

DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET OF
MOQHAKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



"People's power in action"

2018/19 TO 2020/21

**MEDIUM TERM REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE FORECASTS**

Copies of this document can be viewed:

In the foyers of all municipal buildings

All public libraries within the municipality's jurisdiction

At www.moqhaka.gov.za

Part 1 – Annual Budget

1.1 Council Resolutions

The Council of Moqhaka Local Municipality, acting in terms of section 16 of the Local Government: Municipal Financial Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) tables the budget for the 2018/19 MTREF.

1.2 Executive Summary

The National Treasury's MFMA Circular No.89 and 91 were used to guide the compilation of the 2018/19 MTREF.

The compilation of the MTREF remains a huge challenge to balance the budget between the limited revenue resources available and the immense need to provide quality service delivery to our community. Tariff increases must be limited to be within the affordability levels of our community and must still promote economic growth to ensure financial sustainability.

The following budget principles and guidelines directly informed the compilation of the 2018/19 MTREF:

- The 2017/18 Adjustment Budget priorities and targets, as well as the base line allocations contained in that Adjustment Budget were adopted as the upper limits for the new baselines for the 2018/19 annual budget;
- Zero rated budgeting was used on Capital Budget;
- Tariffs and Property Rate increases should be affordable and should generally not exceed inflation as measured by the CPI, except where there are price increases in the inputs of services that are beyond the control of the municipality;
- **Tariffs need to remain or move towards being cost reflective, and should take into account the need to address infrastructure backlogs;**
- The necessary grants to the municipality are reflected in the national and provincial budget and have been gazetted as required by the Annual Division of Revenue Act.

Tariff Setting

There are several tools available and methodologies employed to determine the appropriate tariffs. Municipalities may favour different approaches but the principles of tariff setting should be consistently applied. Municipalities should consider the following practicalities when setting tariffs:

- Costs of bulk purchases (Electricity & Water) and the fluctuation in the seasonal cost {time-of-use-tariffs} thereof;
- Consumption patterns to enable better demand planning and management; and
- In the event that municipalities have been under recovering costs, embark on a process to correct their tariff structures over a reasonable time period so that cost reflective tariffs are achieved.

The tariff setting process is reliant on sound baseline information such as the number of properties within the municipal area of jurisdiction, the values of these properties, the number of households identified as indigent or poor, the consumption patterns in respect of basic services and the growth patterns within the various geographic areas.

The inflation rate forecasts as per the MFMA Circular no. 89 & 91 issued by National Treasury has been used on the MTREF. The maximum of 6% growth rate was stipulated on the Revenue tariffs increases. However, some tariffs are based on cost of recovery and in most instances will be above this proposed percentage increase.

The following are the proposed tariff increases after taking into consideration the guidelines from National Treasury and the cost to the municipality to deliver these services in order to achieve financial sustainability. Average increases:

- Assessment Rates: 6%
- Electricity: 7%
- Water: 14%
- Sewerage: 12%
- Refuse: 11%

- Other Income: 6%

The main challenges experienced during the compilation of the 2018/19 MTREF can be summarised as follows:

- The ongoing difficulties in the national and local economy;
- Aging and insufficient maintained water, roads, sewer and electricity infrastructure;
- The need to reprioritise projects and expenditure within the existing resource basket given the cash flow realities and declining cash position of the municipality coupled with the ongoing increase of the municipality's debtors book;
- Salary increases for municipal staff;
- The increased cost of electricity (due to tariff increases from Eskom);
- Wage increases for municipal staff that continues to exceed consumer inflation, as well as the need to fill critical vacancies to augment service delivery;
- Availability of affordable capital/borrowing;
- Alignment of the Budget to mSCOA Regulations.

