

# Social Development Framework

## 14.1 INTRODUCTION

Buffalo City's Spatial Development Framework is regarded as a pictorial overview of the more tangible dimensions of socio-economic and infrastructural development that constitute the municipality's desired developmental vision, as well as a strategic and regulatory tool that will serve to guide public and private investment in Buffalo City.

The Social Development Framework that is hereunder elaborated is therefore reflected to a large extent in the strategic spatial plan that has been presented, and is intended to summarise the strategic choices made by the municipality for its social development, most immediately for the five-year period following the approval of the IDP, but also in the longer term.

The Framework is further informed by the **Constitutional objects** of local government (recorded in section 152), specifically

- ❑ to ensure the **provision of services** to communities in a **sustainable** manner
- ❑ to promote social and economic development
- ❑ to promote a safe and healthy environment

as well as being aimed at contributing to the progressive realisation of certain fundamental rights contained in the Constitution, namely

- ❑ basic environmental rights
- ❑ the right to adequate housing
- ❑ the right to health care, food, water and social security.

Based on the above, the municipality's Social Development Framework is fundamentally informed by the concept of an integrated approach to addressing economic, environmental, and social issues.

In this regard, it is appropriate to echo what has already been stated in this IDP, that the Constitution of 1996 requires that a municipality

*“must structure and manage its administration and budgeting and planning processes to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social and economic development of the community.”*

The Social Development Framework of Buffalo City is therefore also intended to redress the pronounced socio-economic imbalances rooted in historical tendencies such as urban bias, as well as specific inequities experienced by marginalized groups based on geographic location, race, gender, age or disability.

More specifically, the prioritised focus areas within social development for the next five years have been identified as:

- the provision of housing
- improving primary health care and addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis
- improving the sense of safety and security of all citizens
- the provision of sustainable, multi-purpose community facilities
- improving and integrating the management of environmental health.

## 14.2 THE PROVISION OF HOUSING

It has been recognized that there is a backlog of tens of thousands of dwelling units in the broader Buffalo City at present, and demographic projections suggest that the influx into urban areas will continue for the foreseeable future, reflecting international trends of urban in-migration. Coupled with an analysis of the impact of HIV/AIDS, it is believed that the above growth trend will only slow significantly after 2010, and that particularly the urban poor will continue to depend on state assistance in acquiring adequate shelter.

It is therefore recognized firstly that a comprehensive and integrated Housing Policy is a necessity if Buffalo City is to ensure that its models of housing provision, as well as the provision of social services associated therewith, are affordable and sustainable. Within this policy framework and within the framework of national and provincial policy and resource allocation, a five-year programme of housing development will be articulated aimed at redressing historical inequities in Buffalo City, including both the urban and rural areas.

While the total number of dwelling units in all of Buffalo City's planned projects is presently in excess of 47,000, the programme of housing delivery will be

constrained by the availability of bulk infrastructure as well as the availability of financing that is sourced from the national fiscus, from which no medium-term commitments to specific projects have yet been forthcoming.

The major settlement areas targeted for low-cost housing development are Mdantsane/Potsdam, Reeston, Newlands, and King William's Town (all between 5,000 – 10,000 dwelling units), as well as a host of smaller projects targeting areas such as Gonubie, Beacon Bay, West Bank, Needs Camp, Mount Coke, Ndevana and Yellowwoods and other rural areas (between 65 – 3,000 dwelling units). Again, the specific programme of work for housing development will depend on the approval of project proposals by other agencies, as well as on the availability of capital.

Parallel with the above process of the provision of low-cost housing through state subsidy assistance, Buffalo City will continue to build partnerships with communities and developers aimed at mobilizing state, private or donor resources, and exploring creative alternative models of housing delivery to meet the requirements of different communities throughout Buffalo City's area of jurisdiction.

Refer to map D 7 – Housing Proposed Projects

### **14.3 PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND HIV/AIDS**

It must be stated at the outset that the framework within which Buffalo City has had to plan for the provision of basic health services to its citizens has been a very difficult one, since the function of basic health care at municipal level has not yet been assigned to "Category B" municipalities by the Minister of Provincial and Local Government. However, Buffalo City has proceeded to plan on the assumption that it will assume the status of a "Category A" (metropolitan) municipality quite shortly, and therefore would be responsible for basic health care within its entire area of jurisdiction.

Based on the above, while it is recognized that existing programmes, which focus mainly on urban areas, must be strengthened and continue, the need to develop a comprehensive, integrated and thoroughly researched policy over the next two years that addresses primary health care generally, and HIV/AIDS specifically, and then to proceed with focused programmes throughout the Buffalo City area aimed at education, prevention and treatment has been recognized as critically important.

To be fully effective, particularly in the rural areas, these programmes would need to be collaborative initiatives that would include traditional healers.

Another priority that has been identified is the building of institutional capacity to address more effectively both the communal and the institutional dimensions of

the HIV/AIDS crisis. This means that the municipality will strive to commit increased institutional energies and resources to managing the crisis communally, and will expand and intensify its internal programmes with a view to reducing or minimizing the impact that HIV/AIDS is projected to have on the institution of the municipality itself. This latter challenge falls now within the ambit of the municipality's Directorate of Corporate Services.

A critical component of the building of institutional capacity, in view of capital constraints and the generally sparse settlement patterns of the rural areas, will be a significant increase in the number of mobile health facilities operated by the municipality.

