
MATATIELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

FIXED ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY



INDEX

		<u>Page</u>
<u>PART 1</u>	DEFINITION OF A FIXED ASSET	3
<u>PART 2</u>	ROLE OF MUNICIPAL MANAGER	3
<u>PART 3</u>	ROLE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	3
<u>PART 4</u>	FORMAT OF FIXED ASSET REGISTER	4
<u>PART 5</u>	CLASSIFICATION OF FIXED ASSETS	5
<u>PART 6</u>	INVESTMENT PROPERTY	6
<u>PART 7</u>	FIXED ASSETS TREATED AS INVENTORY	7
<u>PART 8</u>	RECOGNITION OF HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE FIXED ASSET REGISTER	8
<u>PART 9</u>	RECOGNITION OF DONATED ASSETS	8
<u>PART 10</u>	SAFEKEEPING OF ASSETS	8
<u>PART 11</u>	IDENTIFICATION OF FIXED ASSETS	9
<u>PART 12</u>	PROCEDURE IN CASE OF LOSS, THEFT, DESTRUCTION OR IMPAIRMENT OF FIXED ASSETS	9
<u>PART 13</u>	CAPITALISATION CRITERIA: MATERIAL VALUE	9
<u>PART 14</u>	CAPITALISATION CRITERIA: INTANGIBLE ITEMS	10
<u>PART 15</u>	CAPITALISATION CRITERIA: REINSTATEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER EXPENSES	10
<u>PART 16</u>	MAINTENANCE PLANS	11
<u>PART 17</u>	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	11
<u>PART 18</u>	GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF FIXED ASSETS	12
<u>PART 19</u>	DEPRECIATION OF FIXED ASSETS	12
<u>PART 20</u>	RATE OF DEPRECIATION	13
<u>PART 21</u>	METHOD OF DEPRECIATION	13
<u>PART 22</u>	AMENDMENT OF ASSET LIVES AND DIMINUTION IN THE VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS	13

		<u>Page</u>
<u>PART 23</u>	ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF DEPRECIATION IN SPECIFIC INSTANCES	14
<u>PART 24</u>	IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS	15
<u>PART 25</u>	CARRYING VALUES OF FIXED ASSETS	16
<u>PART 26</u>	REVALUATION OF FIXED ASSETS	16
<u>PART 27</u>	VERIFICATION OF FIXED ASSETS	18
<u>PART 28</u>	ALIENATION OF FIXED ASSETS	18
<u>PART 29</u>	OTHER WRITE-OFFS OF FIXED ASSETS	20
<u>PART 30</u>	REPLACEMENT NORMS	20
<u>PART 31</u>	INSURANCE OF FIXED ASSETS	21
<u>PART 32</u>	BIOLOGICAL ASSETS	21
<u>PART 33</u>	ANNEXURE: FIXED ASSET LIVES	22
<u>PART 34</u>	ANNEXURE: PARAPHRASE OF SECTION 14 OF THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT 2003	29

PART 1 - DEFINITION OF A FIXED ASSET

A fixed asset is an asset, either movable or immovable, owned by or under the control of the municipality, and from which the municipality reasonably expects to derive economic benefits, or reasonably expects to use in service delivery, over a period extending beyond one financial year, which cost or fair value can be measured reliably.

Fixed assets will include Property, Plant and Equipment (as defined in GRAP 17), Intangible Assets (as defined in GRAP 102), Investment Property (as defined in GRAP 16), Heritage Assets (as defined in GRAP 103), as well as Assets held under a finance lease, in accordance with the principles contained in GRAP 13.

To be recognised as a fixed asset, an asset must also meet the criteria referred to in parts 13, 14 and 15 below.

PART 2 - ROLE OF MUNICIPAL MANAGER

As accounting officer of the municipality, the Municipal Manager shall be the principal custodian of all the municipality's fixed assets, and shall be responsible for ensuring that the fixed asset management policy is scrupulously applied and adhered to.

PART 3 - ROLE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer shall be the fixed asset registrar of the municipality, and shall ensure that a complete, accurate and up-to-date computerised fixed asset register is maintained.

