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# INVESTMENT AND CASH MANAGEMENT POLICY

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**FINAL 2024-25**

APPROVED:  
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## 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 “**Chief Financial Officer**” means the officer of the uMhlabuyalingana Municipality designated by the Municipal Manager to be administratively in charge of the budgetary and treasury functions.

1.2 “**Councillor**” means a member of the uMhlabuyalingana Municipal Council.

1.3 “**Current assets**” are-

- Debtors;
- Cash;
- Stock; and
- The short-term portion of long-term debtors.

1.4 “**Current liabilities**” are-

- Creditors;
- Bank overdrafts and
- Short-term portion of long-term liabilities

1.5 “**Debtors Turnover Rate**” the ratio which comprises current plus arrear debtors divided by billed annual income multiplied by 365-days

$$\frac{\text{Outstanding debtors}}{\text{Billed Annual Income}} \times 365$$

1.6 “**Investments**” are funds not immediately required for the defraying of expenses and invested at approved financial institutions.

1.7 “**Municipal Manager**” means the person appointed in terms of section 82 of the Municipal Structure Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998) as the head of the uMhlabuyalingana Municipality’s administration;

1.8 “**Municipal stock**” means the stock certificate issued by the uMhlabuyalingana Municipality as proof of a long-term fixed period loan of which the capital is

repayable at the end of the period while interest is payable at predetermined intervals at a fixed rate.

1.9 “**Negotiable certificate**” means a loan certificate that is tradable on the capital market.

1.10 “**Net current assets**” is the difference between current assets and current liabilities

1.11 “**Public funds**” means all monies received by the uMhlabuyalingana Municipality to perform the functions allocated to them.

1.12 “**Short-term portion of long-term debtors**” refers to the capital instalments of long-term debtors due and in arrears in the current financial year.

1.13 “**Short-term portion of long-term liabilities**” refers to the capital repayment of long-term loans due in the current financial year.

1.14 “**Stock Turn-over Rate**” is the total issues divided by average stock holding.

Total issues

Average Stock Holding

1.15 “**Trade Creditors Turn-over Rate**” is equal to outstanding creditors divided by general expenses plus repairs and maintenance plus capital expenses minus internal recharges minus municipal service charges minus Councillors allowances minus other personnel expenses multiplied by 365-days

Outstanding Creditors

General Expenses +

Repair & Maintenance +

Capital Expenses - x365

Internal Recharges -

Municipal Service Charges -

Councillors Allowances -  
Other Personnel Expenses

1.16 “**Registry Clerk**” refers to the person responsible for all of uMhlabuyalingana Municipality’s incoming mail.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of a cash and investment policy are to:-

- 2.1 Manage the net current asset requirement of the municipality in such a manner that it will not tie up the municipality’s scarce resources required to improve the quality of life of the citizens;
- 2.2 Manage the financial affairs of the municipality in such a manner that sufficient cash resources are available to finance the capital and operating budgets of the municipality; and
- 2.3 Gain the highest possible return on investments, within the framework prescribed on permitted investments, during periods when excess funds are not being used.

## **3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY**

The policy deals with:

- 3.1 Delegations
- 3.2 Responsibility/accountability
- 3.3 Management instruments
- 3.4 Investment instruments
- 3.5 Cash-flow estimates
- 3.6 Investment ethics and principles
- 3.7 Investment procedures and reporting
- 3.8 Other external deposit
- 3.9 Control over investments documentation
- 3.10 Review of policy

