



RICHMOND
— Local Municipality —

ANNEXURE C - SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2027

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1. SECTION A: STRATEGIC THRUST

1.1 INTRODUCTION

A 5-year Spatial Development Plan (SDP) is a component of a broader 20-year Spatial Development Framework (SDF) that outlines the long-term vision and strategies for the spatial organization and development of a municipality, herein being Richmond Municipality. The 20-year SDF serves as a guiding document that sets the overall goals, objectives, and policies for land use, infrastructure, economic development, environment, and social aspects within Richmond municipality or region.

The 5-year SDP is a more detailed and actionable plan derived from the SDF. It is designed to implement the broader objectives outlined in the SDF within a shorter timeframe, typically covering a 5-year period. The SDP focuses on specific projects, initiatives, and policies that will be implemented within this timeframe to achieve the larger goals of the SDF. Components of a 5-year SDP, as it may differ to a municipality, may include:

- ➔ Land Use Planning: Detailed zoning regulations, land allocation for various purposes (residential, commercial, industrial, recreational), and urban design guidelines.
- ➔ Infrastructure Development: Plans for transportation systems, utilities (water, electricity, sewage), public facilities (schools, hospitals), and other essential infrastructure.
- ➔ Economic Development: Strategies to promote economic growth, attract investments, and support local businesses. This might

include industrial zones, business parks, or incentives for specific industries.

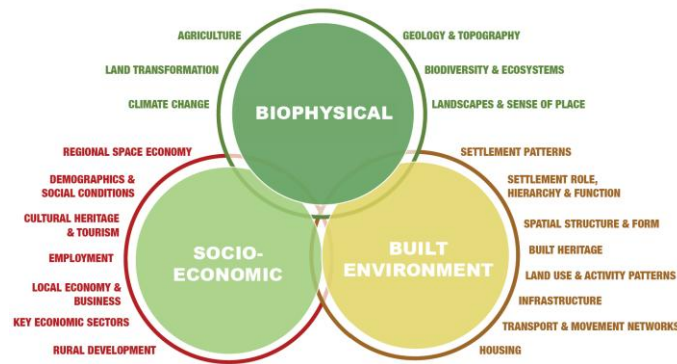
- ➔ Environmental Sustainability: Measures to protect natural resources, preserve green spaces, manage waste, and promote sustainability initiatives.
- ➔ Social Development: Initiatives to improve the quality of life for residents, such as affordable housing programs, social services, and community development projects.
- ➔ Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement: Involving the community, stakeholders, and relevant authorities in the planning process to ensure inclusivity and gather diverse perspectives.
- ➔ Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing mechanisms to track progress, assess the effectiveness of implemented policies, and make adjustments if needed.

The intent of the 5-year SDP should align with the broader vision and goals set forth in the 20-year SDF that by 2042, Richmond will be a spatially equitable municipality with a sustainable socio-economic development, and a well-managed environment. The SDP acts as a more detailed roadmap, allowing for periodic review and adjustments to ensure that the municipality stays on course towards achieving its long-term development objectives.

1.2 KEY ISSUES

Based on the comprehensive situational analysis of the composite Richmond SDF, an examination of the spatial status quo was conducted based on the three themes that an SDF should focus on with their associated sub-elements illustrated in the figure below:

Figure 1: Overview of the substantive focus of an SDF at each scale



From a socio-economic perspective, Richmond's population has been increasing from the past StatsSA enumerations, and it is projected that by the year 2026 there will be 80 210 people. An increased population in a municipality indicates a growth in the number of residents living within its boundaries, impacting accessibility of infrastructure, resources, services, and socio-economic dynamics. The very same increasing population can strain existing infrastructure and services, leading to potential challenges in meeting demands for housing, transportation, healthcare, education, and utilities. Other main issues from a socio-economic perspective herein Richmond includes the 22% unemployment rate, high unemployment rates in a municipality can lead to economic stagnation, increased poverty, and strained social services, impacting overall community well-being and development. With regards to the economy that is fluctuating, Agriculture, Community Services, Trade, and manufacturing are the main strongest economic contributors in Richmond. It is, however, arguable that when the government is the dominant economic sector in a municipality, heavy reliance on public sector jobs can limit private sector growth,

innovation, and diversity, potentially hindering overall economic resilience and dynamism.