No amendments, deletions or additions to the fixed asset register shall be made other than by the Chief Financial Officer or by an official acting under the written instruction of the Chief Financial Officer.

PART 4 - FORMAT OF FIXED ASSET REGISTER

The fixed asset register shall be maintained in the format determined by the Chief Financial Officer, which format shall comply with the requirements of generally recognised accounting practice (GRAP) and any other accounting requirements that may be prescribed.

The fixed asset register shall reflect the following information:

- a brief but meaningful description of each asset
- the date on which the asset was acquired or brought into use
- the supplier from which the asset was acquired
- the location of the asset
- the department(s) or vote(s) within which the assets will be used
- the title deed number, in the case of fixed property
- the stand number, in the case of fixed property
- the identification number, as determined in compliance with part 11 below
- the original cost, or the revalued amount determined in compliance with part 26 below, or the fair value if no costs are available
- the (last) revaluation date of the fixed assets subject to revaluation
- the revalued value of such fixed assets
- accumulated depreciation to date
- the depreciation charge for the current financial year
- the carrying value of the asset
- the method and rate of depreciation
- impairment losses incurred during the financial year (and the reversal of such losses, where applicable)
- the source of financing
- the current insurance arrangements
- whether the asset has been used to secure any debt, and – if so – the nature and duration of such security arrangements
- the date on which the asset is disposed of
- the disposal price

- the date on which the asset is retired from use, if not disposed of.

All heads of department under whose control any fixed asset falls shall promptly provide the Chief Financial Officer in writing with any information required to compile the fixed asset register, and shall promptly advise the Chief Financial Officer in writing of any material change which may occur in respect of such information.

A fixed asset shall be capitalised, that is, recorded in the fixed assets register, as soon as it is acquired. If the asset is constructed over a period of time, it shall be recorded as work-in-progress until it is available for use, whereafter it shall be appropriately capitalised as a fixed asset.

A fixed asset shall remain in the fixed assets register for as long as it is in physical existence. The fact that a fixed asset has been fully depreciated shall not in itself be a reason for writing-off such an asset.

PART 5 - CLASSIFICATION OF FIXED ASSETS

In compliance with the requirements of the National Treasury, the Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that all fixed assets are classified under the following headings in the fixed assets register, and heads of departments shall in writing provide the Chief Financial Officer with such information or assistance as is required to compile a proper classification:

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

- land (not held as investment assets)
- infrastructure assets (assets which are part of a network of similar assets)
- community assets (resources contributing to the general well-being of the community)
- other assets (ordinary operational resources)

HERITAGE ASSETS

- culturally significant resources

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

- intangible resources

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

- investment assets (resources held for capital or operational gain)

The Chief Financial Officer shall adhere to the classifications indicated in the annexure on fixed asset lives (see part 33 below), and in the case of a fixed asset not appearing in the annexure shall use the classification applicable to the asset most closely comparable to the asset in question.

PART 6 - INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Investment assets shall be accounted for in terms of GRAP 16 and shall not be classified as property, plant and equipment for purposes of preparing the municipality's statement of position.

Investment assets shall comprise land or buildings (or parts of buildings) or both held by the municipality, as owner or as lessee under a finance lease, to earn rental revenues or for capital appreciation or both.

Investment assets shall be recorded in the fixed assets register in the same manner as other fixed assets, but a separate section of the fixed assets register shall be maintained for this purpose.

Investment assets shall not be depreciated, but shall be valued regularly, not less than every five years, on balance sheet date to determine their fair (market) value. Investment assets shall be recorded in the statement of position at such fair value. Adjustments to the previous year's recorded fair value shall be accounted for as

either gains (revenues) or losses (expenses) in the accounting records of the department or service controlling the assets concerned.

A professional valuer shall be engaged by the municipality to undertake such valuations.

If the Council of the municipality resolves to construct or develop a property for future use as an investment property, such property shall in every respect be accounted for as an ordinary fixed asset until it is ready for its intended use – whereafter it shall be reclassified as an investment asset.

