BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY

ACCOUNTING POLICY

ACCOUNTING POLICY

1. Summary of significant accounting policies for the year ended 30 June 2007

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below and are consistent with those applied in the previous year unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP) and the Standards of Generally Accepted Municipal Accounting Practices (GAMAP) prescribed by the Minister of Finance in terms of General Notice 991 and 992 of 2005.

The standards are summarised as follows:

GRAP 1	Presentation of Financial Statements
GRAP 2	Cash Flow Statements
GRAP 3	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
GAMAP 4	The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates
GAMAP 6	Consolidated financial statements and accounting for controlled entities
GAMAP 7	Accounting for Investments in Associates
GAMAP 8	Financial Reporting of Interests in Joint Ventures
GAMAP 9	Revenue
GAMAP 12	Inventories
GAMAP 17	Property, Plant and Equipment
GAMAP 19	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Asset
GAMAP 6, 7 and 8 have been complied with to the extent that the requirements in these standards relate to the municipality's separate financial statements.[1]	

Accounting policies for material transactions, events or conditions not covered by the above GRAP and GAMAP Standards have been developed in accordance with paragraphs 7, 11 and 12 of GRAP 3. These accounting policies and the applicable disclosures have been based on the South African Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (SA GAAP) including any interpretations of such Statements issued by the Accounting Practices Board.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with certain of the above mentioned standards and aspects or parts of these standards. Details of the exemptions applicable to the municipality have been provided in the notes to the annual financial statements.

A summary of the significant accounting policies, which have been consistently applied except where an exemption has been granted, are disclosed below.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of GAMAP 3 (Accounting Policies, Changes of Accounting Estimates and Errors):

- *Identification and impact of GRAP standards that have been issued but are not yet effective and changes to accounting policies. [Paragraphs 14, 19 and 30-31]*

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of AC 142 (Non-current Assets held for Sale and Discontinued Operations).

- *Classification, measurement and disclosure of non-current assets held for sale. [paragraphs 6-14, 15-29 (in so far as it relates to non-current assets held for sale), 38-42]*

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with AC 109 (Construction Contracts) in its entirety.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with AC 140 (Business Combinations) in its entirety.

1.2 Presentation currency

These annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand.

1.3 Going concern assumption

These annual financial statements are prepared on the basis that the municipality will remain a going concern for the foreseeable future.

1.4 Segmental reporting

A business segment is a group of assets and operations engaged in providing products or services that are subject to risks and returns that are different from those of other business segments. A geographical segment is engaged in providing products or services within a particular economic environment that are subject to risks and returns that are different from those of segments operating in other economic environments.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with AC 115 (Segment Reporting) and AC 146 (Operating Segments).

1.5 Foreign currency transactions

The Municipality will not incur a foreign currency liability other than that allowed by the MFMA.

1.6 Housing Development Fund

The Housing Development Fund was established in terms of Section 15(5) and 16 of the Housing Act, (Act 107 of 1997), which came into operation on 1 April 1998, requires that the municipality maintain a separate housing operating account. Loans form National and Provincial Government used to finance housing developments undertaken by the Municipality were extinguished on 1 April 1998 and transferred to the Housing Development Fund.

The Housing Act also requires in terms of Section 14(4)(d)(ii)(aa) read with, *inter alia*, Section 16(2) that the net proceeds of any rental, sale of property or alienation, financed previously from government housing funds, be paid into a separate operating account and be utilised by the Municipality for housing development subject to the approval of the Provincial MEC responsible for housing.

The following provisions are set for the creation and utilisation of the Housing Fund:

- The proceeds in this fund are utilised for housing developments in accordance with the National Housing Policy and also for housing development projects approved by the MEC.
- Any contributions to or from the fund are shown as transfers in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets.
- Any surplus / (deficit) on the Housing Statement of Financial Performance must be transferred to the Housing Development Fund.