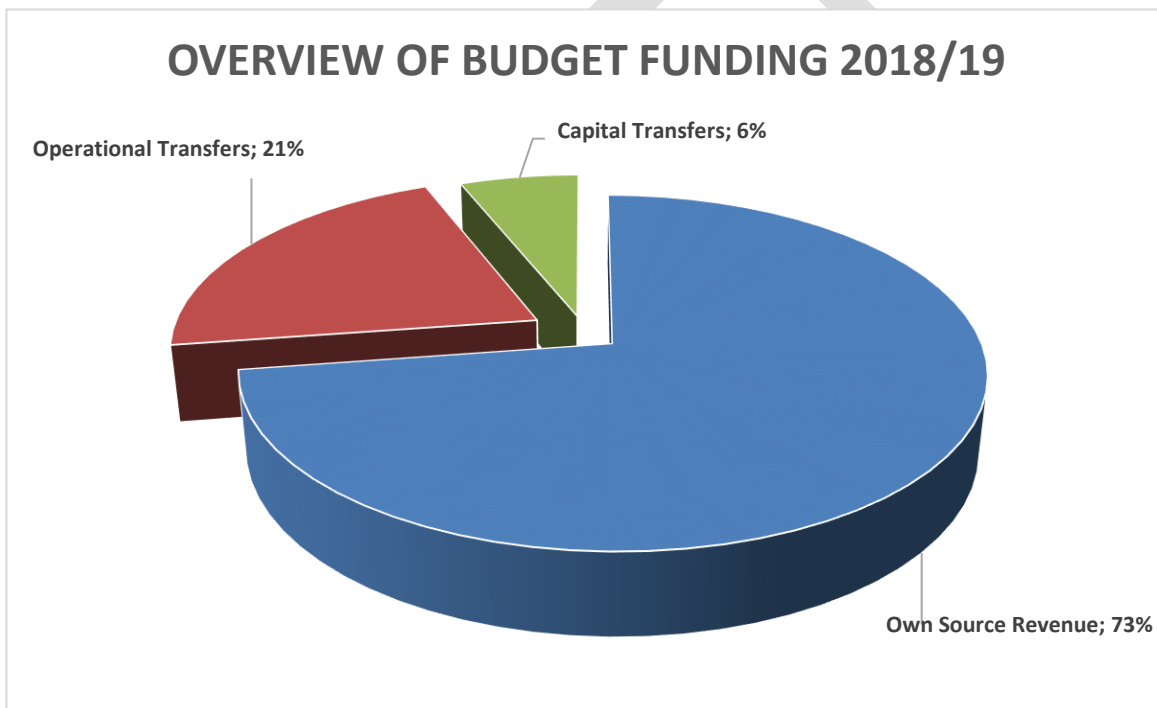
Overview of Budget Funding

Section 18 (1) of the MFMA states that an annual budget may only be funded from;

- ✓ Realistically anticipated revenues to be collected,
- ✓ Cash backed accumulated funds from the previous years' surpluses not committed for other purposes; and
- ✓ Borrowed funds, but only for the capital budget referred to in section 17.

The importance of tabling funded budgets is highlighted in MFMA Circular No. 74.

The achievement of this requirement in totality effectively means that a Council has "Balanced" its budget by ensuring that budgeted outflows will be offset by a combination of planned inflows. Refer to Table A8: Cash backed reserves/accumulated surplus reconciliation' and supporting Table SA10: Funding measurement.



1.3 Operating Revenue Framework

For Moqhaka Local Municipality to continue improving the quality of services provided to its citizens it needs to generate the required revenue. In these tough economic times strong revenue management is fundamental to the financial sustainability of every municipality. The reality is that we are faced with development backlogs and high poverty & unemployment rate.

The expenditure required to address these challenges will inevitably always exceed available funding; hence difficult choices have to be made in relation to tariff increases and balancing expenditures against realistically anticipated revenues.

The municipality's revenue strategy is built around the following key components:

- National Treasury's guidelines and macroeconomic policy;
- Improving the effectiveness of revenue management processes and procedures,
- Efficient revenue management, which aims to ensure a **95%** annual collection rate for property rates and other key service charges;
- Electricity tariff increases as approved by the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (NERSA);
- Achievement of full cost recovery of specific user charges especially in relation to trading services;
- Paying special attention to cost containment measures by, amongst other things, controlling unnecessary spending on nice-to-have items and non-essential activities as was highlighted in MFMA Circular No.82;
- Determining the tariff escalation rate by establishing/calculating the revenue requirement of each service in order to achieve cost reflective tariffs;
- The municipality's Property Rates Policy approved in terms of the Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act 6 of 2004) (MPRA);
- The municipality's Indigent Policy and rendering of free basic services; and
- Curbing consumption of water and electricity by indigents to ensure that they do not exceed their allocation;
- Tariff policies of the Municipality.