PART 7 - FIXED ASSETS TREATED AS INVENTORY

Any land or buildings owned or acquired by the municipality with the intention of selling such property in the ordinary course of business, or any land or buildings owned or acquired by the municipality with the intention of developing such property for the purpose of selling it in the ordinary course of business, shall be accounted for as inventory, and not included in either property, plant and equipment or investment property in the municipality's statement of position.

Such inventories shall, however, be recorded in the fixed assets register in the same manner as other fixed assets, but a separate section of the fixed assets register shall be maintained for this purpose.

PART 8 - RECOGNITION OF HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE FIXED ASSET REGISTER

If no original costs or fair values are available in the case of one or more or all heritage assets, the Chief Financial Officer may, if it is believed that the determination of a fair value for the assets in question will be a laborious or expensive undertaking, record such asset or assets in the fixed asset register without an indication of the costs or fair value concerned.

For purposes of compiling the statement of position, the existence of such heritage assets shall be disclosed by means of an appropriate note.

PART 9 - RECOGNITION OF DONATED ASSETS

Where a fixed asset is donated to the municipality, or a fixed asset is acquired by means of an exchange of assets between the municipality and one or more other parties, the asset concerned shall be recorded in the fixed asset register at its fair value, as determined by the Chief Financial Officer.

PART 10 - SAFEKEEPING OF ASSETS

Every head of department shall be directly responsible for the physical safekeeping of any fixed asset controlled or used by the department in question.

In exercising this responsibility, every head of department shall adhere to any written directives issued by the Chief Financial Officer to the department in question, or generally to all departments, in regard to the control of or safekeeping of the municipality's fixed assets.

PART 11 - IDENTIFICATION OF FIXED ASSETS

The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that the municipality maintains a fixed asset identification system which shall be operated in conjunction with its computerised fixed asset register.

The identification system shall be determined by the Chief Financial Officer, acting in consultation with the Municipal Manager and other heads of departments, and shall comply with any legal prescriptions, as well as any recommendations of the Auditor-General or National Treasury, and shall be decided upon within the context of the municipality's budgetary and human resources.

Every head of department shall ensure that the asset identification system approved for the municipality is scrupulously applied in respect of all fixed assets controlled or used by the department in question.

PART 12 - PROCEDURE IN CASE OF LOSS, THEFT, DESTRUCTION, OR IMPAIRMENT OF FIXED ASSETS

Every head of department shall ensure that any incident of loss, theft, destruction, or material impairment of any fixed asset controlled or used by the department in question is promptly reported in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, to the internal auditor, and – in cases of suspected theft or malicious damage – also to the South African Police Service.

PART 13 - CAPITALISATION CRITERIA: MATERIAL VALUE

No item with an initial cost or fair value of less than R5 000 (five thousand rand) – or such other amount as the Council of the municipality may from time to time determine on the recommendation of the Municipal Manager – shall be recognised as a fixed asset. It may be appropriate to aggregate individually insignificant items, under the above material value, and apply the criteria to the aggregate value. If the item has a cost or fair value lower than this capitalisation benchmark, it shall be treated as an ordinary operating expense.

Every head of department shall, however, ensure that any item with a value in excess of R1 000 (one thousand rand), and with an estimated useful life of more than one year, shall be recorded on an inventory listing. Every head of department shall moreover ensure that the existence of items recorded on such inventory listings is verified from time to time, and at least once in every financial year, and any amendments which are made to such inventory listings, pursuant to such verification procedure, shall be reported to the Municipal Manager, and a record retained for audit purposes.

PART 14 - CAPITALISATION CRITERIA: INTANGIBLE ITEMS

An Intangible item shall be recognised as a fixed asset, acting in strict compliance with the criteria set out in GRAP 102, and the Chief Financial Officer may decide that specific items be recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment where such

seemingly intangible item forms an integral part of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment.

PART 15 - CAPITALISATION CRITERIA: REINSTATEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER EXPENSES

Only expenses incurred in the enhancement of a fixed asset (in the form of improved or increased services or benefits flowing from the use of such asset) or in the material extension of the useful operating life of a fixed asset shall be capitalised.