In terms of biophysical characteristic of Richmond, like any other municipality it is impacted by negative climate change effects, there is threatened terrestrial ecosystems, a particular issue includes the encroachment into agricultural potential land (including households located in hazardous areas) and there are households located in steeper areas subjected to landslides and soil erosion, challenges in construction and infrastructure accessibility, water drainage issues and accessibility and mobility.

Richmond still has housing challenges, proper road conditioned network and modern infrastructure. Other households still lack access to basic infrastructural services. Another issue is the spatial distribution, structure and form of the municipality being influenced by central place theory. Another issue Richmond needs to attend to is maintaining of heritage buildings to maintain historical authenticity with ensuring functional viability for contemporary needs.

1.3 SPATIAL PLANNING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

1.3.1 INFLUENCE OF CENTRAL PLACE THEORY

Richmond Municipality has been highly influenced by the Central Place Theory. This is evidence from the influence of the town of Richmond being the highly developed main service centre for the entire municipality. Richmond town is considered to be a 'Central Place' which is a settlement which provides one or more services for the population living around it, simple basic services (e.g., grocery stores) are said to

be of low order while specialized services (e.g., tertiary institutions) are said to be of high order and having a high order service implies there are low order services around it, but not vice versa. There are obviously several limitations prevalent towards the application of the Central Place theory in Richmond due to the fact it assumes that the area is an isotropic (all flat) surface, an evenly distributed population, evenly distributed resources, similar purchasing power of all consumers and consumers will patronize nearest market, transportation costs equal in all directions and proportional to distance and no excess profits.

Further limitations include the fact that this theory is urban Bias, it is easily applied in urban areas where densities are high i.e., low density rural settlements hardly qualify to be provided with basic facilities due to a small catchment population. Terrain factors are problematic in Richmond since most of the rural areas are characterized by steep terrain which creates an even longer traveling distance compared to the “as crow flies distance”. The concentric model of using radius has tended to mislead the concept of centrality of the town within a prescribed distance while that may not be the case in reality. Physical bearers were not considered include rivers and dams may also distort the perceived centrality of the town.

1.3.2 CROSS-BORDER URBAN CONURBATION OPPORTUNITIES

The expansion of Msunduzi Municipality towards Thornville creates cross-border urban conurbation and agglomeration. The term "conurbation" was coined in 1915 by Patrick Geddes in his book *Cities in Evolution*. The term as described is used in Britain, whereas the term in the United States is most closely equivalent to "metropolitan area"

as used by the Census Bureau. It may consist of a central city and its suburbs. A conurbation consists of adjacent metropolitan areas that are connected with one another by urbanization. A conurbation is a region comprising several cities, large towns, and other urban areas that, through population growth and physical expansion, have merged to form one continuous urban or industrially developed area. In most cases, a conurbation is a polycentric urbanised area, in which transportation has developed to link areas to create a single urban labour market or travel to work area. This process would need to be properly managed in order to be beneficial towards the future land economic of both areas. A possible future long-term impact of this trend may be an emerging metropolitan council that involves both Msunduzi and Richmond Municipalities.

1.3.3 RURAL POVERTY

The analysis of the socio-economic status as articulated in the composite SDF Report outlines that Richmond Municipality faces a number of issues which are the underlying causes of rural poverty within the municipal area. These are not limited to service delivery and economic opportunities. Rural areas are where poverty levels are relatively high and poverty alleviation is targeted. These areas are mainly located in the outskirts of the municipal town area and are in need for intervention. According to the poverty assessment conducted in the situational analysis of the composite report, particularly the socio-economic analysis, the rural areas appear to be the most poverty-stricken wards.

1.3.4 URBANIZATION AND FUTURE NEED FOR INTEGRATED MIXED RESIDENTIAL

Richmond Town has experienced a sizeable amount of urbanization over a 10-year period (2001 – 2011). The impact of migration is assumed to be one of the main driving forces. If this is not properly managed then one of the most visible crises that may emerge may be informal settlements which can act as poverty traps that are badly located and are ideal breeding grounds for social problems (e.g., routine aggression and violence, substance abuse, broken family relations) and suffer high levels of violent crime (compared with commercial and middleclass areas). A study undertaken by South African Cities Network (titled Towards an Integrated Urban Framework) advised that a “growing town/ city can win with sustainable and mixed-use development”. Central to this advice is a need to plan for a liveable, economically viable and sustainable towns with infrastructure that resilient enough to support inclusive growth. If properly managed, urbanisation generates significant opportunities for economic growth and poverty reduction. The town of Richmond will continue to grow and should be treated as a priority for urban policy, increased investments, services delivery, mixed use affordable integrated housing provision to support emerging stronger economy.