The financial sustainability of the 2018/19 MTREF is largely dependent on the collection level of billed revenue. Provision is made in the budget for a **collection level of 87%**. To achieve this collection, Moqhaka Local Municipality is looking to implement more robust credit control measures, which will ensure that all consumers who can afford to pay for services rendered do pay for those services and those who cannot afford to pay for the services are registered as indigent in terms of the municipality's indigent policy. This rate is in relation to the 2018/19 financial year revenue collection, and does not take into account the collection efforts of the municipality with regards to its outstanding consumer debt.

In terms of Council's social commitment to assist the poorer communities in Moqhaka the supply of free basic services and social contributions to identified structures in Moqhaka remains a priority in order to ensure service delivery.

In view of the aforementioned, the following table is a consolidated overview of the proposed 2018/19 Medium-term Revenue and Expenditure Framework:

Table 1 Consolidated Overview of the 2018/19 MTREF

R thousand	Adjustment Budget 2017/18	Budget Year +1 2018/19	Budget Year +2 2019/20	Budget Year +3 2020/21
Total Operating Revenue	737 042	818 359	863 369	910 854
Total Operating Expenditure	722 537	773 276	815 806	860 676
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	14 505	45 043	47 563	50 178
Total Capital Expenditure	79 188	53 410	56 348	59 447

Total operating revenue has grown by **11%** for the 2018/19 financial year when compared to the 2017/18 Adjustment Budget. This is mainly due to the increase in the municipal equitable share, the increase in the service charges which is aimed at improving the service to be cost reflective and achieve financial sustainability. For the two outer years, operational revenue will increase by 5.5% and 5.5% respectively.

Total operating expenditure for the 2018/19 financial year has been appropriated at R 773 million. When compared to the 2017/18 Adjustments Budget, operational expenditure has grown by 7% in the 2018/19 budget and by 5.5% and 5.5% for each of the respective outer years of the MTREF. The raised surpluses will be used to fund capital expenditure and to further ensure cash backing of reserves and funds.

The capital budget amounts to R53 million for 2018/19 which is a R26 million decrease from 2017/18 Adjustment Budget. This is mainly due to the reduced Water Services Infrastructure Grant and the decline with regards to the Own Funding Capital. The capital budget will be funded from grant funding over MTREF with gazetted grants of R50 million as per the Division of Revenue bill 2018/19 and R3 million from the municipal own funding.

The following table is a summary of the 2018/19 MTREF (classified by main revenue source):

Table 2 Summary of revenue classified by main revenue source (A4)

Revenue types			
R thousand	Adjustment Budget Year 2017/18	Budget Year 2018/19	%
Property rates	66 502	85 755	29%
Service Charges:Electricity	286 501	303 792	6%
Service Charges: Water	102 644	120 885	18%
Service Charges: Sanitation	38 756	41 922	8%
Service Charges: Refuse	31 132	35 315	13%
Rental of Facilities	8 557	9 003	5%
Interest : External Investments	1 350	1 420	5%
Interest: Outstanding Debtors	18 236	19 214	5%
Fines	5 625	5 938	6%
Transfers Recognised operational	166 741	184 893	11%
Other Revenue	10 013	10 222	2%
Total Revenue (Excluding capital grants)	736 057	818 359	11%

In line with the formats prescribed by the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, capital transfers and contributions are excluded from the operating statement, as inclusion of these revenue sources would distort the calculation of the operating surplus/deficit.

The municipalities were required to comply with the mSCOA Regulations as from 01 July 2017. The implementation of the mSCOA came with challenges for Moqhaka Municipality. One of the main challenges was to migrate from the old 13 digits vote number to a 20-digits function segment as per the regulations. This has led to some changes in the known item descriptions and reclassification of certain expenditure and the related disclosure for these items.