## **4. RESPONSIBILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 4.1 The Municipal Manager as the Accounting Officer of the Umhlabuyalingana Municipality is accountable for cash management and investments.
- 4.2 The Municipal Manager may delegate the management of cash and investment to the Chief Financial Officer
- 4.3 The Municipal Council must approve a policy directing procedures, processes and systems required to ensure efficient and effective management of cash and investments. Efficient and effective management includes: -
  - 4.3.1 Collecting revenue when it is due;
  - 4.3.2 Banking and depositing monies when received;
  - 4.3.3 Making payments, including transfers to other levels of government and non-government entities, no earlier than necessary, with due regard for efficient, effective and economical service delivery and the creditor's normal terms for account payments;
  - 4.3.4 Avoiding pre-payment for goods or services (i.e. payments in advance of the receipt of goods or services), unless required by the contractual arrangements with the supplier.
  - 4.3.5 Accepting discounts to effect early payment only when the payment has been included in the monthly cash flow estimates provided to the department of the Chief Financial Officer;
  - 4.3.6 Pursuing debtors with appropriate sensitivity and vigor to ensure that amounts receivable by the municipality are collected and banked promptly;
  - 4.3.7 Accurately forecasting the institution's cash flow requirements;
  - 4.3.8 Timing of in-and outflow of cash
  - 4.3.9 Recognising the time value of money
  - 4.3.10 Taking any other action that avoids locking up money unnecessarily and inefficiently, such as managing inventories to the minimum level necessary for efficient and effective programme delivery, and selling surplus or under-utilised assets;
  - 4.3.11 Avoiding bank overdrafts.

## **5. DELEGATIONS**

5.1 It is noted that with regard to sections of the Municipal Finance Management Act relating to investment, administration has been delegated by the Municipal Manager to the Chief Financial Officer.

5.2 The Chief Financial Officer may sub-delegated the relevant sections to the Chief Accountant.

## **6. MANAGEMENT OF NET CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash management includes the management of net current assets which entails:

- Debtors;
- Cash;
- Stock (bonds);
- Short-term portion of debtors;
- Creditors;
- Bank Overdraft;
- Provisions;
- Short-term portion of liabilities;

And will subscribe to procedures recognised in terms of generally accepted accounting practice (GRAP).

### **6.1 DEBTORS**

6.1.1 The municipal council must set a target for debt collection based on the performance of the Municipal Manager during the last financial year.

6.1.2 The target must be expressed as a percentage of potential income and/or the turnover rate of debtors

6.1.3 All monies owing to the council must be correctly reflected in the debtors' system

6.1.4 All money received by a municipality must be paid into its bank account or accounts, and this must be done promptly in a manner prescribed by the Municipal Manager.

- 6.1.5 All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that all large sums of money received are deposited into the bank account on the same day that payments are received.
- 6.1.6 Extension for payment of rates and service charges must only be given in terms of the municipality's credit control and debt collection by-laws.
- 6.1.7 Moneys collected by other agencies on behalf of the council shall be paid over to the council or deposited in the bank account of the council in a manner prescribed by the Municipal Manager.

## **6.2 MANAGEMENT OF CASH**

- 6.2.1 The cash holding of the municipality must be kept at the minimum level required to finance the day-to-day operations of the municipality.
- 6.2.2 Monthly and annual cash flow forecasts must be reviewed and amended daily

## **6.3 MANAGEMENT OF STOCK**

- 6.3.1 Adequate stock control using a stock register must be exercised over all goods kept in stock.
- 6.3.2 Minimum and maximum stock levels, reordering procedures, turnover rate of stock items must be reviewed upon re-order to ensure that funds are not unnecessary tied up in stock.
- 6.3.3 Stock counts must be effected monthly and an annual report reflecting stock shortage, surpluses and redundancies as at 30 June of each financial year must be submitted to Council.
- 6.3.4 Short-term portion of debtors

## **6.4 SHORT- TERM PORTION OF DEBTORS**

Debtors outstanding relating to long-term debtors loans must be treated as any other outstanding account for rates and services charges.



## **6.5 PAYMENT OF CREDITORS**

- 6.5.1 Payment to creditors must be aligned to creditor payment terms.
- 6.5.2 Discounts for early settlement must be considered and utilised.
- 6.5.3 Credit statements must be reconciled monthly.
- 6.5.4 Trade creditor payments must only occur on receipt of official orders, certified goods received notes and company invoices.
- 6.5.5 All other payments must be duly authorised by departmental heads and/or duly authorised officials.