Expenses incurred in the maintenance or reinstatement of a fixed asset shall be considered as operating expenses incurred in ensuring that the useful operating life of the asset concerned is attained, and shall not be capitalised, irrespective of the quantum of the expenses concerned.

Expenses which are reasonably ancillary to the bringing into operation of a fixed asset may be capitalised as part of such fixed asset. Such expenses may include but need not be limited to import duties, forward cover costs, transportation costs, installation, assembly and commissioning costs.

PART 16 - MAINTENANCE PLANS

Every head of department shall ensure that a maintenance/rehabilitation plan in respect of every new infrastructure asset with a value of R200 000 (two hundred thousand rand) or more is prepared and submitted to the Municipal Manager for approval.

If so directed by the Municipal Manager, the maintenance plan shall be submitted to the Council prior to any approval being granted for the acquisition or construction of the infrastructure asset concerned.

The head of department controlling or using the infrastructure asset in question, shall annually report to the Council, not later than in July, of the extent to which the relevant maintenance plan has been complied with, and of the likely effect which any

non-compliance may have on the useful operating life of the asset concerned, and if the asset was impaired to any extent.

PART 17 - DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

If there is material variation between the actual maintenance expenses incurred and the expenses reasonably envisaged in the approved maintenance plan for any infrastructure asset (see part 16 above), the Chief Financial Officer shall investigate the extent of and possible implications of such deferred maintenance, as well as any proposed by the applicable head of department in order to redress such deferral of the maintenance requirements concerned.

If no such plans have been formulated or are likely to be implemented, the Chief Financial Officer shall re-determine the useful operating life of the fixed asset in question, if necessary in consultation with the head of department controlling or using such asset, and shall recalculate the annual depreciation expenses accordingly.

PART 18 - GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF FIXED ASSETS

Every head of department shall be directly responsible for ensuring that all assets (other than infrastructure assets which are dealt with in part 16 and part 17 above) are properly maintained and in a manner which will ensure that such assets attain their useful operating lives.

PART 19 - DEPRECIATION OF FIXED ASSETS

All fixed assets, except land and heritage assets, shall be depreciated – or amortised in the case of intangible assets.

Depreciation may be defined as the monetary quantification of the extent to which a fixed asset is used or consumed in the provision of economic benefits or the delivery of services.

Depreciation shall generally take the form of an expense both calculated and debited on a monthly basis against the appropriate line item in the department or vote in which the asset is used or consumed.

Depreciation shall be calculated from the month in which a fixed asset is acquired or – in the case of construction works and plant and machinery – the month in which the fixed asset is brought into use, and thereafter, depreciation charges shall be calculated monthly.

Each head of department, acting in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, shall ensure that reasonable budgetary provision is made annually for the depreciation of all applicable fixed assets controlled or used by the department in question or expected to be so controlled or used during the ensuing financial year.

The procedures to be followed in accounting and budgeting for the amortisation of intangible assets shall be identical to those applying to the depreciation of other fixed assets.

PART 20 - RATE OF DEPRECIATION

The Chief Financial Officer shall assign a useful operating life to each depreciable asset recorded on the municipality's fixed asset register. In determining such a useful life the Chief Financial Officer shall adhere to the useful lives set out in the annexure to this policy (see part 33 below).

In the case of a fixed asset which is not listed in this annexure, the Chief Financial Officer shall determine a useful operating life, if necessary in consultation with the head of department who shall control or use the fixed asset in question, and shall be guided in determining such useful life by the likely pattern in which the asset's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.

PART 21 - METHOD OF DEPRECIATION

Except in those cases specifically identified in part 23 below, the Chief Financial Officer shall depreciate all depreciable assets on the straight-line method of depreciation over the assigned useful operating life of the asset in question.

PART 22 - AMENDMENT OF ASSET LIVES AND DIMINUTION IN THE VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

Only the Chief Financial Officer may amend the useful operating life assigned to any fixed asset, and when any material amendment occurs the Chief Financial Officer shall inform the Council of the municipality of such amendment.

The Chief Financial Officer shall amend the useful operating life assigned to any fixed asset if it becomes known that such asset has been materially impaired or improperly maintained to such an extent that its useful operating life will not be attained, or any other event has occurred which materially affects the pattern in which the asset's economic benefits or service potential will be consumed.

