



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO: Immediate

Monday 16 February 2015

Council to consider the Draft Integrated Strategic Development Framework

The Draft Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) will be tabled before Council soon. Council will be requested to consider the report and, if satisfied with the document, resolve that the Draft be published for public comment.

The ISDF was conceived in 2012 as Council recognised that there was a myriad of disconnected, but related, plans and strategies which had been developed over the previous years. These plans needed to be reviewed, and thereafter new ideas and energies harnessed and integrated in order to develop a twenty year development strategy. It was also accepted that the traditional five-year planning cycle of local government, as per the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), was too short-term.

The Draft ISDF, or *Knysna 2015 - 2025: Where People and Nature Prosper*, is based upon one of the largest public participation processes undertaken by Knysna Municipality. Over 1 500 people or entities participated in the Cafe Connections which served as a basis for soliciting the community's inputs into the strategy. It clearly provides the Municipality; other governmental and non-governmental authorities; as well as civil society and business with an understanding of what matters most to the people of the Greater Knysna Municipal Area;. The strategy also sets out plans and tools for how our collective abilities will be able to make our town prosper.

The Draft ISDF consists of four primary, but fully integrated units; namely the Strategic Development Framework (as set out in the Local Government Municipal Systems Act; the Integrated Human Settlement Strategy; the State of the Environment Analysis; and the Economic Development Strategy. Each of these can be broken into plans and projects.

At a Council Workshop on Friday 13 February 2015 the consultants presented the Draft ISDF where councillors had the opportunity to interrogate the draft plan and give further inputs. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Georlene Wolmarans, said that Knysna was once again leading the way by setting a planning horizon of twenty years.

She continued: "We are showing our partners, business, civil society and government, that we are serious about excelling at the business of local governance and service delivery. In order for our town to be resilient, sustainable and thriving, we need this over-arching strategy which sets out our town's 20 year vision and aspiration for the future, along with tangible steps on how we will get to where we want to be.

Should Council approve the Draft Strategy a public consultation process will be undertaken during March/April. Thereafter the inputs from the public will be considered and the draft document revised as required. The final document will be re-submitted to Council for final consideration.

All members of the public are invited and encouraged to participate in the public consultation process.

Media note:

The outcome of the evaluation of the ISDF tender process by the Provincial Treasury and Department of Local Government will be tabled at the Mayoral Committee meeting on Thursday 19 February 2015. Further details will be made available after the meeting.

ENDS

Knysna Municipality Communications Department

P O Box 21. Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa

Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6471 (direct)

Fax +27 (0)86 215 4818 e-mail communications@knysna.gov.za