budget analysis 4

CITY OF eTHEKWINI 21 JANUARY 2021

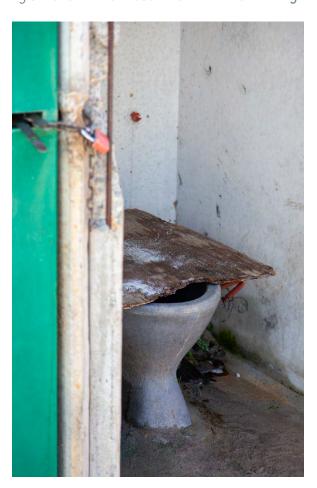


VOICES OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENT RESIDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES TO THE **ethekwini** Metro's Informal settlements:

WHAT DOES THE 2020/21 BUDGET SAY?

by Carlene van der Westhuizen and Albert van Zyl



1. INTRODUCTION

The importance of adequate access to water and sanitation for informal settlement residents, both in eThekwini and elsewhere, has been reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since many households in eThekwini's informal settlements are reliant on communal taps, toilets and ablution blocks, the threat of the virus's spread is greater than in other areas. Asivikelane has shone a light on the fact that these facilities are often not cleaned regularly or properly maintained, which adds to the health risks in informal settlement communities.

This analysis of the 2020/2021 budget of the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality focuses on allocations for basic services in informal settlements. The metro itself recognises that the backlog in housing is too large to address through the provision of houses alone. Of the current housing backlog of 440 000 households, 287 000 households live in informal settlements. The metro aims to provide some level of basic services to these households through either the **Housing Upgrading Programme** (In-situ Upgrades and Greenfields) or the **Incremental Services Programme**.

While it is difficult to identify the projects in the metro's budget which form part of the different programmes, the high-level capital budget allocations suggest the prioritisation of upgrading projects over the delivery of basic services in the short term. In addition, the metro's Built Environment Performance Plan (BEPP) confirms that the upgrading budget for the current three-year MTREF period is almost 13 times the size of the budget for the delivery of incremental services.

The high-level capital budget also suggests increases in the allocations for upgrading projects over the MTREF period. Informal settlement upgrading projects can, however, take up to 15 years to complete and have a track record of delays and rollovers. These allocations will therefore not provide any short-term relief to informal settlement residents.

While the metro claims increased allocations for repairs and maintenance, it is almost impossible to identify what has been allocated specifically for the repairs and maintenance of taps, toilets and ablution blocks in informal settlements. It is, moreover, worrying that the high-level operating budget allocation for sanitation maintenance in 2020/21 is 38% less than in the 2019/20 budget.

From the perspective of informal settlement residents, the two most pressing issues in this budget are therefore:

- Could the budget for the maintenance of informal settlement taps and toilets be increased?
- In order to be more responsive in the short term, could the metro aim for a better balance between spending on upgrading projects and spending on the incremental provision of taps and toilets? Or at least find ways to speed up the delivery of taps and toilets in the upgrading projects?

We are also concerned that we were unable to access project-specific information, despite a thorough review of published budget information and engagement with metro and national stakeholders. The lack of such information makes it much more difficult for the public to engage with the metro on these important matters.

2. BASIC SERVICES BACKLOGS

In its 2020/21 IDP, the metro summarises the existing basic services backlogs at 31 January 2020.

TABLE 1: Basic services backlogs in eThekwini

Basic Service	Basic Service Existing Backlog (consumer units) as at 31 January 2020		Timeframe to address based on current funding levels	
Sanitation	227 458	3 000 – 4 000	70 – 90 years	
Electricity	220 432	8 000 – 14 000	16 – 28 years	
Refuse removal	0	1 500 – 2 000	0 years	
Roads	1046.21 km	10 – 15 km	70 – 105 years	
Water	168 894	4 000 – 5 000	30 – 40 years	

Source: eThekwini 2020/21 Integrated Development Plan. Pages 141, 143. Available online http://www.durban.gov.za/City_Government/City_Vision/IDP/Documents/eThekwini_IntegratedDevelopmentPlan_IDP2020_2021.pdf

It should be noted that, according to the IDP, "consumer units" refers to houses or dwellings. This suggests that it includes more than just households living in urban informal settlements, but also households living in backyards, rural areas, etc.

