONMENT AND MANAGEMENT

ANNEXURES:

TABLE 1: ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY - CURRENT APPROVED BUDGET 2006/07

	UEM OUTPUTS	5 year Estimated Budget	Annual Estimated Budget 2006/7	Estimated Remainder
1	UEM integrated in city planning cycle and management	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000
	Develop and implement a sustainable and integrated spatial planning system		500,000	
2	Environmental health capacity and implementation	2,250,000	800,000	1,450,000
	(1) Informal settlement health and safety interventions		100,000	
	(2) Informal traders food safety interventions		200,000	
	(3) Training for environmental health practitioners		250,000	
	(4) Vector control training interventions		250,000	
3	Local air quality monitored and managed	2,750,000	500,000	2,250,000
	Air Quality Management Plan (Phase 1)		500,000	
4	Local sustainable energy solutions developed and implemented	1,000,000	315,000	685,000
	Sustainable Energy Strategy		315,000	
5	UEM Capacity development and co-ordination	3,000,000	110,000	2,890,000
	Health Care Risk Waste Management		110,000	
	Sub-total	11,000,000	2,225,000	8,775,000
	Short Term TA	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
	TOTAL	13,000,000		

TABLE 2: ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY PROPOSED BUDGET 2006/07

	UEM OUTPUTS	5 year Estimated Budget	Annual Estimated Budget 2006/7	Estimated Remainder
1	UEM integrated in city planning cycle and management	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000
	Develop and implement a sustainable and integrated spatial planning system -			
	(1) North Spatial Development Plan – public engagement		50,000	
	(2) South Spatial Development Plan – Property trends analysis		100,000	
	(3) Ohlanga-Tongati Local Area Plan and Coastal Management Plan		200,000	
	(4) Port Interface Local Area Plan		150,000	
2	Environmental health capacity and implementation	2,250,000	800,000	1,450,000
	(1) Informal settlement health and safety interventions		100,000	
	(2) Informal traders food safety interventions		200,000	
	(3) Training for environmental health practitioners		250,000	
	(4) Vector control training interventions		250,000	
3	Local air quality monitored and managed	2,750,000	500,000	2,250,000
	Air Quality Management Plan (Phase 1)		500,000	
4	Local sustainable energy solutions developed and implemented	1,000,000	315,000	685,000
	Sustainable Energy Strategy		315,000	
5	UEM Capacity development and co-ordination	3,000,000	110,000	2,890,000
	Health Care Risk Waste Management		110,000	
	Sub-total	11,000,000	2,225,000	8,775,000
	Short Term TA	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
	TOTAL	13,000,000		