## **6.6 MANAGEMENT OF SHORT-TERM / BANK OVERDRAFT**

- 6.6.1 A short-term loan may only be obtained in anticipation of a positive income stream or to finance capital projects in anticipation of an approved capital grant or long-term loan.
- 6.6.2 The short-term loan must be repaid by the end of the financial year.
- 6.6.3 The council can only approve a short-term loan on the submission of a cash flow statement indicating the anticipated income stream or a certificate stating the approved grant or long-term loan.
- 6.6.4 A council approved overnight overdraft facility for a period of no longer than a fortnight and to a value determined by Council may only be exercised by the Municipal Manager.

## **6.7 PROVISIONS**

- 6.7.1 Provisions for known short-term liabilities must be made
- 6.7.2 Sufficient cash must be available when payments for provisions are due.

## **6.8 SHORT-TERM PORTION OF LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

- 6.8.1 Loan instalments due in the current financial year must be provided for in the financial statements.
- 6.8.2 Sufficient cash must be available when payments are due.

## **7. INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS**

Only the following investments, as appropriate to the anticipated future need for funds, may be undertaken:

- 7.1 Securities issued by the National Government;
- 7.2 Listed corporate bonds with an investment grade rating from an internationally recognised credit rating agency;
- 7.3 Deposits with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act 94 of 1990)
- 7.4 Deposits with the Public Investment Commissioners as contemplated by the Public Investment Commissioners Act, 1984 (Act 46 of 1984)
- 7.5 Deposits with the Corporation for Public Deposits as contemplated by the Corporation for Public Deposits Act, 1984 (Act 46 of 1984)
- 7.6 Banker's acceptance certificates or negotiable certificates of deposit of banks registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act 94 of 1990)
- 7.7 Guaranteed endowment policies with the intention of establishing a sinking fund;
- 7.8 Repurchase agreements with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act 94 of 1990)
- 7.9 Municipal bonds issued by a municipality; and
- 7.10 Any other investment type as the Minister may identify by regulation in consultation with the Financial Services Board.

## **8. CASHFLOW ESTIMATES**

- 8.1 Before money can be invested, the Chief Financial Officer or his/her delegate must determine whether there will be surplus funds available during the term of the investment.
- 8.2 In order to be able to make investments for any fixed term, it is essential that cash flow estimates be drawn up.
- 8.3 Provision must be made in the cash flow estimates for the operating and capital requirements of the municipality.

## **9. INVESTMENT ETHICS AND PRINCIPLES**

- 9.1 Investments made on behalf of Council must be made with such judgement and care, under the prevailing circumstances, as a person of prudence, discretion and

intelligence would reasonably exercise in the management of his or her own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, and with his or her primary regard being to the probable safety of his or her capital, in the second instance to his or her liquidity needs and lastly to the probable income derived.

9.2 Investments of money not immediately required must be governed by the following investment objectives, in order of priority;

9.2.1 Preservation and safety of principal,

9.2.2 Liquidity and

9.2.3 Yield

9.3 Investments may not be undertaken with a view to speculation

9.4 Investments by the Municipality in foreign currencies is prohibited.

9.5 The Municipal Manager is responsible for the investment of funds, and he/she has to steer clear of outside interference, regardless of whether such interference comes from individual councillors, agents or any other institution.

9.6 Under no circumstances may he/she be forced or bribed into making an investment.

9.7 Interest rates offered must not be divulged to another institution.

9.8 The Council may not borrow money for reinvestment, as this would mean interest rates would have to be estimated in advance, which can be seen as speculation with public funds.

## **10. INVESTMENT PROCEDURES AND REPORTING**

After determining whether there is cash available for investment and fixing the maximum term of investment, the Chief Financial Officer with the approval of the Municipal Manager must consider the way in which the investment is to be made

### **10.1 Short-term investments**

10.1.1 Quotations must be obtained from a minimum of three financial institutions, for various terms for which funds could be invested.