1.7 Reserves

1.7.1 Capital Replacement Reserve (CRR)

In order to finance the future provision of infrastructure and other items of property, plant and equipment from internal sources amounts are transferred out of the accumulated surplus/(deficit) into the Capital Replacement Reserve (CRR) in terms of a Council resolution. The cash allocated to the CRR can only be utilised to finance items of property, plant and equipment. The following provisions are set for the creation and utilisation of the CRR:

- The cash which backs up the CRR is invested until it is utilised. The cash may only be invested in accordance with the Investment policy of the municipality.
- Interest earned on the CRR investment is recorded as part of total interest earned in the Statement of Financial Performance. 50% of the total interest earned on all the investments of the municipality is transferred to the CRR.
- The CRR may only be utilised for the purpose of purchasing items of property, plant and equipment for the municipality and may not be used for the maintenance of these items.

- The proceeds from the disposal of property, plant and equipment must be transferred to the CRR.
- The CRR is reduced and the accumulated surplus/(deficit) credited with corresponding amounts when the funds are utilised.
- The amounts transferred to the CRR are based on the Municipality's need to finance future capital projects.
- The Council annually contributes 7,5% of the total rates accrual for the previous financial year in the next financial year to the CRR.

1.7.2 Capitalisation Reserve

On the implementation of GAMAP/GRAP, the balance on certain funds, created in terms of the various Provincial Ordinances applicable at the time, that had historically been utilised for the acquisition of items of property, plant and equipment have been transferred to a Capitalisation Reserve instead of the accumulated surplus/(deficit) in terms of a directive (budget circular) issued by National Treasury.

The balance on the Capitalisation Reserve equals the carrying value of the items of property, plant and equipment financed from the former legislated funds. When items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated, a transfer is made from the Capitalisation Reserve to the accumulated surplus/(deficit).

When an item of property, plant and equipment is disposed, the balance in the Capitalisation Reserve relating to such item is transferred to the accumulated surplus/(deficit).

1.7.3 Government Grant Reserve

When items of property, plant and equipment are financed from government grants, a transfer is made from the accumulated surplus/(deficit) to the Government Grants Reserve equal to the Government Grant recorded as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance in accordance with a directive (budget circular) issued by National Treasury. When such items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated, a transfer is made from the Government Grant Reserve to the accumulated surplus/(deficit). The purpose of this policy is to promote community equity and facilitate budgetary control by ensuring that sufficient funds are set aside to offset the depreciation charges that will be incurred over the estimated useful life of the item of property, plant and equipment financed from Government Grants.

When an item of property, plant and equipment financed from government grants is disposed, the balance in the Government Grant Reserve relating to such item is transferred to the accumulated surplus/(deficit).

1.7.4 Public Contributions and Donations Reserve

When items of property, plant and equipment are financed from public contributions and donations, a transfer is made from the accumulated surplus/(deficit) to the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve equal to the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve recorded as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance in accordance with a directive (budget circular) issued by National Treasury. When such items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated, a transfer is made from the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve to the accumulated surplus/(deficit). The purpose of this policy is to promote community equity and facilitate budgetary control by ensuring that sufficient funds are set aside to offset the depreciation charges that will be incurred over the estimated useful life of the item of property, plant and equipment financed from Public Contributions and Donations.

When an item of property, plant and equipment financed from Public Contributions is disposed, the balance in the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve relating to such item is transferred to the accumulated surplus/(deficit).

1.7.5 Revaluation Reserve

The surplus arising from the revaluation of land and buildings is credited to a non-distributable reserve. Land and buildings are revalued every four years. The revaluation surplus is realised as revalued buildings are depreciated, through a transfer from the revaluation reserve to the accumulated surplus/(deficit). On disposal the net revaluation surplus is transferred to the accumulated surplus/(deficit) while gains or losses on disposal, based on current values, are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.8 Financial Instruments

Financial instruments carried in the Statement of Financial Position include cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and borrowings. The particular recognition methods adopted are disclosed in the individual policy statements associated with each item.

