

RICHMOND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



DRAFT VIREMENT POLICY 2026/2027

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1. **Definitions**

1. **“Accounting Officer”** The municipal manager of a municipality is the accounting officer of the municipality in terms of section 60 of the MFMA.
2. **“Approved budget”** means an annual budget approved by a municipal council.
3. **“Budget-related policy”** means a policy of a municipality affecting or affected by the annual budget of the municipality
4. **“Chief Financial Officer”** means a person designated in terms of the MFMA who performs such budgeting, and other duties as may in terms of section 79 of the MFMA be delegated by the accounting officer to the Chief Financial Officer.
5. **“Capital Budget”** This is the estimated amount for capital items in a given fiscal period. Capital items are fixed assets such as facilities and equipment, the cost of which is normally written off over a number of fiscal periods.
6. **“Council”** means the council of a municipality referred to in section 18 of the Municipal Structures Act.
7. **“Financial year”** means a 12-month year ending on 30 June.
8. **“Line Item”** an appropriation that is itemised on a separate line in a budget adopted with the idea of greater control over expenditures.
9. **“Operating Budget”** The Municipality's financial plan, which outlines proposed expenditures for the coming financial year and estimates the revenues used to finance them.
10. **“Ring Fenced”** an exclusive combination of line items grouped for specific purposes for instance salaries and wages.
11. **“Service delivery and budget implementation plan”** means a detailed plan approved by the mayor of a municipality in terms of section 53(1)(c)(ii) for implementing the municipality's delivery of municipal services and its annual budget.
12. **“Virement”** is the process of transferring an approved budget allocation from one operating line item or capital project to another, with the approval of the relevant General Manager. To enable

budget managers to amend budgets in the light of experience or to reflect anticipated changes.

13. **“Vote”** means one of the main segments into which a budget of a municipality is divided for the appropriation of funds for the different departments or functional areas of the municipality; and which specifies the total amount that is appropriated for the purposes of the department or functional area concerned

2. **Abbreviations**

1. **C.F.O.** – Chief Financial Officer
2. **IDP** – Integrated Development Plan
3. **MFMA** – Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003
4. **SDBIP** – Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan
5. **CM** – Council Minute/'s
6. **mSCOA** – Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts

3. **Objective**

To allow limited flexibility in the use of budgeted funds to enable management to act on occasions such as disasters, unforeseen expenditure or savings, etc. as they arise to accelerate service delivery in a financially responsible manner.

4. **Virement Clarification**

Virement is the process of transferring budgeted funds from one line item number to another, with the approval of the relevant Manager and C.F.O., to enable budget managers to amend budgets in the light of experience or to reflect anticipated changes. (Section 28(2)(c) MFMA)

5. **Financial Responsibilities**

Strict budgetary control must be maintained throughout the financial year in order that potential overspends and / or income under-recovery within individual vote departments are identified at the earliest possible opportunity. (Section 100 MFMA)

The Chief Financial Officer has a statutory duty to ensure that adequate policies and procedures are in place to ensure an effective system of financial control. The budget virement process is one of these controls. (Section 27(4) MFMA)

It is the responsibility of each General Manager to which funds are allotted, to plan and conduct assigned operations so as not to expend more funds than budgeted. In addition, they have the responsibility to identify and report any irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure in terms of the MFMA sections 78 and 102.

6. **Virement Restrictions**

- a) No funds may be viremented between votes (GFS Classifications) without approval of both vote holders and the Chief Financial Officer.
- b) Virements may not exceed a maximum of 0.1% of the total approved operating expenditure budget.
- c) A virement may not create new policy, significantly vary current policy, or alter the approved outcomes / outputs as approved in the IDP for the current or subsequent years. (section 19 and 21 MFMA)

