

Overview of Thekwini's Basic Interim Services Programme

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Compiled by Project Preparation Trust of KZN



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Overview

Approximately a quarter of eThekweni's total population of approximately 3.5million reside in urban and peri-urban informal settlements, most of which are located on land which is both difficult and costly to develop due to such constraints as steep slopes, unstable soils and high land costs. Whilst eThekweni can pride itself on a successful and large scale mass housing delivery programme, not all settlements can be provided with full services and low income housing in the short term due to funding and other constraints. Yet informal settlements face a range of basic challenges such as access to adequate sanitation, clean energy, and roads. Recurrent shack fires are also an important risk. eThekweni is therefore in the process of establishing a pro-active and broad based programme aimed at providing a range of basic interim services to 166 prioritised informal settlements within the Municipality with a view to addressing a range of basic health and safety issues. These prioritized settlements are those which are on the Municipality's housing plan, but which cannot be provided with full services and low income housing in the short term. Those settlements which are destined for eventual relocation are not included.

Interim services to be provided

The interim services programme will provide a mix of the basic interim services listed below. It is emphasized that the intention is to deliver rapidly to as many settlements as possible instead of providing a high level of service to only a small number of selected settlements. It is hoped that the programme can be rolled out fairly rapidly over a period of approximately five years, but this is subject to the availability of sufficient funding, given that there are not yet any specific grants available from national government for these purposes. The following are the main services and responses envisaged within the interim services programme:

- Communal ablution blocks: Basic sanitation is provided by means of converted containers which are plumbed into water and sewer mains. Each block consists of a separate unit for males and females which provide toilets, showers, hand-basins and wash-troughs. Lighting is by means of solar power. The norm is to provide at least one block for every 75 households. Female units consist of: 4 toilets, 2 showers, 2 hand-basins and 1 wash-trough. Male units consist of: 3 toilets, 2 showers, 2 hand-basins, 2 urinals, a store room and a wash-trough. A local care-taker is

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responsible for oversight and routine maintenance. This part of the programme is already well underway. As at 15th July 2010, 70 blocks had already been installed, with 137 under construction and a further 200 due for completion by 30th June 2011. The final target is approximately 1,019 blocks.

- A basic road network and footpaths: A prioritized road infrastructure network and associated storm-water controls will be provided. This will consist of main transportation routes as well as some smaller access ways and pedestrian footpaths. It is emphasized that the provision this road and footpath network is necessary in order to install electrical infrastructure as well as provide effective fire protection and other essential health and safety services. This infrastructure is however also extremely costly and will therefore need to be rolled out on the basis of a prioritized road hierarchy. This means that only primary and secondary access roads will typically be built in the interim services phase, with the balance to follow when full infrastructure and housing delivery occurs.



- Electricity connections: Where possible, shacks will be connected to the main electrical grid on the pre-paid basis. As indicated above, an adequate road and footpath network must first be in place. The rate of delivery will also depend on the availability of sufficient funding from the Department of Minerals and Energy.



- Standpipes: Whilst standpipes have already been provided historically in most settlements, where standpipes are not available, they will be provided. The norm is to provide a standpipe within a 200m of every dwelling.

- Key social facilities: Plans are currently being developed to inform the more effective provision of key social facilities such as fire and police stations, clinics, schools, sports-fields and community halls.

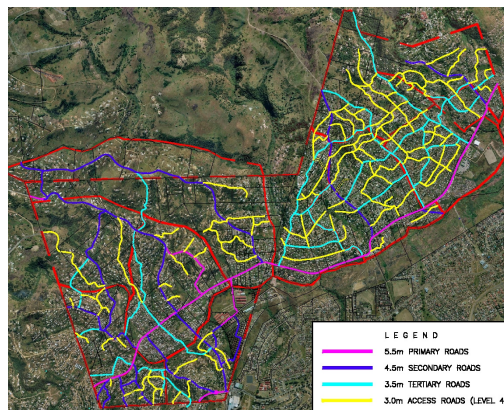
- Sustainable livelihoods: A process of participative livelihoods engagement is being planned. The sustainable livelihoods approach strives to build stronger community responsibility and 'self-help as well as to facilitate a better relationship between the urban poor and the Municipality. Practical action plans will be developed by local residents which will empower them to play a more effective role in a range of spheres such as special needs (e.g. home based care, crèches and HIV Aids), micro-enterprise and food security. Follow through support will also be provided. It will also help to identify and define opportunities for community



based maintenance and more effective emergency responses (e.g. relating to fire protection)

A spatially coherent approach

Informal settlements have been grouped together into logical 'clusters' or precincts in order to enable more effective and sustainable urban planning. A preliminary spatial plan will be developed for each precinct in order to ensure that road networks conform with a logical long term urban development plan and will not conflict with layout plans for future housing delivery. This approach also helps to ensure that informal settlements are more effectively connected with other parts of the City and are not treated in isolation from it. The plans achieve this by identifying main movement corridors as well as potential local hubs for social services and economic activity.



Use of Local Labour and Contractors

As with other eThekweni infrastructure initiatives, subcontractors will be procured from within the eThekweni region via a transparent procurement process. Local labour will be utilized as well as locally produced materials wherever possible.



Community based maintenance

Efforts will be made to identify opportunities for community based maintenance of interim infrastructure (e.g. clearing of storm-water culverts). This will be resourced partially through voluntarism and partially through basic EPWP2 stipends. Local maintenance workers will be accountable to a local development committees with broad overall monitoring from the Municipality.

Relocations

It is anticipated that, in some settlements, the construction of interim services (especially roads and footpaths) will necessitate some relocations. Households to be moved ('relocatees') will be provided with R2,500 worth of building materials or else a voucher which can be used for the purchase of such materials in order to assist them in rebuilding their informal house at another locality.

Costs

Indicative capital costs (in S.A. rands) for the rollout of the interim services programme are as follows:

Interim service	Total costs per hh	eThekweni contribution)	External funding
Road & footpaths (primary & tertiary roads only with footpaths & storm-water controls)	10,000	10,000	0
Communal sanitation blocks converted containers, earthworks, foundations, fire hydrants, earthworks, etc)	4,946	4,946	0
Water and sewer connectors (new and up-grades)	4,386	4,386	0
Electricity (household connections)	5,000	0	5,000
Standpipes (where not already in place)	600	600	0
Subtotal	24,932	19,932	5,000