- 10.1.2 Should one of the institutions offer a better rate for a term, other than what the municipality had in mind, the other institutions which were approached, should also be asked to quote a rate for the other term.
- 10.1.3 Quotations can be obtained telephonically, as rates generally change on a regular basis and time is a determining factor when investments are made
- 10.1.4 The person responsible for requesting quotations from institutions must record the following
- 10.1.4.1 name of institution;
  - 10.1.4.2 name of person quoting rates;
  - 10.1.4.3 period of the investment;
  - 10.1.4.4 relevant terms; and
  - 10.1.4.5 Other facts i.e. are interest payable monthly or on date of maturity.
- 10.1.5 Once the required number of quotes has been obtained, a decision must be taken regarding the best terms offered and the institution with which funds are going to be invested.
- 10.1.6 The best offer must under normal circumstances be accepted, with thorough consideration of investment principles.
- 10.1.7 No attempt must be made to make institutions compete with each other as far as their rates and terms are concerned.
- 10.1.8 Once a quote has been accepted, written confirmation of the details must be obtained from the financial institution.
- 10.1.9 The investment capital must only be paid over to the institution with which it is to be invested and not to an agent.
- 10.1.10 The financial institution where the investment is made must issue a faxed or written confirmation stating the details of the investments
- 10.1.11 The Chief Financial Officer must make sure that the investment document received is authentic
- 10.1.12 The financial institution, where the investment is made, must issue a confirmation for each investment made stating that no commission has, nor will be paid to any agent or third party, or to any person nominated by the agent or third party.
- 10.1.13 The council must be given a quarterly report on all investments

10.1.14 The Municipal Manager must within 10 working days of the end of each month submit to Council a report describing in detail the investment position of the municipality as at the end of the month.

10.1.15 The report referred to in 10.1.14 above must contain at least a statement, prepared in compliance with generally accepted municipal accounting principles, that gives the-

10.1.15.1 Beginning market value for the reporting period;

10.1.15.2 Additions and changes to the market value during the period;

10.1.15.3 Ending market value for the period

10.1.15.4 Fully accrued interest/yield for the reporting period.

10.1.16 Where money is kept in current accounts, the municipality must bargain for more beneficial rates with regard to deposits.

## **10.2 Long-term investments**

10.2.1 Written quotations must be obtained for all investments made for periods longer than twelve months

10.2.2 The Municipal Manager must approve all investments made for periods longer than twelve months after considering the cash requirements for the next three years

## **11. OTHER EXTERNAL DEPOSITS**

The principles and procedures set out above must apply to other investment possibilities subject to the applicable legislation, which is available to the council, including debentures and other securities of the State as well as other municipalities or statutory bodies in the Republic, instituted under and in terms of any law.

## **12. CONTROL OVER INVESTMENT DOCUMENTATION**

12.1 An investment register must be kept of all investments made. The following facts must be recorded:

- 12.1.1 name of institution
- 12.1.2 capital invested
- 12.1.3 date invested
- 12.1.4 interest rate
- 12.1.5 date of maturity
- 12.1.6 interest received
- 12.1.7 capital repaid and
- 12.1.8 Balance invested.

12.2 The investment register and accounting records must be reconciled on a monthly basis.

12.3 The investment register must be examined on a fortnightly basis to identify investments falling due within the next two weeks. It must then be established what to do with the funds, bearing in mind the cash flow requirements.

12.4 Interest, correctly, must be received timeously, together with any distributable capital.

12.5 The Chief Financial Officer must check that the interest is calculated correctly

12.6 Investments documents and certificates must be safeguarded as follows

12.6.1 Investment certificates with monetary value must be safeguarded in a fire resistant safe with dual custody

12.6.2 All supporting documents in respects of investments made, must be filed and safeguarded as per the National Archives and Record Service of South Africa Act No 43 of 1996 and requirement of the Auditor General.