Financial assets are derecognized when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or have been transferred and the Municipality has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership. Financial liabilities are derecognized when it is extinguished, i.e. when the contractual right is discharged, cancelled or expires.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with AC 144 (Financial Instruments: Disclosure). For AC 133 (Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement) the initial measurement of financial assets and liabilities at fair value is exempted. [SAICA Circular 09/06 paragraphs 43, AG 79, AG 64 and AG 65 of AC 133]

1.9 Leases

1.9.1 Lessee Accounting

Amounts held under finance leases are initially recognised as assets of the Municipality at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower at the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the statement of financial position as a finance lease obligation.

Lease payments are apportioned between finance charges and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance charges are charged directly to profit or loss, unless they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised in accordance with the Municipality's policy on borrowing costs.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed.

The Municipality will not incur a foreign currency lease liability other than that allowed by the MFMA.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with AC 105 (Leases)with regards to the recognition of operating lease payments / receipts on a straight line basis if the amount is recognised on the basis of the cash flows in the lease agreement. [SAICA Circular 12/06 paragraphs 8-11 and paragraphs 33, 34, 50, 51 of AC 105)]

1.9.2 Lessor Accounting

Amounts due from lessees under finance leases are recorded as receivables at the amount of the Municipality's net investment in the leases. Finance lease income is allocated to accounting periods so as to reflect a constant periodic rate of return to the Municipality's net investment outstanding in respect of the leases.

Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.10 Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets, which are assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to get ready for the intended use or sale, added to the costs of these assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use of sale. Investment income earned on the temporary investment of specific borrowings pending their expenditure on qualifying assets is deducted from the borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation.

All other borrowing costs are recognised in the statement of financial performance in the period in which they are incurred.

1.11 Borrowings

Borrowings are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently stated at amortised cost; any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Municipality has the unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

1.12 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the municipality has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event and it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The municipality has discounted provisions to their present value when the effect of the time value of money is material. The notional interest charge representing the unwinding of the provision discounting is included in the Statement of Financial Position.

Provisions are reviewed at each Statement of Financial Position date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate.

1.13 Employee Benefits

(a) Pension obligations

The Municipality operate various pension schemes. The schemes are generally funded through payments to insurance companies or trustee-administered funds, determined by periodic actuarial calculations. The Municipality has both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Municipality pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. The Group has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. A defined benefit plan is a pension plan that is not a defined contribution plan. Typically, defined benefit plans define an amount of pension benefit that an employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent on one or more factors such as age, years of service and compensation.

The liability recognised in the balance sheet in respect of defined benefit pension plans is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the balance sheet date less the fair value of plan assets, together with adjustments for unrecognised actuarial gains or losses and past service costs. The defined benefit obligation is calculated bi-annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is determined by discounting the estimated future cash outflows using interest rates of high-quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid and that have terms to maturity approximating to the terms of the related pension liability.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions in excess of the greater of 10% of the value of plan assets or 10% of the defined benefit obligation are charged or credited to income over the employees' expected average remaining working lives.

Past-service costs are recognised immediately in income, unless the changes to the pension plan are conditional on the employees remaining in service for a specified period of time (the vesting period). In this case, the past-service costs are amortised on a straight-line basis over the vesting period.

For defined contribution plans, the Municipality pays contributions to publicly or privately administered pension insurance plans on a mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

(b) Post Retirement Medical obligations

The Municipality provides post-retirement healthcare benefits to its retirees. The entitlement to these benefits is usually conditional on the employee remaining in service up to retirement age and the completion of a minimum service period. The expected costs of these benefits are accrued over the period of employment using the same accounting methodology as used for defined benefit pension plans. Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments, and changes in actuarial assumptions in excess of the greater of 10% of the value of plan assets or 10% of the defined benefit obligation, are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Performance over the expected average remaining working lives of the related employees. These obligations are valued annually by independent qualified actuaries.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with AC 116 (Employee Benefits) with regards to defined benefit accounting as far as it relates to defined benefit plans accounted for as defined contribution plans and the defined benefit obligation disclosed by narrative information. (paragraphs 29, 48-119, 120A(c) – (q)]

1.14 Trade Payables (Creditors)

Trade payables and other receivables are originally carried at fair value and subsequently remeasured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.15 Accrued Leave Pay

Liabilities for annual leave are recognised as they accrue to employees. The liability is based on the total amount of leave days due to employees at year end, less the 12 compulsory days to be taken and also on the basic salary of the employee.