Refer to map D 3 – Health Care Proposal

## **14.4 THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF CITIZENS**

The perception of many of the citizens of Buffalo City, but particularly those residents of disadvantaged township and informal settlement areas, is that lack of safety and security is one of the most destructive symptoms of socio-economic under-development, and has a major negative impact on their general quality of life. It is therefore recognized that the rate of serious and violent crime is unlikely to be reduced in isolation from the challenge of economic transformation, as well as the increased provision of more equitable social services and facilities to poorer areas, where a greater proportion of marginalized citizens reside.

Although formal policing does not fall within the competency of the local authority, one of the priorities that has emerged from the process of analysis and public consultation has been the need for more visible policing, particularly in the township and informal areas, but also in new developmental nodes outside the urban areas. This will require the national ministry of Safety and Security to make strategic investments to expand their capacity in areas such as Mdantsane, Newlands, Needs Camp, Berlin, Bisho and the Tyolomnqa area, in order to ensure equitable access to policing for all in Buffalo City.

In view of Buffalo City's status as an aspirant metropolitan municipality, the municipality has further prioritized the expansion of the capacity of its City Police corps, as well as the proper resourcing of its corps of traffic officers, in order to play a more proactive role in ensuring the sense of safety of the citizenry and maintaining social stability throughout Buffalo City.

It is also Buffalo City's intention, in co-operation with the SAPS and Ward Committees, to build collaborative networks with Community Policing Forums over the five-year period, to ensure that safety and security is dealt with in a holistic

manner and that the municipality's programmes are fully informed by the experiences of the community at grassroots level.

In addition, it is recognized that the municipality has an obligation to expand its capacity to provide fire-fighting and emergency services more broadly, and its prospective metropolitan status furthermore requires that it should prepare to assume full responsibility for these functions, and for Disaster Management functions more broadly, in the near future. This will require significant capital investment in high-cost but essential infrastructure.

While the municipality has begun to frame the skeleton of a comprehensive Disaster Management Plan, the fully-fledged plan, as well as the establishment of a fully-functional Disaster Management Centre, will require a significant degree of further work and investment over the five-year period of this IDP.

Refer to map D6 – Safety and Security Proposal

## 14.5 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FACILITIES

As has been stated, social problems in under-developed areas are unlikely to diminish while poverty and joblessness pervade the community, while social security is fragile and recreational and communal facilities are inadequate. The analysis of needs has particularly identified the need for the proper maintenance of existing facilities, which are under severe pressure owing to heavy usage, as well as the rehabilitation of facilities that have fallen into various stages of disrepair.

The municipality has furthermore prioritized the need for the development of multi-purpose community facilities that would serve the needs of the municipal administration as Customer Care Centres, as facilities for Ward Committee Meetings, for the administration of basic health care, and possibly for small community libraries, among other functions. Areas targeted for the development of such facilities initially include Ndevana, Dimbaza, Yellowwoods, Mdantsane/Potsdam, Macleantown, Newlands, Reeston, Tyolomnqa, Mount Coke and others, but it should be noted that these facilities will require firstly the commitment of capital resources, as well as secondly the incurring of significant annual operating costs, for them to be feasible.

A further need that has been prioritized is the provision of cemeteries for all areas of Buffalo City. This constitutes a significant challenge to the municipality in view of the obligation to provide **sustainable** services, when seen in the context of the HIV/AIDS crisis and more specifically, the projected demographic trends of the Buffalo City area, which suggest that the number of deaths over the next twenty years will be in excess of hundreds of thousands.

Refer to map D4 – Community Facilities Proposal ; and  
Map D5 – Cemeteries Proposal

## **14.6 INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

It has previously been stated that one of the major challenges faced by Buffalo City is constituted by the lack of basic services in the rural and informal urban peripheral areas, particularly water and sanitation. In the latter settlement type, rapid urbanization is exacerbating the problem of poor standards of environmental health. Generally, areas characterized by poverty and underdevelopment are particularly vulnerable to environmental health threats such as cholera, diarrhoea, food poisoning, scabies, and tuberculosis, among others.

In view of the above, it is critically important that the municipality develops an integrated Environmental Health Management Programme over the following five years that would inter alia involve the framing of appropriate regulatory tools (policies and by-laws), with the focus being primarily placed on the building of partnerships that could deal with environmental health in a proactive, rather than a reactive manner.

Coupled with this is the need to build the municipality's capacity to manage environmental health in an efficient and sustainable manner.

## **14.7 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES WITHIN THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

It has been stated earlier that the Social Development Framework is fundamentally informed by the Constitutional objects of local government, namely the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner, the promotion of social and economic development and a safe and healthy environment. It also aims to contribute to the progressive realisation of basic environmental rights, the right to adequate housing and the right to health care, food, water and social security. It is therefore framed within an integrated approach to addressing economic, environmental, and social issues.

The cross-cutting issues identified as critical by Buffalo City municipality, namely sustainable development, HIV/AIDS, poverty, gender equity and youth and children, are therefore all integrated into the prioritized activities described above within the various components of the Framework. It is believed that the various programmes relating to the provision of housing, primary health care, safety and security, the development of community facilities and environmental health are

permeated by the strategic consideration of how best to serve and support the most vulnerable groups in our society through all of the municipality's activities, in a sustainable way.