Revenue generated from **rates and service charges** forms a significant percentage of the revenue basket for the Municipality. Rates and service charge revenues comprise more than two thirds of the total revenue mix. In the 2018/19 financial year, revenue from rates and services charges totalled R588 million.

REMARKS

WATER

The municipality is currently stable in terms of supply of water services to the community. The supply of water is a core function for the municipality, as a result a lot is required from the municipality as a Water Service Authority. Amongst other things, the maintenance of the water network and water purification plants within the 3 towns of Moqhaka Local Municipality. This also necessitates sufficient budget provision for the construction of water reservoirs in all the three towns to ensure sustainable water supply. The acquisition of a new fleet to improve service delivery and to duly respond to consumers' queries lodged. This has resulted in the water revenue increasing on average by **14%**.

SANITATION

The municipality is faced with a number of challenges with regards to delivering an effective sewer system (network & purification plant). The continuous collapsing sewer lines is putting a strain on the municipality's budget in relation to rendering the sewer services. The continuous growth/demand for water borne sewer system, also results in expansion/upgrading of the outfall sewer lines. The high maintenance costs for the sewer network, pump stations and the treatment plant are mainly as a result of the disposal of foreign objects (e.g; stones & steel) into the sewer lines. **This calls mainly for Community awareness in terms of the role and objective of the sewer services in general.** The untreated effluent from the industries which leads to increased operational treatment costs (e.g; pulp, oil, grease & raw blood). All of these issues has led to an increase budget with regards to the sanitation services of an average of **12%**.

REFUSE

Revenues from Solid Waste Management increased on average by **11%**. Although this is above the inflation rate, the tariff is based on the costs of delivering the service. This is a progressive increase in ensuring that the tariffs are cost reflective, and that the unit is ultimately financially sustainable.

OTHER INCOME

Other revenue consists of various items such as income received from building plan fees, connection fees, and advertisement fees. Departments have been urged to review the tariffs of these items on an annual basis to ensure they are cost reflective, market related and financially sustainable.

OPERATING GRANTS

Operating grants and transfers totals R167 million in the 2017/18 financial year and the grants increase to R185 million during 2018/19. This is mainly because of the increase in the municipal equitable share that has increased by R21 million.

Table 3 Summary of revenue classified by municipal votes (A3)

Revenue by Municipal Vote				
Vote Description R thousand	Adjustment Budget 2017/18	2018/19 MTREF		
		Budget year 2018/19	Budget year 2019/20	Budget Year 2020/21
Revenue by Vote				
Vote 1 - Councillors	118 934	137 607	145 175	153 160
Vote 2 - Office of the municipal manager	-	-	-	-
Vote 3 - Corporate Services	763	804	848	895
Vote 4 - Finance	422 071	448 196	472 847	498 853
Vote 5 - Technical Services	200 379	188 465	198 831	209 766
Vote 6 - Community and Emergency Services	47 231	51 980	54 839	57 855
Vote 7 - Local Economic Development and Planning	13 504	14 207	14 988	15 813
Total Revenue by Vote	802 882	841 259	887 528	936 342

Table 4 Operating Transfers and Grant Receipts (SA18)

DESCRIPTION	REF	Budget Year 2017/18	Budget Year +2018/19	Budget Year +2019/20	Budget Year +2021
		Adjusted Budget			
R thousands					
RECEIPTS:	1, 2				
Operating Transfers and Grants					
National Government:		166 741	190 751	201 242	202 651
Local Government Equitable Share		164 092	187 893	198 227	200 251
LG Seta	3	504	543	573	-
Finance Management		2 145	2 315	2 442	2 400
EPWP Incentive		1 000	1 000	1 055	1 113
EPWP Incentive	5	1 000	1 000	1 055	1 113
District Municipality:		-	-	-	-
Other grant providers:		-	-	-	-
Total Operating Transfers and Grants	6	167 741	191 751	202 297	203 764

Table 5: Capital Grants (SA18)