If the value of a fixed asset has been diminished to such an extent that it has no or a negligible further useful operating life or value such fixed asset shall be fully depreciated in the financial year in which such diminution in value occurs.

Similarly, if a fixed asset has been lost, stolen or damaged beyond repair, it shall be fully depreciated in the financial year in which such event occurs, and if the fixed asset has physically ceased to exist, it shall be written off the fixed asset register.

In the all the foregoing instances, the additional depreciation expenses shall be debited to the department or vote controlling or using the fixed asset in question.

If any of the foregoing events arises in the case of a normally non-depreciable fixed asset, and such fixed asset has been capitalised at a value other than a purely nominal value, such fixed asset shall be partially or fully depreciated, as the case may be, as though it were an ordinary depreciable asset, and the department or vote

controlling or using the fixed asset in question shall bear the full depreciation expenses concerned.

PART 23 - ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF DEPRECIATION IN SPECIFIC INSTANCES

The Chief Financial Officer may employ the sum-of-units method of depreciation in the case of fixed assets which are physically wasted in providing economic benefits or delivering services.

The Chief Financial Officer shall only employ this method of depreciation if the head of department controlling or using the fixed asset in question gives a written undertaking to the Municipal Manager to provide:

- estimates of statistical information required by the Chief Financial Officer to prepare estimates of depreciation expenses for each financial year; and
- actual statistical information, for each financial year.

The head of department concerned shall moreover undertake to provide such statistical information at the specific times stipulated by the Chief Financial Officer.

Where the Chief Financial Officer decides to employ the sum-of-units method of depreciation, and the requirements set out in the preceding paragraph have been adhered to, the Chief Financial Officer shall inform the Council of the municipality of the decision in question.

PART 24 - IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

The Chief Financial Officer shall with the assistance of all heads of department review the carrying values (as defined in part 25) in respect of all fixed assets on an annual basis. Where the carrying value is less than the recoverable amount for an asset, such reduction shall be recorded as an Impairment loss against the operating

account of the department concerned. The depreciation applicable to the asset concerned will thereafter be effected against the reduced carrying amount over the remaining estimated life of such asset.

PART 25 - CARRYING VALUES OF FIXED ASSETS

All fixed assets shall be carried in the fixed asset register, and appropriately recorded in the annual financial statements, at their original cost or fair value less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment.

The only exceptions to this rule shall be revalued assets (see part 26 below) and heritage assets in respect of which no value is recorded in the fixed asset register (see part 8 above).

PART 26 - REVALUATION OF FIXED ASSETS

All land and buildings recorded in the municipality's fixed asset register shall be revalued with the adoption by the municipality of each new valuation roll (or, if the land and buildings concerned fall within the boundary of another municipality, with the adoption by such municipality of each new valuation roll).

The Chief Financial Officer shall adjust the carrying value of the land and buildings concerned to reflect in each instance the value of the fixed asset as recorded in the valuation roll, provided the Chief Financial Officer is satisfied that such value reflects the fair value of the fixed asset concerned.

The Chief Financial Officer shall also, where applicable, create a revaluation reserve for each such fixed asset equal to the difference between the value as recorded in the valuation roll and the carrying value of the fixed asset before the adjustment in question.

The fixed asset concerned shall, in the case of buildings, thereafter be depreciated on the basis of its revalued amount, over its remaining useful operating life, and such increased depreciation expenses shall be budgeted for and debited against the

appropriate line item in the department or vote controlling or using the fixed asset in question.

The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that an amount equal to the difference between the new (enhanced) monthly depreciation expense and the depreciation expenses determined in respect of such fixed asset before the revaluation in question is transferred each month from the revaluation reserve to the municipality's appropriation account. An adjustment of the aggregate transfer shall be made at the end of each financial year, if necessary (see part 24 above).