1.16 Unutilised Conditional Grants

Unutilised conditional grants are reflected on the Statement of Financial Position as a creditor – Unutilised conditional grants. They represent unspent government grants, subsidies and contributions from the public. This creditor always has to be backed by cash. The following provisions are set for the creation and utilisation of this creditor:

- The cash which backs up the creditor is invested until it is utilised.
- Interest earned on the investment is treated in accordance with grant conditions. If it is payable to the funder it is recorded as part of the creditor. If it is the Municipality's interest it is recognised as interest earned in the Statement of Financial Performance.
- Whenever an asset is purchased out of the unutilised conditional grant an amount equal to the cost price of the asset purchased is transferred from the Unutilised Conditional Grant into the statement of financial performance as revenue. Thereafter an equal amount is transferred on the Statement of changes in net assets to a Government Grant Reserve. This reserve is equal to the remaining depreciable value (book value) of assets purchased out of the Unutilised Conditional Grants. The Government Grant Reserve is used to offset depreciation charged on assets purchased out of the Unutilised Conditional Grants.

1.17 Value Added Tax

The Council accounts for Value Added Tax on the cash basis.

1.18 Property Plant and Equipment

Land and buildings held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, or for administrative purposes, are stated in the Statement of Financial Position at their revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Revaluations are performed every four years when the municipal valuation roll is updated.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to a Revaluation Reserve in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against the Revaluation Reserve directly in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets; all other decreases are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset is charged to the Statement of Financial

Performance and depreciation based on the asset's original cost is transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the Accumulated Surplus/ (Deficit)

Depreciation on revalued land and buildings is charged to the Statement of Financial Performance. On the subsequent sale or retirement of a revalued property, the attributable revaluation surplus remaining in the Revaluation Reserve is transferred directly to the accumulated surplus / deficit.

Incomplete construction work is stated at historic cost. Depreciation only commences when the asset is commissioned into use.

All other property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes professional fees and, for qualifying assets, borrowing costs capitalised in accordance with the Municipality's accounting policy.

The Municipality has adopted a capitalisation threshold whereby all expenditure below the threshold is expensed when incurred. The threshold is currently R 10 000 per item of PPE.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the municipality and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of a replaced part is derecognised. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, other than land and buildings under construction over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at each year end, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis. The depreciation rates are based on the following estimated useful lives:

	Years		Years
1 Infrastructure		2 Other	
Roads and Paving	30	Buildings	30
Pedestrian Malls	30	Specialist vehicles	10
Electricity	20-30	Other vehicles	5
Water	15-20	Office equipment	3-7
Sewerage	15-20	Furniture and fittings	7-10
Housing	30	Watercraft	15
		Bins and containers	5
Community		Specialised plant and	
Improvements	30	Equipment	10-15
Recreational Facilities	20-30	Other plant and	
Security	5	Equipment	2-5
		Landfill sites	15

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised (net) in the Statement of Financial Performance. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit) directly in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets.