In terms of access to housing, the latest estimated backlog (as at December 2019) stands at 440 000 households with 287 00 of these living in informal settlements. For these informal settlement households, the IDP defines the "need" as "tenure, services, top structure".

Asivikelane has been monitoring the delivery of water, sanitation and refuse removal in over 50 informal settlements in eThekwini since March 2020. For each of the three services monitored by Asivikelane, we make diagrammatic traffic lights to reflect the status of service delivery, where a **red light or colour indicates that 60% or fewer residents received services**, **dark orange indicates 60% to 75%**, **light orange indicates 75% to 90%**, and **green indicates 90% or more**. In the past nine months there have been 13 releases reflecting the delivery of services during each data collection week.

Table 2 below summarises the results from the first 11 releases. With regard to **water provision**, the traffic light was consistently green until the last two rounds when the results dropped to light orange. This change in the traffic light was mainly due to inconsistent water supply, where residents reported outages for up to three days. In addition, there are settlements in which residents require more taps as large numbers of people rely on too few taps. In at least one settlement there reportedly are neither taps nor water tanks, forcing residents to fetch water from neighbouring settlements.

For **sanitation services**, the traffic light has largely been red, with the exception of rounds 2 and 3 when the results were dark orange. There are three persistent challenges relating to sanitation services. The first is that some settlements do not have toilets, the second is toilets not being cleaned or not being cleaned regularly, and the third is that in many cases toilets get blocked or broken because they are not serviced or maintained frequently.

The waste removal traffic light has been mostly light orange — until the recent releases when the results improved to green.

In round 8 of Asivikelane, residents were also asked a question relating to the sufficiency of public lighting in their informal settlements. In eThekwini, 48.5% of the residents indicated that there is adequate lighting in their settlements.

Table 2: eThekwini Municipality Asivikelane results (March – Sept 2020)

		WATER	TOILETS	WASTE
WEEK	1			•
WEEK	2			
WEEK	3			•
WEEK	4			
WEEK	5			
WEEK	6			
WEEK	7			
WEEK	8			
WEEK	9			
WEEK	10	•		•
WEEK	11	•		•

RED: 60% or fewer respondents said yes

DARK ORANGE: Between 60% and 75%, inclusive of 75% of respondents said yes

LIGHT ORANGE: Between 75% and 90% of respondents said yes

GREEN: 90% or more respondents said yes

3. THE METRO'S APPROACH TO PROVIDING BASIC SERVICES FOR INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

The metro recognises that addressing the housing backlog through the provision of houses only is an impossible task, estimating that it will take over 90 years to meet the informal settlement backlog. Instead, it aims to "offer some improvement to the quality of life in informal settlements in the short term" through "incremental measures such as ablution blocks with male and female toilets and showers, refuse removal services, pedestrian paths with storm water channels, limited road access for emergency and solid waste vehicles, and a labour-based maintenance programme".

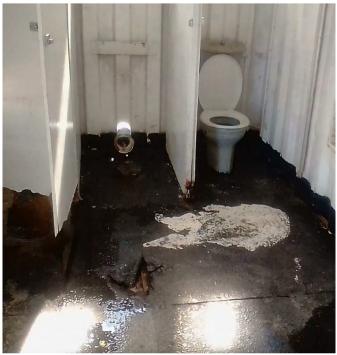
The metro further aims to rapidly scale up the delivery of incremental services to informal settlements and claims that for each house built, up to ten informal settlement dwellings can be provided with incremental services.

The metro has a number of programmes providing housing and basic services:

- Housing Catalytic Projects
- Incremental Services to Informal Settlements
- Institutional and Social Housing
- Affordable Housing
- In-situ Upgrades and Greenfields
- Retrofit of Engineering Services
- Township Establishment, Infrastructure Handover, and Title Deed Issuing for RDP