DESCRIPTION	REF	Budget Year 2017/18	Budget Year +2018/19	Budget Year +2019/20	Budget Year +20/21
		Adjusted Budget			
R thousands					
Capital Transfers and Grants					
National Government:		65 840	49 410	52 128	54 995
Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)		40 840	39 410	41 578	43 864
Regional Bulk Infrastructure		20 000	10 000	10 550	11 130
EPWP		-	-	-	-
DOE		5 000	-	-	-
EPWP Incentive		-	-	-	-
District Municipality:		-	-	-	-
<i>[insert description]</i>					
Other grant providers:		-	-	-	-
<i>[insert description]</i>					
Total Capital Transfers and Grants	6	65 840	49 410	52 128	54 995

The Capital grants for the 2017/18 financial year have decreased from R66 million to R 49 million in the 2018/19 Budget year, this is mainly because the decrease in the Water Services Infrastructure Grant by R10 million.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOWN/AREA	WARD	FUNDING	GRANT	OWN FUNDING	BORROWINGS
Moqhaka: Installation of sewer for 4000 new erven in Rammulotsi (northleigh)	Rammulotsi	21	R 5 364 570	✓		
Rammulotsi: Development and fencing of new landfill site - phase 2 (MIS:215370)	Rammulotsi	21	R 9 033 209	✓		
Maokeng/Nyakallong: Upgrading of Community and Sports Facility (MIS:249771)	Maokeng	18	R 1 950 000	✓		
Brentpark: Construction of 0.96km paved road and storm water channel to Brentpark Stadium (MIS:269933)	Brentpark	13	R 4 529 648	✓		
Gelukwaarts: Construction of 0,395km tarred road and stormwater crossing (MIS:270279)	Maokeng	8,10,12-14	R 7 646 184	✓		
Matlwangtlwang: Construction of 0.62km brick Paved road with V-Channels storm water drainage (1800-1722)(MIS:270047)	Matlwangtlwang	2	R 4 639 755	✓		
Seisoville: Construction of 0.750km paved road and storm water drainage at Ntanga street (MIS:272675)	Maokeng	15	R 3 186 865	✓		

1.5 Operating Expenditure Framework

The Municipality’s expenditure framework for the 2018/19 budget and MTREF is informed by the following:

- The asset renewal strategy and the repairs and maintenance plan;
- Balanced budget constraint (operating expenditure should not exceed operating revenue) unless there are existing uncommitted cash-backed reserves to fund any deficit;
- Funding of the budget over the medium-term as informed by Section 18 and 19 of the MFMA;
- The capital programme is aligned to the asset renewal strategy and backlog eradication plan;
- Operational gains and efficiencies will be directed to funding the capital budget and other core services; and
- Strict adherence to the principle of no project plans no budget. If there is no business plan no funding allocation can be made.

Table 6 Summary of operating expenditure by municipal votes (A3)

Expenditure by Municipal Vote				
Vote Description	2018/19 MTREF			
R thousand	Annual Budget 2017/18	Budget year 2018/19	Budget year 2019/20	Budget Year 2020/21
<i>Expenditure by Vote to be appropriated</i>				
Vote 1 - Councillors	61 779	67 499	71 211	75 128
Vote 2 - Office of the municipal manager	12 343	15 558	16 414	17 316
Vote 3 - Corporate Services	36 417	33 250	35 079	37 008
Vote 4 - Finance	333 148	378 972	399 815	421 805
Vote 5 - Technical Services	98 643	106 320	112 168	118 337
Vote 6 - Community and Emergency Services	133 299	148 702	156 881	165 509
Vote 7 - Local Economic Development and Planning	26 473	30 658	32 344	34 123
Total Expenditure by Vote	702 103	780 959	823 912	869 227

The following table is a high level summary of the 2017/18 budget and MTREF (classified per main type of operating expenditure):

Table 7: Summary of operating expenditure by standard classification (A4)

OPERATING EXPENSES			
Description R thousand	Adjustment Budget Year 2017/18	Budget Year 2018/19	%
Employee Related Cost	248 870	267 671	8%
Remuneration of Councillors	17 340	20 610	19%
Bulk Purchases	234 142	250 138	7%
Contracted Services	97 829	105 811	8%
Other Materials	10 061	10 706	6%
Depreciation	15 109	17 142	13%
Finance charges	2 985	3 140	5%
Contribution to bad debts	7 303	7 683	5%
General Expenses	88 897	90 375	2%
Total Expenditure	722 536	773 276	7%