- d) Virements resulting in adjustments to the approved SDBIP need to be submitted with an adjustments budget to the Council with altered outputs and measurements for approval. (MFMA Circular 13 page 3 paragraph 3)
- e) No virement may commit the municipality to increase recurrent expenditure, which commits the Council's resources in the following financial year, without the prior approval of the Executive Committee.
 - (i) This refers to expenditures such as entering into agreements into lease or rental agreements such as vehicles, photo copier's or fax machines.
- f) No virement may be made where it would result in over expenditure. (section 32 MFMA)
- g) No virement shall add to the establishment of the Municipality without the approval of Municipal Manager.
- h) If the virement relates to an increase in the work force establishment, then the Council's existing recruitment policies and procedures will apply.
- i) Virements may not be made in respect of ring-fenced allocations.
- j) Budget may not be transferred from Interdepartmental Transfers, Capital Financing, Depreciation, Contributions, Grant Expenditure and Income Foregone.
- k) Budget may only be transferred from Salaries if approved by the C.F.O.
- l) Virements in capital budget allocations are only permitted within specified action plans and not across funding sources and must in addition have comparable asset lifespan classifications.
- m) No virements are permitted in the first three months or the final month of the financial year without the express agreement of the C.F.O.
- n) No virement proposal shall effect amounts to be paid to another Department without the agreement of the General Manager of that Department, as recorded on the signed virement form. (Section 15 MFMA)
- o) Virement amounts may not be rolled over to subsequent years, or create expectations on following budgets. (Section 30 MFMA)

p) An approved virement does not give expenditure authority and all expenditure resulting from approved virements must still be subject to the procurement/supply chain management policy of Council as periodically reviewed.

q) Virements may not be made between Expenditure and Income.

7. Virement Procedure

- a) All virement proposals must be completed on the appropriate documentation and forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer for checking and implementation.
- b) All virements must be signed by the General Manager within which the vote is allocated. (Section 79 MFMA)
- c) A virement form must be completed for all Budget Transfers.
- d) Virements in excess of R100 000.00 with a maximum as determined under section 6a requires the approval of the Chief Financial Officer. (Section 79 MFMA)
- e) Must include changes to the SDBIP.
- f) All documentation must be in order and approved before any expenditure can be committed or incurred. (Section 79 MFMA)
- g) Any mSCOA classification virements to correct any or all segments must be signed by the Chief Financial Officer
- h) The Municipal Manager will report to the Mayor on a quarterly basis on those virements that have taken place during that quarter.

Annexure "A"

Vote Classification

Vote Directorate Classification	GFS Classification	Department	Vote Holder
Executive & Council	Executive & Council	02 : Municipal Manager	Municipal Manager
Finance	Finance & Admin	03 : Finance	Chief Financial Officer
Operations	Executive & Council	04 : Operations	GM: Operations
Corporate Services	Finance & Admin	05 : Human Resources	GM: Corporate Services
	Finance & Admin	06 : Property Services	GM: Corporate Services
Planning & Development	Planning & Development	07 : Planning & Development	GM: Planning & Development
Community & Social Services	Community & Social Services	08 : Clinics	GM: Community Services
	Community & Social Services	10 : Libraries	GM: Community Services
	Community & Social Services	11 : Museum	GM: Community Services
	Community & Social Services	12 : Community Halls	GM: Community Services
	Community & Social Services	13 : Cemetary	GM: Technical Services
	Planning & Development	15 : Housing	GM: Community Services
	Public Safety	16 : Traffic Police	GM: Community Services
	Public Safety	17 : Disaster Management	GM: Community Services
Technical Services	Sports & Recreation	18 : Sports & Recreation	GM: Technical Services
	Waste Management	20 : Public Conviences	GM: Corporate Services
	Road Transport	21 : Stormwater	GM: Technical Services
	Road Transport	22 : Roads	GM: Technical Services
	Waste Management	23 : Landfill Site	GM: Technical Services
	Waste Management	24 : Refuse Removal	GM: Technical Services
	Waste Management	25 : Street Cleaning	GM: Technical Services
	Electricity	27 : Electricity	GM: Technical Services
	Finance & Admin	28 : Municipal Offices	GM: Technical Services
	Finance & Admin	29 : Technical Services	GM: Technical Services
	Finance & Admin	34 : Other Admin	GM: Technical Services
Economic Development &	Economic Development &	31 : Tourism	GM: Economic Development & Growth

Growth	Growth		
Community & Social Services	Community & Social Services	32 : Community Services Administration	GM: Community Services
Internal Audit	Executive & Council	33 : Internal Audit	GM: Internal Audit
Economic Development & Growth	Planning & Development	34 : LED & Growth	GM: Economic Development & Growth