The two programmes that specifically provide basic services to informal settlements are the Incremental Services to Informal Settlements Programme and the Housing Upgrading Programme, which includes the In-situ Upgrades and Greenfields projects. The criteria used to decide which settlements qualify for which interventions are hard to understand, but the metro's 2020/21 Built Environment Performance Plan (BEPP) explains that after a set of criteria has been applied, the metro has a list of informal settlements ranked from most appropriate for upgrading (settlements which are well located and least costly to implement from a bulk infrastructure perspective) to those that are least appropriate. The Housing Upgrading Programme works from the top of the list and the Incremental Services Programme works from the bottom of the list. The idea is that the two interventions will eventually "meet in the middle" with all settlements having received some basic services/housing intervention.⁶





Locked and broken toilets in eThekwini



3.1 Incremental Services to Informal Settlements Programme

The settlements which are prioritised for delivery under the Incremental Services to Informal Settlements Programmes are settlements that are in the municipality's Housing Plan, but which cannot be provided with full services and low-income housing in the short term. Settlements which have been identified for relocation have not been included in the programme. The metro aims to deliver interim services to as many settlements as possible instead of a "high level" of service to only a small number of settlements. The metro also aims to scale up this programme to benefit up to 10 000 households per year.⁷

Settlements are provided with a mix of interim basic services which include the following:

- standpipes
- community ablution blocks
- roads, footpaths, and stormwater control
- electricity ablution blocks, streetlights, individual connections
- access to social facilities, particularly fire and police stations, clinics, schools, and sports-fields
- sustainable livelihoods (The documents are a little vague about what specifically this entails, but it seems to focus on building communities' responsibility for themselves, as well as facilitating better relationships between the metro and communities.)

According to the BEPP, R270 million has been allocated for the programme in the capital budget for 2020/21 – 2022/23 – the same amount allocated for 2019/20 - 2021/2022. It is very difficult to identify the budget allocations in the metro's capital budget for the specific sub-programmes of the Incremental Services Programme. Below are the projects which might form part of the Incremental Services Programme. Overall, these projects add up to R263 million for the three years, which is close to the R279 million the BEPP states, but we cannot say for certain that these are the projects under the Incremental Services Programme.

TABLE 3: Possible projects under the Incremental Services Programme

Department	Project	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
		R '000	R'000	R '000
Human Settlements and Infrastructure	Roads, footpaths, stormwater	42 210		
Electricity	Sundry EFA informal (Block sum)*	50 000	50 000	40 000
Electricity	Ablution floodlights	200	200	200
Electricity	Ablution solar lighting	750	500	500
Trading Service Sanitation	Ablution blocks in-situ upgrading	30 000	24 999	23 489

Source: eThekwini Metro Municipality. 2020/21 MTREF A1 Schedule. Available online http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/03.%20Budget%20Documentation/2020-21/Adopted%20 Budgets/01.%20Metros/ETH%20eThekwini/Final%20Ethekwini%20Municiplaity%20ASCHEDULE%20202021%20MTREF_xlsx

Neither the BEPP nor the budget itself provides a breakdown of the settlements that are going to benefit from each sub-programme or project. While standpipes are listed as one of the interim basic services, no budget allocation for this could be found. An official from the eThekwini budget office has confirmed that standpipes are now provided in conjunction with communal ablution blocks and that these will be provided as and when required and subject to budget being made available.

Overall, the lack of budget information about the Incremental Services Programme and its sub-programmes is of great concern.

^{*} An official from the eThekwini Budget Office has indicated that this project provides pre-paid electricity to households in more than 30 informal settlements.

^{7.} http://www.durban.gov.za/City_Government/City_Vision/IDP/Documents/eThekwini_IntegratedDevelopmentPlan_IDP2020_2021.pdf. Page 488

^{8.} http://www.durban.gov.za/City_Government/City_Vision/IDP/Documents/eThekwini_IntegratedDevelopmentPlan_IDP2020_2021.pdf. Page 163, http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FDocuments%2F02%2E%20Built%20Environment%20Performance%20Plans%2F2020%2D21%2F02%2E%20Adopted%20BEPPs%20for%202020%2D21%2FETH%20eThekwini&FolderCTID=0x0120007B806770C970904FBEB117A91BE313E6&View={84CA1A01-EF8A-4DE0-8DC4-47D223CB5867}. Page 89