Heritage assets, which are defined as culturally significant resources are not depreciated as they are regarded as having an infinite life. Land is also not depreciated for the same reason.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of GAMAP 17 (Property, Plant and Equipment):

- *Review of useful life of item of PPE recognised in the annual financial statements. [Paragraphs 59-61 and 77]*
- *Review of the depreciation method applied to PPE recognised in the annual financial statements. [Paragraphs 62 and 77]*
- *Impairment of non-cash generating assets. [Paragraphs 64-69 and 75(e)(v) – (vi)]*
- *Impairment of cash generating assets. [Paragraphs 63 and 75(e)(v) – (vi)]*

1.19 Investment Property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is measured initially at its cost. Subsequent to initial recognition investment properties are shown at fair value, based on periodic, but at least every three years, valuations by external independent valuers. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of investment property are included in profit or loss for the period in which they arise.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of AC 135 (Investment Property):

- *The entire standard to the extent that property is accounted for in terms of GAMAP 17.*
- *Disclosure of the fair value of investment property if the cost model is applied and where the municipality has recognised investment property in terms of this standard. [Paragraphs 79(e)(i) – (iii)]*

1.20 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets acquired separately are reported at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is charged on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful life and amortisation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, with the effect of any changes in estimate being accounted for on a prospective basis.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of AC 129 (Intangible Assets):

- *The entire standards except for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of the computer software and website costs (AC 432) and all other costs were expensed.*

1.21 Impairment of Tangible and Intangible Assets

At each Statement of Financial Position date the municipality reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the municipality estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Assets that have an indefinite useful life, for example goodwill, are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Performance, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment is treated as a Revaluation Reserve increase.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with AC 128 (Impairment of Assets) in its entirety.

1.22 Financial Assets

The Municipality classifies its financial assets in the following categories: loans and receivables. The classification depends on the purpose for which the financial assets were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial assets at initial recognition.

(a) *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the date of the Statement of Financial Position. They arise when the Municipality provides money for goods or services directly to a debtor with no intention of trading the receivable and are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment.

1.23 Inventories

Inventories consist of consumables and are stated at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined using the first-in-first-out (FIFO) cost method. Net realizable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less applicable variable selling expenses.

Unsold properties are valued according to the Valuation roll of Bergrivier Municipality. Direct costs are accumulated for each separately identifiable development.

Redundant and slow-moving inventories are identified and written down from cost to net realisable value with regard to their estimated economic or realisable values. Consumables are written down with regard to their age, condition and utility.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of GAMAP 12 (Inventories).

- *The entire standard as far as it relates to immovable capital assets inventory that is accounted for in terms of GAMAP 17.*
- *The entire standard to the extent that it relates to water stock that was not purchased by the municipality.*

1.24 Trade and other Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at originating cost and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established on budget based historical patterns and risk of recovery. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments (more than 90 days overdue) are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account, and the amount of the loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. When a trade receivable is uncollectible, it is written off in terms of the municipality's Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against to the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.25 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

1.26 Revenue Recognition

Service charges relating to electricity and water are based on consumption. Meters are read on a monthly basis and are recognised as revenue when invoiced. Provisional estimates of consumption are made monthly when meter readings have not been done. The provisional estimates of consumption are recognised as revenue when invoiced. Adjustments to provisional estimates of consumption are made in the invoicing period in which meters have been read. These adjustments are recognised as revenue in the invoicing period. Revenue from the sale of electricity prepaid meter cards are recognised at the point of sale.

Service charges relating to refuse removal are recognised on a monthly basis in arrears by applying the approved tariff to each property that has improvements. Tariffs are determined per category of property usage, and are levied monthly.

Service charges from sewerage and sanitation for residential and business properties are levied monthly based on a fixed tariff.

Interest and rentals are recognised on a time proportion basis.

Revenue arising from the application of the approved tariff of charges is recognised when the relevant service is rendered by applying the relevant tariff. This includes the issuing of licences and permits.

- Interest earned on investments is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance on a time proportionate basis that takes into account the effective yield on the investment.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when all the following conditions have been satisfied:

- The municipality has transferred to the buyer the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods.
- The municipality retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold.
- The amount of revenue can be measured reliably.
- It is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the municipality.
- The costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Income for agency services is recognised on a monthly basis once the income collected on behalf of agents has been quantified. The income recognised is in terms of the agency agreement.

Revenue from public contributions is recognised when all conditions associated with the contribution have been met or where the contribution is to finance property, plant and equipment, when such items of property, plant and equipment is brought into use. Where public contributions have been received but the municipality has not met the condition, a liability is recognised.

Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Revenue from property rates is recognised when the legal entitlement to this revenue arises. Collection charges are recognised when such amounts are legally enforceable. Penalty interest on unpaid rates is recognised on a time proportionate basis.

Fines constitute both spot fines and summonses. Revenue from spot fines and summonses is recognised when payment is received.

Donations are recognised on a cash receipt basis or where the donation is in the form of property, plant and equipment, when such items of property, plant and equipment are brought into use.

Contributed property, plant and equipment is recognised when such items of property, plant and equipment are brought into use.

Revenue from the recovery of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure is based on legislated procedures, including those set out in the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No.56 of 2003) and is recognised when the recovery thereof from the responsible councillors or officials is virtually certain.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of GAMAP 9 (Revenue):

- *Initial measurement of fair value discounting all future receipts using an imputed rate of interest [SIACA Circular 09/06 and paragraph 12]*

Conditional Grants and Receipts

Revenue received from conditional grants, donations and funding are recognised as revenue to the extent that the Municipality has complied with any of the criteria, conditions or obligations embodied in the agreement. To the extent that the criteria, conditions or obligations have not been met a liability is recognised.

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of General notice 552 of 2007 exempted compliance with the following requirements of AC 134 (Accounting for Government Grants).

- *Entire standard excluding paragraphs 24 and 26, replaced by paragraph 08 of GAMAP 12, paragraph 25 of GAMAP 17 and paragraphs 42 – 46 of GAMAP 9.*

1.27 Related parties

Individuals as well as their close family members, and/or entities are related parties if one party has the ability, directly or indirectly, to control or jointly control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and/or operating decisions. Key management personnel is defined as the Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer and all other managers reporting directly to the Municipal Manager or as designated by the Municipal Manager.

1.28 Unauthorised Expenditure

Unauthorised expenditure is expenditure that has not been budgeted; expenditure that is not in terms of the conditions of an allocation received from another sphere of government, municipality or organ of state and expenditure in the form of a grant that is not permitted in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No.56 of 2003). Unauthorised expenditure is accounted for as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.29 Irregular Expenditure

Irregular expenditure is expenditure that is contrary to the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No.56 of 2003), the Municipal Systems Act (Act No.32 of 2000), the Public Office Bearers Act (Act No. 20 of 1998) or is in contravention of the Municipality's supply chain management policy. Irregular expenditure excludes unauthorised expenditure. Irregular expenditure is accounted for as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.30 Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is expenditure that was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is accounted for as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.31 Rounding

The amounts reflected in the financial statements of the Municipality are all in Rand, and all amounts are rounded off to the nearest Rand.

1.32 Comparative Information

(a) Current year comparatives:

Budgeted amounts have been included in the annual financial statements for the current year only.

(b) Loans and receivables

When the presentation or classification of items in the annual financial statements is amended, prior period comparative amounts are reclassified. The nature and reason for the reclassification is disclosed.

		2008 R	2007 R
2	**HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND**		
	Housing Development Fund	2,434,152	2,434,152
	Loans extinguished by Government on 1 April 1998	2,434,152	2,434,152
	Total Housing Development Fund Assets and Liabilities	2,434,152	2,434,152

The above balances are represented by cash and is invested together with the other investments of the municipality (See Notes 16)

		2008 R	2007 R
3	**NETT ASSET RESERVES**		
	RESERVES	75,674,823	77,467,660
	Capital Replacement Reserve	11,781,906	10,340,317
	Capitalisation Reserve	14,052,607	16,146,301
	Government Grant Reserve	49,840,311	44,973,042
	Sub-total	75,674,823	77,467,660
	Total Nett Asset Reserve Assets and Liabilities	75,674,823	77,467,660
4	**LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**		
	Annuity Loans - At amortised cost	17,651,154	15,400,153
	Capitalised Lease Liability - At amortised cost	362,371	608,075
	Total Long-term Liabilities - At amortised cost (excluding Short-term)	18,013,526	16,008,228
	Less : Current portion transferred to current liabilities	(1,895,699)	(1,453,174)
	Annuity Loans	(1,632,859)	(1,207,470)
	Lease Liabilities	(262,840)	(245,704)
	Total Long-term Liabilities - At amortised cost	16,117,827	14,555,054