1.3.5 DIMINISHING RURAL AND AGRARIAN POPULATION CATCHMENT

Rural population has slowly showed signs of diminish over the past couple of years. This is evident from an overall population decline of 28% from 2001 – 2011. Literature generally explains this as an outcome of a strained agrarian economy with ‘push factors’ that compel a person due to different reasons to leave that place and go to some other place.

The common push factors are low productivity, unemployment and underdevelopment, poor economic conditions, lack of opportunities for advancement, exhaustion of natural resources and natural calamities, introduction of capital-intensive methods of production into agricultural sector and mechanization of certain processes which reduce labour requirement in rural areas as well as the non-availability of alternative sources of income in rural area is also important factor for migration. The low wages and significantly poor working conditions within the agricultural sector may also be a detriment to the agrarian economy. Literature suggests that there is a general consensus that migration and remittances reduce rural poverty and contribute to the improvement of household living standards. In terms of consumption patterns, migrant households with remittances tended to spend more than non-migrant households on durable goods and productive activities (Zarate-Hoyos, Adams et. al: 2006). Although there ‘push factors’ of less opportunities in the socio-economic situation are acknowledged there are also ‘pull factors’ that exist in more urban developed area such as Richmond urban centre. These include a better living condition, better public service, level of services and infrastructure, availability of a more reliable public transport and better safety. The possible solutions that may be explored include investments towards economic decentralization and modernisation of rural life.

1.3.6 TRANSPORT ROUTES AS AN INFLUENCE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION

The development that takes place within Richmond Local Municipality is highly influenced by factors of accessibility and proximity to trading transport routes. This transportation network such as the main routes

will still play a critical role in determining the structure of the area while creating the opportunities for investment at the same time. This is due to the basic fact that the transportation network should provide linkages between different areas and the level of access to social and economic opportunities influence the quality of life for the individuals.

1.3.7 ENVIRONMENTAL ANXIETY

There are serious environmental risks that the study area faces these include freshwater catchment management, wetlands protection, critically endangered as well as vulnerable vegetation and soil erosion control. The need exists to put measures in-place in terms of conserving the environment. Other environmental issues that may need attention include:

- ➔ The undulating terrains that are prevalent within municipal areas restrict development.
- ➔ Areas located in the vicinity of the riverbanks should be protected.
- ➔ The management of solid waste and the treatment of all waste should be considered.
- ➔ The high-density rural settlements should be upgraded from VIP to waterborne sewerage system.

1.3.8 UNDER-SERVICED AREAS

Inequitable access to basic services and development generally remains one of the most visible spatial imprints of the apartheid past. The areas that previously fell within Richmond Town are generally well provided with basic services while the quality of services in rural areas remains

inferior. The situation is worse in peri-urban and rural settlements where services backlog is very high. As a result, the majority of the peri-urban and rural settlements area characterised by severe backlogs and present themselves as infrastructure investment priority areas.

1.3.9 ECONOMICALLY CHALLENGED AREAS

The poor areas are mainly located throughout the municipal area, especially households located in agricultural farms. This is due to several factors, but mainly to the fact that these are the settlements that are located away from main economic activities and service centres while these also exists with severe limitations in terms of natural resources.

1.4 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Key issues and challenges are pivotal as they pinpoint critical problems in a municipality's growth. They form the foundation for strategic planning, ensuring efficient resource allocation, community involvement, and policy formulation. By addressing these challenges, the SDF creates a roadmap for sustainable development, guiding long-term vision while fostering inclusivity and resilience in the face of future obstacles.