^{9.} http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FDocuments%2F02%2E%20Built%20Environment%20Performance%20Plans%2F2020%2D21%2F02%2E%20Adopt-ed%20BEPPs%20for%202020%2D21%2FETH%20eThekwini&FolderCTID=0x0120007B806770C970904FBEB117A91BE313E6&View={84CA1A01-EF8A-4DE0-8DC4-47D223CB5867}. Page 89

3.2 Housing Upgrading Programme: In-situ Upgrades and Greenfields

The In-situ Upgrade Programme aims to upgrade all of the Informal Settlements that are technically viable for upgrade. The purpose of the Greenfields Programme is to absorb relocations from the In-situ Upgrades projects. Typical deliverables of an In-situ Upgrade or Greenfields project include mapped subdivisions, surfaced roads, water, sewer and electricity connections, and a $40 \, \mathrm{m}^2$ dwelling structure. Sites are also created for social facilities, especially parks, schools and clinics, with the facilities to be delivered by the relevant public entities.¹⁰

According to the 2020/21 BEPP, a total of R3.6 billion has been allocated to the programme in the capital budget of the current MTREF – the same as in 2019/20. Again, it is of concern that no separate annual budget allocations are provided for the two upgrading programmes.

The BEPP lists the following 10 settlements that have been selected as pilots for an EU-funded project (called iQhaza Lethu) where these settlements are going to be upgraded as collaborative informal settlement initiatives. There is no reference to this project in the 2020/21 budget.

- Quarry Road
- Parkington / Thandanani
- Emaphaleni
- Progress Place
- Ntuzuma C
- Palmiet
- Uganda
- Dakota Beach
- Havelock Road
- Bhambaqi

3.3 Repairs and Maintenance

According to the IDP, the metro has, over the last few years, increased its investment towards managing its assets and, accordingly, expenditure on repairs and maintenance as a percentage of total expenditure. ¹² It is, however, impossible to identify what has been allocated specifically for the repairs and maintenance of taps, toilets and ablution blocks in informal settlements.

Repairs and maintenance are usually funded from the operating budget and include a wide range of other items, including contracted services and staff costs.

The narrative of the final 2020/21 MTREF states that R498 million has been allocated for maintenance and repairs as part of the 2020/21 operating budget for water, and R223 million has been allocated for maintenance and repairs as part of the 2020/21 operating budget for sanitation.¹³ The narrative of the adopted 2019/20 MTREF shows that for 2019/20, R455 million was allocated for maintenance and repairs as part of the operating budget for water, and R362 million was allocated for maintenance and repairs as part of the operating budget for sanitation (final expenditure for 2019/20 is not available).¹⁴ This means that while 9,5% more was allocated in the 2020/21 budget for the maintenance and repairs of water infrastructure, 38.4% less was allocated for sanitation maintenance and repairs.

TABLE 4: Budget allocations for maintenance and repairs in the water and sanitation operating budgets

R million	2019/20	2020/21	% change
Water	455	498	9.5%
Sanitation	362	223	-38.4%

Source: eThekwini Metro Municipality 2020/21 Adopted MTREF and eThekwini Municipality 2019/20 Adopted MTREF; own calculations

The allocations for repairs and maintenance above include maintenance to all water and sanitation infrastructure. We have not been able to see what has specifically been allocated for the maintenance of taps, toilets and ablution blocks in informal settlements.

^{10.} http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FDocuments%2F02%2E%20Built%20Environment%20Performance%20Plans%2F202%2D21%2F02%2E%20Adopted %20BEPPs%20for%202020%2D21%2FETH%20eThekwini&FolderCTID=0x0120007B806770C970904FBEB117A91BE313E6&View={84CA1A01-EF8A-4DE0-8DC4-47D223CB5867}. Page 91

^{11.} http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FDocuments%2F02%2E%20Built%20Environment%20Performance%20Plans%2F2020%2D21%2F02%2E%20Adopted %20BEPPs%20for%202020%2D21%2FETH%20eThekwini&FolderCTID=0x0120007B806770C970904FBEB117A91BE313E6&View={84CA1A01-EF8A-4DE0-8DC4-47D223CB5867}. Page 84

 $[\]textbf{12.} \ \texttt{http://www.durban.gov.za/City_Government/City_Vision/IDP/Documents/eThekwini_IntegratedDevelopmentPlan_IDP2020_2021.pdf. Page 253 and the property of the propert$