If the amount recorded on the valuation roll is less than the carrying value of the fixed asset recorded in the fixed asset register, the Chief Financial Officer shall adjust the carrying value of such asset by increasing the accumulated depreciation of the fixed asset in question by an amount sufficient to adjust the carrying value to the value as recorded in the valuation roll. Such additional depreciation expenses shall form a charge, in the first instance, against the balance in any revaluation reserve previously created for such asset, and to the extent that such balance is insufficient to bear the charge concerned, an immediate additional charge against the department or vote controlling or using the asset in question.

Revalued land and buildings shall be carried in the fixed asset register, and recorded in the annual financial statements, at their revalued amount, less accumulated depreciation (in the case of buildings).

PART 27 - VERIFICATION OF FIXED ASSETS

Every head of department shall at least once during every financial year, and in compliance with the relevant written directives issued by the Chief Financial Officer, undertake a comprehensive verification of all fixed assets controlled or used by the department concerned.

The directives issued by the Chief Financial Officer shall stipulate the date(s) when such verification shall be undertaken and completed, and such date(s) shall be as close as possible to the end of each financial year.

Every head of department shall promptly and fully report in writing to the Chief Financial Officer in the format determined by the Chief Financial Officer, all relevant results of such fixed asset verification, and the resultant report shall be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer not later than 30 June of the year in question.

PART 28 - ALIENATION OF FIXED ASSETS

In compliance with the principles and prescriptions of the Municipal Finance Management Act, the transfer of ownership of any fixed asset shall be fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and consistent with the municipality's supply chain management policy.

Every head of department shall report in writing to the Chief Financial Officer on 31 October and 30 April of each financial year on all fixed assets controlled or used by the department concerned which such head of department wishes to alienate. The Chief Financial Officer shall thereafter consolidate the requests received from the various departments, and shall promptly report such consolidated information to the Municipal Manager, indicating the process of alienation to be adopted in accordance with Section 20 of the municipality's supply chain management policy.

The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that the alienation of any fixed asset with a carrying value equal to or in excess of R50 000 (fifty thousand rand) takes place in compliance with Section 14 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2004 (see part 34 below).

Once the fixed assets are alienated, the Chief Financial Officer shall delete the relevant records from the fixed asset register.

If the proceeds of the alienation are less than the carrying value recorded in the fixed asset register, such difference shall be recognised as a loss in the statement of performance of the department or vote concerned. If the proceeds of the alienation, on the other hand, are more than the carrying value of the fixed asset concerned, the difference shall be recognised as a gain in the statement of performance of the department or vote concerned.

All gains realised on the alienation of fixed assets shall be appropriated annually to the municipality's capital replacement reserve (except in the cases outlined below), and all losses on the alienation of fixed assets shall remain as expenses on the income statement of the department or vote concerned. If, however, both gains and losses arise in any one financial year in respect of the alienation of the fixed assets of any department or vote, only the net gain (if any) on the alienation of such fixed assets shall be appropriated.

Transfer of fixed assets to other municipalities, municipal entities (whether or not under the municipality's sole or partial control) or other organs of state shall take place in accordance with the above procedures, except that the process of alienation shall be by private treaty in accordance with Section 20 of the municipality's supply chain management policy.

The Chief Financial Officer shall in July of every year report to the Council of the municipality details of all fixed assets disposed of during the immediately preceding financial year.

PART 29 - OTHER WRITE-OFFS OF FIXED ASSETS

A fixed asset other than when disposed of in accordance with part 28 above, and even though fully depreciated, shall be written off by the Chief Financial Officer only on the recommendation of the head of department controlling or using the asset concerned, and with the approval of the Municipal Manager.

Every head of department shall report to the Chief Financial Officer on 31 October and 30 April of each financial year on any fixed assets which such head of department wishes to have written off, stating in full the reason for such recommendation. The Chief Financial Officer shall consolidate all such reports, and shall promptly submit a recommendation to the Council of the municipality on the fixed assets to be written off.

The only reasons for writing off fixed assets, other than the alienation of such fixed assets, shall be the loss, theft, destruction or material impairment of the fixed asset in question.

In every instance where a not fully depreciated fixed asset is written off, the Chief Financial Officer shall immediately debit to such department or vote, as additional depreciation expenses, the full carrying value of the asset concerned (see also part 22).