Table 1: Summary of key issues and challenges

TYPE OF CHALLENGE	CHALLENGE	CAUSE	EFFECT	RESPONSE TYPE	RESPONSIBLE AGENT(S)	OPPORTUNITIES
BIO-PHYSICAL CHALLENGES						
Current	Poor environmental management and degradation	Lack of effective land use management system and environmental management framework	Loss of natural assets	Address and mitigate	RLM	Implementation of environmental rehabilitation programme and adoption of management tools
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES						
Current	Need to promote processing of agricultural produce	No diversification	Unemployment	Address	RLM, DRDLR, DOA, DARD	Agri-processing
Current	Disinvestment	Inability to attract investment and poor level of infrastructure	Municipal inability to serve the community	Address and mitigate	RLM, KZN Investment	Formulation of Business strategy and implementation of LED strategies
Future	Food security	Loss of agricultural land due to settlement sprawl	Insufficient land and limitation to future development potential	Address and mitigate	RLM, DOA, DRDLR	Conservation of agricultural land
Current	Low-income level	Lack of employment	High poverty levels	Address	RLM, EDTEA, SEDA	Creation of employment opportunities closer to settlements
Current	Low literacy levels and lack of skills	Insufficient skills development programmes and higher education facilities	Inadequate labor pool	Address	RLM, DOE, DSD, SEDA	Introduction of skills development programmes and
Current	Rural poverty	Lack of economic opportunities	Underdevelopment	Address and mitigate	RLM, DRDLR, EDTEA	Introduction of social and economic development programmes
Future	Spatial inefficiency	Dispersed settlements and disjuncture between settlements and economic opportunities	Lack of access to economic opportunities	Address	RLM, CoGTA	Creation of self-sufficient settlements
BUILT ENVIRONMENT ISSUES						
Current	Lack of effective land use management system	Lack of enforcement	Settlement sprawl and loss of valuable land	Address	RLM, CoGTA	Implementation of land use scheme in entire municipality

TYPE OF CHALLENGE	CHALLENGE	CAUSE	EFFECT	RESPONSE TYPE	RESPONSIBLE AGENT(S)	OPPORTUNITIES
Current	Settlement sprawl	Lack of effective land use management	Creation of dispersed, inefficient low-density rural settlements	Address and mitigate	RLM, CoGTA, DRDLR.	Introduction of settlement edges
Current	Lack of access to services and infrastructure	Infrastructure demand in dispersed settlements	Lack of fulfilment of basic needs	Address	RLM, COGTA, UMDM, DPW, Eskom.	Infrastructure development
Future	Cross boarder rural conurbation	Settlement sprawl and lack of commercial centres	Consolidation of cross border settlements	Address and mitigate	RLM, CoGTA	Cross-border planning to ensure uniformity and continuity
Current	Parts of the municipality particularly in the rural do not have good housing	Population growth and delay in housing delivery of human settlements	Lack of fulfilment of basic sheltered human settlement	Address	RLM, DoHS	Update Municipal Human Settlement Plan and annually updated housing list
Current	Aging infrastructure and backlogs	Environmental factors and design, physical or chemical and human interference.	Disturbance in infrastructure provision	Maintenance	UMDM, UMngeni Water, Eskom, and DoT.	Review Municipal Infrastructure Master Plan

Table 2: Findings/Trends identified through SDF

FINDINGS/TRENDS	DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS/TRENDS	AFFECTED AREA(S)	INTERVENTION/PROJECT	Budget
ENVIRONMENT				
Environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity	Presence of environmental risks and degradation , including threatened terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity loss.	Ward 1 – Illegal dumping on ESA, high infestation of IAPS Ward 2 – Illegal dumping on ESA Ward 3 – Illegal dumping on ESA Ward 6 – High infestation of IAPS Ward 7 – High infestation of IAPS	1. Clearing of Illegal Dumpsites near ESA 2. Clearing of IAPS 3. Environmental Education Awareness Campaigns	R1 709 793,40 for 2026/2027 FY (EDTEA) Clearing of IAPS
Climate change	Climate change impacts affecting the municipality.	Ward 2 – Flooding Ward 5 – Strong winds and lightning Traditional Settlements – Flooding and land erosion	1. Capacitating Traditional Leaders on Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerable Areas 2. Integrating Climate Change Action into Disaster Management	R50 000.00 Capacity Building (RLM)