^{13.} http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/03.%20Budget%20Documentation/2020-21/Adopted%20Budgets/01.%20Metros/ETH%20eThekwini/Final%20MeduimTerm%20Revenue%20and%20Expnditure%20Framework%202020.2021.pdf. Pages 34 and 35

 $[\]textbf{14.} \ \text{http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/03.\%} 20 Budget \% 20 Documentation/2019-20/Adopted \% 20 budgets/01.\% 20 Metros/ETH \% 20 eThekwini/E thekwini\% 2019.20\% 20 approved \% 20 MTREF. PDF and the first of the first o$



4. OVERVIEW OF ETHEKWINI'S CAPITAL BUDGET

The capital budget includes all capital expenditure for the upgrading and incremental services programmes discussed above.

In 2020/21, the metro has allocated 45% of its total capital budget to the Human Settlements and Infrastructure cluster (which delivers all the housing and upgrading projects), and 28.1% to the Trading Services cluster (which includes water, sanitation, electricity and solid waste). While the Human Settlements and Infrastructure capital budget increased by 6.7% from R2.01 billion in 2019/20 to R2.15 billion in 2020/21, the Trading Service capital budget decreased by almost 12% from R1.53 billion in 2019/20 to R1.35 billion in 2020/21.

Looking across the three years of the 2020/21 MTREF, the capital budget for Human Settlements and Infrastructure is set to grow by 8.9% to R2.34 billion in 2021/22 and by a further 11.4% to R2.6 billion in 2022/23. After the decrease in 2020/21, the Trading Services capital budget is also set to grow in the next two years, by 16% to R1.56 billion in 2021/22 and by 7.1% to R1.67 billion in 2022/2023.

Looking at the overall trend from 2019/20 to 2022/23, it does appear as if the metro is planning to allocate more money to the cluster (Human Settlements and Infrastructure) responsible for upgrading than the cluster (Trading Services) responsible for many of the incremental services programmes. (It should be noted, though, that the incremental services sub-programme responsible for the delivery of roads, stormwater, and footpaths is situated in the Human Settlements cluster. Currently, however, this programme has only been allocated a budget for 2021/22. See Table 3 above.)

TABLE 5: eThekwini Capital Budget: 2019/20 - 2022/23

VOTE DESCRIPTION	Full Year Forecast	2020/21 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework				
R thousand	2019/20	Budget Year 2020/21	% change 2019/20 – 2020/21	% of total	Budget Year +1 2021/22	Budget Year +2 2022/23
Capital expenditure — Vote						
Vote 1: Office of the City Manager	236 530	398 226	68.4%	8.3%	369 782	394 430
Vote 2: City Manager's Operations	17 881	5 568	-68.9%	0.1%	1 858	1 189
Vote 3: Finance	287 523	191 397	-33.4%	4.0%	215 237	236 960
Vote 4: Office of the Strategic Management	106	271	154.5%	0.0%	201	330
Vote 5: Governance	16 739	23 149	38.3%	0.5%	24 611	19 349
Vote 6: Corporate and Human Resources	3 088	14 473	368.7%	0.3%	15 318	16 865
Vote 7: Economic Development and Planning	352 190	324 574	-7.8%	6.8%	260 383	290 470
Vote 8: Community and Emergeny Services	381 856	247 048	-35.3%	5.2%	254 772	278 064
Vote 9: Human Settlements and Infrastructure	2 012 757	2 147 217	6.7%	44.8%	2 337 253	2 603 647
Vote 10: Trading Services	1 527 588	1 347 736	-11.8%	28.1%	1 563 820	1 674 798
Vote 11: Durban ICC	29 854	58 110	94.6%	1.2%	25 670	32 290
Vote 12: USHAKA MARINE	10 017	35 000	249.4%	0.7%	30 000	35 000
	4 876 130	4 792 769	-1.7%	100.0%	5 098 905	5 583 392

Source: eThekwini Metro Municipality 2020/21 Adopted MTREF, Available online http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/03.%20Budget%20Documentation/2020-21/Adopted%20Budgets/01.%20Metros/ETH%20eThekwini/Final%20Ethekwini%20Municiplaity%20ASCHEDULE%20202021%20MTREF .xlsx; own calculations