Exemptions taken according to the exemptions gazetted in terms of Government Notice No. 30013 of 29 June 2007 and specifically paragraph 3(2) b of the above-mentioned notice

• Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement (AC133) initially measuring financial assets and liabilities at fair value. [SAICA Circular 09/06 paragraphs 43, AG 79, AG 64 and AG 65 of AC 133]

• Financial Instruments: Disclosure (AC144) Entire standard to be replaced by IAS 32 (AC 125) issued August 2006 and effective for financial statements covering periods beginning on or after 1 January 1998

• Leases (AC 105) Recognising operating lease payments / receipts on a straight line basis if the amount is recognised on the basis of the cash flows in the lease agreement. [SAICA Circular 12/06 paragraphs 8-11 and paragraphs 33, 34, 50, 51 of AC 105)]

The obligations under finance leases are scheduled below	Minimum lease payments 2008	Minimum lease payments 2007
Amounts payable under finance leases		
Payable within one year	292,399	306,104
Payable within two to five years	104,262	398,174
	396,661	704,278
Less: Future finance obligations	34,290	96,203
Present value of lease obligations	362,371	608,075
Less: Amounts due for settlement within 12 months	262,840	245,704
Amount due for settlement after 12 months	99,532	362,371

Refer to Appendix A for descriptions, maturity dates and effective interest rates of structured loans and

		2008 R	2007 R
5	**NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS**		
	Landfill Sites	2,461,668	861,619
	Total Non-Current Provisions	2,461,668	861,619

<u>**Exemptions taken according to the exemptions gazetted in terms of Government Notice No. 30013 of 29 June 2007 and specifically paragraph 3(2)b of the notice**</u>

- Employee benefits. Exempted compliance with AC 116 (Employee benefits) with regards to defined benefit accounting as far as it relates to defined benefit plans accounted for as defined contribution plans and defined benefit obligation disclosed by narrative information (paragraphs 29, 48 - 119 and 120A(c) - (q))

The movement in the non-current provisions are reconciled as follows: -

30 June 2008		
Balance at beginning of year	861,619	861,619
Transfer to current provision		-
Expenditure incurred		-
Contributions to provision	1,600,049	-
Transfer from current provisions		-
Balance at end of year	2,461,668	861,619
30 June 2007		
Balance at beginning of year		-
Transfer to current provision		-
Expenditure incurred		-
Contributions to provision		861,619
Transfer from current provisions		
Balance at end of year		861,619

Reclamation of Piketberg landfill site over 5 years starting 1 July 2009 to the value of R6.4 million.

		2008 R	2007 R
6	**CONSUMER DEPOSITS**		
	Water & Electricity	1,766,061	1,621,823
	Total Consumer Deposits	1,766,061	1,621,823

The fair value of consumer deposits approximate their carrying value. Interest is not paid on these amounts.

		2008 R	2007 R
7	**PROVISIONS**		
	Performance bonus	294,338	333,021
	Personnel Bonus	1,010,407	948,770
	Total Provisions	1,304,745	1,281,791

Performance bonuses accrue to employees on an annually basis, subject to certain conditions. The provision is an estimate of the amount due to staff at the reporting date.

The movement in current provisions are reconciled as follows: -

	Performance Bonus	Personnel Bonus
30 June 2008		
Balance at beginning of year	333,021	948,770
Contributions to provision	296,734	61,637
Expenditure incurred	(335,417)	-
Balance at end of year	294,338	1,010,407
30 June 2007		
Balance at beginning of year	244,948	640,434
Contributions to provision	333,021	948,770
Expenditure incurred	(244,948)	-640,434
Balance at end of year	333,021	948,770