REMARKS

The budgeted allocation for employee related costs for the 2018/19 financial year totals R268 million, which equates to 35% of the total operating expenditure. A provisional increase of 8% has been provided for. salary increases have been factored into this budget at a percentage increase of 6% (Average CPI) plus 1% for the 2018/19 financial year and an additional 1% to cover the salary notches increases as well as some of the critical vacancies to be filled by the municipality in the 2018/19 financial year.

The cost associated with the remuneration of councillors is determined by the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in accordance with the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act, 1998 (Act 20 of 1998). The most recent proclamation in this regard has been taken into account in compiling the Municipality's budget.

Bulk purchases are directly informed by the purchase of electricity from Eskom. The annual price increases as approved by NERSA (National Energy Regulator of South Africa) have been factored (7,32) into the budget appropriations and directly inform the revenue provisions. The expenditures include distribution losses.

Provision for depreciation and asset impairment has been informed by the Municipality's Asset Management Policy. Depreciation is widely considered a proxy for the measurement of the rate asset consumption. Note that the implementation of GRAP 17 accounting standard has meant bringing a range of assets previously not included in the assets register onto the register. This has resulted in a significant increase in depreciation relative to previous years. Due to organisational constraints and the minimal increases in revenues, the municipality has increased the depreciation amount **mainly** in terms of the inflation rates guided by the National Treasury budget circulars, on the basis of the item being a non-cash item.

The provision of debt impairment was determined based on an annual collection rate of 85%. While this expenditure is considered to be a non-cash flow item, it informs the total cost associated with rendering the services of the municipality, as well as the municipality's realistically anticipated revenues.

Finance charges consist primarily of the repayment of interest on long-term borrowing (cost of capital). The municipality is currently servicing the DBSA loan.

DRAFT

1.6 Capital expenditure

The following table provides a breakdown of budgeted capital expenditure by Council vote.

Table A5 Budgeted Capital Expenditure by Vote, Standard Classification and funding

Vote Description	2018/19 MTREF				
	R thousand	Adjustment Budget 2017/18	Budget Year 2018/19	Budget Year 2019/20	Budget Year 2020/21
Capital expenditure - Vote					
Vote 1 - Councillors	200	-	-	-	-
Vote 2 - Office of the municipal manager	50	-	-	-	-
Vote 3 - Corporate Services	1 315	-	-	-	-
Vote 4 - Finance	18 857	700	-	-	-
Vote 5 - Technical Services	45 440	49 726	-	-	-
Vote 6 - Community and Emergency Services	12 476	2 357	-	-	-
Vote 7 -LED	850	-	-	-	-
	79 188	52 783	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure - Functional					
Governance and administration	3 691	857	-	-	-
Executive and council	397	-	-	-	-
Budget and treasury office	3 294	857	-	-	-
Internal Audit	-	-	-	-	-
Community and public safety	5 563	51 610	-	-	-
Community and social services	388	-	-	-	-
Sport and recreation	1 120	-	-	-	-
Public safety	4 000	51 610	-	-	-
Housing	55	-	-	-	-
Health	-	-	-	-	-
Economic and environmental services	11 601	-	-	-	-
Planning and development	77	-	-	-	-
Road transport	11 424	-	-	-	-
Environmental protection	100	-	-	-	-
Trading services	55 298	316	-	-	-
Energy sources	5 661	-	-	-	-
Water Management	21 767	158	-	-	-
Waste water management	19 762	158	-	-	-
Waste management	8 108	-	-	-	-
Other					
Total Capital Expenditure - Standard	76 153	52 783	-	-	-
Funded by:					
National Government	63 798	49 410	-	-	-
Provincial Government					
District Municipality					
Internally generated funds	12 355	3 373	-	-	-
Total Capital Funding	76 153	52 783	-	-	-

The following table is a breakdown of the own funding on capital expenditure:

CAPITAL BUDGET (Own Funds)								
R thousand	Political Offices	Municipal Manager	Finance Services	Corporate Services	Technical Services	Community & Social Services	LED	TOTAL
Furniture, Equipment & Heavy	-	-	700 000	-	-	2 358 000	-	3 058 000
Total	-	-	700 000	-	-	2 358 000	-	3 058 000

DRAFT

1.7 Cash flow Statement

Table A7 Budget Cash Flows

To replace this table

FS201 Moqhaka - Table A7 Budget Cash Flows				
Description	Adjustment Budget 2016/17	2017/18 MEDIUM TERM REVENUE & EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK		
		Budget Year 2017/18	Budget Year +18/19	Budget Year +19/20
R thousand				
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts				
Property rates, penalties & collection charges	67,069	60,487	63,935	67,515
Service charges	403,769	428,972	453,423	478,815
Other revenue	15,947	21,911	23,160	24,457
Government - operating	160,968	166,741	176,245	186,115
Government - capital	48,349	66,840	58,061	69,406
Interest	14,567	14,517	15,344	16,234
Dividends	-			
Payments				
Suppliers and employees	(633,440)	(683,358)	(722,309)	(762,759)
Finance charges	(2,354)	(2,498)	(2,640)	(2,788)
Transfers and Grants	-			
NET CASH FROM/(USED) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	74,875	73,612	65,219	76,996
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts				
Proceeds on disposal of PPE	0			
Decrease (Increase) in non-current debtors	0			
Decrease (increase) other non-current receivables	0			
Decrease (increase) in non-current investments	0			
Payments				
Capital assets	(72,094)	(76,153)	(58,061)	(69,406)
NET CASH FROM/(USED) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(72,094)	(76,153)	(58,061)	(69,406)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts				
Short term loans	-			
Borrowing long term/refinancing	-			
Increase (decrease) in consumer deposits	-			
Payments				
Repayment of borrowing	(3,200)	(3,200)	(3,382)	(3,572)
NET CASH FROM/(USED) FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(3,200)	(3,200)	(3,382)	(3,572)
NET INCREASE/ (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	(419)	(5,741)	3,776	4,018
Cash/cash equivalents at the year begin:	11,846	11,427	5,686	9,461
Cash/cash equivalents at the year end:	11,427	5,686	9,461	13,479

REMARKS ON THE CASHFLOW

The cash flows have been projected on the various revenue streams based on the actual collection rate the revenue streams as follows;

Revenue Description	Collection Rate
Property Rates	90%
Electricity revenue	95%
Water revenue	80%
Sanitation revenue	71%
Refuse revenue	74%
Operating & Capital grants	100%
Average Collection	85%

The municipality has also made provision to meet **90%** of its overall Operational obligations, this provision is to be reviewed during the adjustment budget process depending on the availability of revenue and 100% of the Capital commitments.

Collections from arrear debtors

The municipality's debtors book amounted to **R547m** as at 28 February 2018. The municipality plans to collect at least **20% (R109m)** of its arrear debt in order to fund the outstanding creditors and other operational requirements during the financial year 2018/19.

The municipality owed Eskom **R249m** as at the preparation of the Annual Budget. The municipality did meet with Eskom with regards to the outstanding debt and an arrangement was reached, which extends to 31 January 2019 in terms of the municipality servicing its current account and maintaining the arrears at an outstanding of **R226m** as at the date of the arrangement. The repayments relating to the current account are provided for within the current budget and also the 2018/19 budget. The review of the arrangement is prior to the municipality preparing the 2018/19 adjustment budget and as such we will be in a position to incorporate any adjustment to the Eskom arrangement into our adjustment budget.

The municipality has finalised the compilation of a Revenue Enhancement Strategy, and amongst other things, the municipality is also prioritising the reduction/elimination of the **reticulation losses** (Water **R7.5m** & Electricity **R38.5m** – as per the Audited Annual Financial Statements of 30 June 2017) through the its continuous program of water & electricity meter replacements. To effectively carry out this task, the municipality appointed a panel of service providers to replace both the water & electricity meters.