Below is a more detailed breakdown of the Human Settlements and Infrastructure cluster and the Trading Services cluster. It is unclear which of the units in Human Settlements and Infrastructure are responsible for the upgrading project, but it is most probably Housing and possibly Engineering. Table 6 shows that not only is the budget for Housing the largest of the cluster, but if one compares last year's allocation with the 2022/23 estimate, it is set to increase the most over the current MTREF. By 2022/23 its budget of R1.14 billion will be almost 28% larger than the full year forecast for 2019/20. The Engineering unit is set to receive less money in 2020/21, and despite increases in 2021/22 and 2022/23, by 2022/23 this unit's budget of R569 million will still be smaller than 2019/20's full year forecast of R586 billion.

The projects listed in Table 3 above suggest that most of the incremental services projects are implemented by the Electricity unit, with one project implemented by the Sanitation unit. Both units have smaller capital budgets in 2020/21 than in 2019/20, with the sanitation budget decreasing by 44%. Despite some increase in 2021/22, this unit's budget will still be smaller in 2022/23 than the full year forecast for 2019/20. The Electricity unit's budget is set to grow over in 2021/22 and 2022/23, but Table 3 shows that the projects contributing to the delivery of incremental services are not set to receive more money from the increasing budget.

TABLE 6: eThekwini Capital Budget by sub-vote (Human Settlements & Infrastructure and Trading Services): 2019/20 – 2022/23

VOTE DESCRIPTION	Full Year Forecast	2020/21 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework				
R thousand	2019/20	Budget Year 2020/21	% change 2019/20 – 2020/21	% of total	Budget Year +1 2021/22	Budget Year +2 2022/23
Vote 9: Human Settlements and Infrastructure	2 012 757	2 147 217	6.7%		2 337 253	2 603 647
Vote 9.1: Deputy City Manager	328	546	66.7%	0.0%	572	
Vote 9.2: Housing	898 265	1 000 167	11.3%	46.6%	1 004 334	1 148 300
Vote 9.3: Engineering	585 752	467 573	-20.2%	21.8%	520 829	567 714
Vote 9.4: eThekwini Transport Authority	525 912	674 764	28.3%	31.4%	811 518	887 633
Vote 9.5: Formal Housing	2 500	4 167	66.6%	0.2%		
Vote 10: Trading Services	1 527 588	1 347 736	-11.8%		1 563 820	1 674 798
Vote 10.1: DCM Trading Services	105	15	-85.7%	0.0%	15	
Vote 10.2: Electricity	519 468	463 577	-10.8%	34.4%	616 624	654 167
Vote 10.3: Water	398 838	381 631	-4.3%	28.3%	452 584	439 228
Vote 10.4: Sanitation	525 120	293 945	-44.0%	21.8%	262 442	348 196
Vote 10.5: Cleansing and Solid Waste	81 221	206 767	154.6%	15.3%	231 405	232 207
Vote 10.6: Gas to Electricity	2 835	1 801	-36.5%	0.1%	750	1 000

Source: eThekwini Metro Municipality 2020/21 Adopted MTREF, Available online http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Documents/03.%20Budget%20Documentation/2020-21/Adopted%20Budgets/01.%20Metros/ETH%20eThekwini/Final%20Ethekwini%20Municiplaity%20ASCHEDULE%20202021%20MTREF_xlsx; own calculations

The lack of disaggregated budget information makes it impossible to say with any accuracy to what extent the metro is prioritising upgrading and relocation over the delivery of incremental services. But the high-level budget allocations, combined with the allocations to projects that we think fall under the Incremental Services Programme (see Table 4), do suggest that eThekwini is budgeting significantly more for upgrading than for the provision of incremental services.

In addition, the 2020/21 BEPP confirms that only R279 million has been allocated to the Incremental Services Programme in the capital budget for 2020/21 - 2022/23. In comparison, over the same period, R3.6 billion has been allocated to the Housing Upgrading Programme (In-Situ Upgrades and Greenfields) which is almost 13 times the budget for the provision of incremental services.

*Hyperlinks correct at date of publication