PART 30 - REPLACEMENT NORMS

The Municipal Manager, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and other heads of departments, shall formulate norms and standards for the replacement of all normal operational fixed assets. Such norms and standards shall be incorporated in a formal policy, which shall be submitted to the Council of the municipality for approval. This policy shall cover the replacement of motor vehicles, furniture and fittings, computer equipment, and any other appropriate operational items. Such policy shall also provide for the replacement of fixed assets which are required for service delivery but which have become uneconomical to maintain.

PART 31 - INSURANCE OF FIXED ASSETS

The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that all movable fixed assets are insured at least against fire and theft, and that all municipal buildings are insured at least against fire and allied perils.

The Chief Financial Officer shall annually determine the premiums payable by departments in respect of the assets under their control.

The Chief Financial Officer shall determine the basis of the insurance to be applied to each type of fixed asset: either the carrying value or the replacement value of the fixed assets concerned. Such recommendation shall take due cognisance of the budgetary resources of the municipality.

The Chief Financial Officer shall annually submit a report to the Council of the municipality for approval on any insurance cover which it is deemed necessary to procure for the municipality's assets.

PART 32 - BIOLOGICAL ASSETS

Accounting for biological assets shall take place in accordance with the requirements of GRAP 101.

The Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the head(s) of department concerned, shall ensure that all biological assets, such as livestock and crops, are valued at 30 June each year at fair value less estimated point-of-sales costs. Such valuation shall be undertaken by a recognised valuer in the line of the biological assets concerned. Any losses on such valuation shall be debited to the department or vote concerned as an operating expense, and any increase in the valuation shall be credited to the department or vote concerned as an operating revenue.

If any biological asset is lost, stolen or destroyed, the matter – if material – shall be reported in writing by the head of department concerned in exactly the same manner as though the asset were an ordinary fixed asset.

Records of the details of biological assets shall be kept in a separate section of the fixed assets register or in a separate accounting record altogether, and such details shall reflect the information which the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the head of department concerned and the internal auditor, deems necessary for accounting and control purposes.

The Chief Financial Officer shall annually insure the municipality's biological assets, in consultation with the head(s) of department concerned, provided the Council of the municipality considers such insurance desirable and affordable.

PART 33 - ANNEXURE: FIXED ASSET LIVES

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

The following is the list of infrastructure assets, with the estimated useful life in years indicated in brackets in each case.

*	Electricity	
	Power stations	(30)
	Cooling towers	(30)
	Transformer kiosks	(30)
	Meters	(20)
	Load control equipment	(20)
	Switchgear	(20)
	Supply and reticulation networks	(20)
	Mains	(20)
*	Roads	
	Motorways	(15)
	Other roads	(10)
	Traffic islands	(10)
	Traffic lights	(20)
	Street lights	(25)
	Overhead bridges	(30)
	Stormwater drains	(20)
	Bridges, subways and culverts	(30)
	Car parks	(20)
	Bus terminals	(20)
*	Water	
	Mains	(20)
	Supply and reticulation networks	(20)
	Reservoirs and storage tanks	(20)
	Meters	(15)

	Rights (that is, the right to draw water from a particular source belonging to another party)	(20)
*	Gas	
	Supply and reticulation networks	(20)
	Storage tanks	(20)
	Mains	(20)
	Meters	(20)
*	Sewerage	
	Sewer mains	(20)
	Outfall sewers	(20)
	Sewage purification works	(20)
	Sewerage pumps	(15)
	Sludge machines	(15)
*	Pedestrian malls	
	Footways	(20)
	Kerbing	(20)
	Paving	(20)
*	Airports	
	Runways	(20)
	Aprons	(20)
	Taxiways	(20)
	Airport and radio beacons	(20)
*	Security measures	
	Access control systems	(5)
	Security systems	(5)
	Security fencing	(3)

COMMUNITY ASSETS

The following is a list of community assets, showing again the assigned or estimated useful lives in years in brackets:

*	Buildings and other assets	
	Ambulance stations	(30)
	Aquariums	(30)
	Beach developments	(30)
	Care centres	(30)
	Cemeteries	(30) #
	Civic theatres	(30)
	Clinics and hospitals	(30)
	Community centres	(30)
	Fire stations	(30)
	Game reserves and rest camps	(30)
	Indoor sports	(30)
	Libraries	(30)
	Museums and art galleries	(30)
	Parks	(30)
	Public conveniences and bath houses	(30)
	Recreation centres	(30)
	Sports and related stadiums	(30)
	Zoos	(30)
*	Recreation facilities	
	Bowling greens	(20)
	Tennis courts	(20)
	Swimming pools	(20)
	Golf courses	(20)
	Jukskei pitches	(20)
	Outdoor sports facilities	(20)
	Organs (that is, pipe organs that are fixtures in a municipal hall or other centre)	(20)

Lakes and dams	(20)
Fountains	(20)
Flood lighting	(20)

Sum-of-units method of depreciation may be preferred.

HERITAGE ASSETS

The following is a list of at least some typical heritage assets encountered in the municipal environment (no asset lives are given, of course, as no ordinary depreciation will be charged against such assets):

- Museum exhibits
- Works of art (which will include paintings and sculptures)
- Public statues
- Historical buildings or other historical structures (such as war memorials)
- Historical sites (for example, an Iron Age kiln, historical battle site or site of a historical settlement)

INVESTMENT ASSETS

It is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of investment assets, as the actual list will depend very much on the local circumstances of each municipality. However, the following will be among the most frequently encountered:

- Office parks (which have been developed by the municipality itself or jointly between the municipality and one or more other parties)
- Shopping centres (again developed along similar lines)

OTHER ASSETS

The following is a list of other assets, again showing the estimated useful life in years in brackets:

*	Buildings	
	Abattoirs	(30)
	Asphalt plant	(30)
	Cable stations	(30)
	Caravan parks	(30)
	Compacting stations	(30)
	Hostels used to accommodate the public or tourists	(30)
	Hostels for municipal employees	(30)
	Housing schemes	(30)
	Kilns	(30)
	Laboratories	(30)
	Fresh produce and other markets	(30)
	Nurseries	(30)
	Office buildings	(30)
	Old age homes	(30)
	Quarries	(30) #
	Tip sites	(30) #
	Training centres	(30)
	Transport facilities	(30)
	Workshops and depots	(30)
*	Office equipment	
	Computer hardware	(5)
	Computer software	(3-5)
	Office machines	(3-5)
	Air conditioners	(5-7)

*	Furniture and fittings	
	Chairs	(7-10)
	Tables and desks	(7-10)
	Cabinets and cupboards	(7-10)
*	Bins and containers	
	Household refuse bins	(5)
	Bulk refuse containers	(10)
*	Emergency equipment	
	Fire hoses	(5)
	Other fire-fighting equipment	(15)
	Emergency lights	(5)
*	Motor vehicles	
	Ambulances	(5-10)
	Fire engines	(20)
	Buses	(15)
	Trucks and light delivery vehicles	(5-7)
	Ordinary motor vehicles	(5-7)
	Motor cycles	(3)
*	Plant and equipment	
	Graders	(10-15)
	Tractors	(10-15)
	Mechanical horses	(10-15)
	Farm equipment	(5)
	Lawn mowers	(2)
	Compressors	(5)
	Laboratory equipment	(5)
	Radio equipment	(5)
	Firearms	(5)
	Telecommunication equipment	(5)

	Cable cars	(15)
	Irrigation systems	(15)
	Cremators	(15)
	Lathes	(15)
	Filling equipment	(15)
	Conveyors	(15)
	Feeders	(15)
	Tippers	(15)
	Pulverising mills	(15)
* Other		
	Aircraft	(15)
	Watercraft	(15)

Sum-of-units may be preferred.

PART 34 - ANNEXURE: PARAPHRASE OF SECTION 14 OF THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT 2003

A municipality may not alienate any capital asset required to provide a minimum level of basic municipal services.

A municipality may alienate any other capital asset, but provided

- Council, in a meeting open to the public, has first determined that the asset is not required to provide a minimum level of basic municipal services, and
- Council has considered the fair market value of the asset and the economic and community value to be received in exchange for the asset.