			3. Issuing of contravention notices for developments on or near Environmentally Sensitive Area 4. Environmental Education Awareness campaigns	
Illegal land use	Development pressures such as: • Encroachment onto agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas. • Settlements in hazardous/steep areas → landslides, soil erosion, drainage issues.	Ward 1 – Townlands area, encroachment onto the Richmond Commonage “Agricultural Land” Ward 2 – Slahla area, encroachments onto flood plains and wetlands. Ward 4 – Encroachment into river flood plain. Ward 5 – Land is allocated to without considering gradient and environmental factors.	Hold regular Public participation meetings, awareness campaigns, issuing of contravention notices and public consultations act as interventions in order to address these issues.	N/A
Poor management of the natural environment	Need for improved: • Catchment, wetland, and vegetation protection • Waste management systems	• High infestation of IAPS across all wards • Illegal Dumping – Causing degradation of watercourses across all wards	1. Implementation of IAPS Management Plan 2. Environmental Education awareness 3. Clearing of illegal dumpsites and IASP	N/A
Undulating topography	Terrain constraints (undulating topography) limit development potential.	Ward 5 – this topography’s main use is sugarcane and timber farming due to the undulating terrain. Surrounding areas like Ward 4 and Ward 6 face similar challenges.	Promote Land Use planning by restricting development on steep slopes.	N/A
AGRICULTURE				
Agricultural sector	Agriculture is a key economic sector , alongside trade and community services. However, trends show: • Declining agrarian population (rural out-migration). • Reduced labour demand due to	Ward 4 – Encroachment of settlements onto high potential agricultural land.	Protection of high potential agricultural land. Provide support for emerging farmers through departmental and local government support programmes/initiatives. Facilitate land reform programmes in traditional areas.	Department of Agriculture support for emerging farmers budget made available for the 2026/2027 FY

	mechanisation and low productivity. • Encroachment of settlements onto high-potential agricultural land.			
Food security risks	Risk to future food security due to land loss and weak diversification.	All areas where encroachment is evident on agricultural land. A increase amount of illegal dumping in rivers and wetlands may lead to contamination of water therefore effecting agriculture processes.	Enforcement for illegal activities and awareness for communities.	N/A
DISASTER MANAGEMENT				
Impacts of natural disasters	Exposure to natural hazards, including: • Landslides and soil erosion (steep slopes) • Flood risks and environmental sensitivity zones	All Wards	1. Capacitate Traditional Leaders on environmentally sustainable land allocation. 2. Issuing of contravention notices to developments in vulnerable areas.	R50 000.00 Capacity Building (RLM)
Land management use	Households located in hazard-prone and environmentally sensitive areas. Need for: • Stronger risk reduction measures • Better integration of disaster management into spatial planning	All Wards	Engage and provide support to Traditional Leaders when allocating land.	N/A
DEMOGRAPHICS				
Population projections	Population growth trend: • Increasing population projected to $\pm 80,210$ by 2026.	All Wards	Interventions by StatSA, Census and Local Government.	N/A
Migration patterns	Simultaneous rural population decline due to migration to urban centres.	Wards 5,6 and 7 are furthest from the CBD or the developed areas. Ward 2 shares a boundary with Ward 1 allowing for a easier flow to the urban	Strengthen local economic development initiatives in rural ares to decrease the migration patterns towards the Richmond town.	LED budget of R1 232 000.00 to cater for local economic development through support initiatives.

		centre. Wards 3 and 4 are in a developing node in close proximity of the Thornville area. Therefore, migration from Ward 5 and 6 are more evident.	Improve the connectivity between rural areas and economic nodes.	
Demographics needs	Growth is placing pressure on: - Housing - Infrastructure - Basic service delivery	All Wards	Use StatsSA and Census data to guide infrasture and land use planning.	N/A
SOCIO-ECONOMIC				
Unemployment	High unemployment (22%) , contributing to poverty and inequality.	All Wards	Job creation through attracting investors to develop industry and commercial business in Richmond	LED budget of R1 232 000.00 to cater for local economic development initiatives.
Dependancy on public sector	Economy characterised by: - Dependence on government sector employment - Limited private sector diversification	All Wards	Job creation through attracting investors to enhance the industrial sector and commercial businesses in Richmond.	LED budget of R1 232 000.00 to cater for local economic development initiatives.
Rural Development	Rural poverty is severe , especially in outlying wards.	Ward 5 and 6 are remote areas under traditional council. These areas are a distance from all business opportunities, employemts and even social. A large amountbof the population here is unemployed relying on social grants and subsistance farming.	Improve access to transport infrastructure . Promote enterprise development in rural areas. Support and enhance skills development programmes targeting unemployed youth and women.	No available budget
Spatial inequality	Spatial inequality: Poorer households located far from economic opportunities.	Ward 5 and 6 are remote areas under traditional council. These areas are a distance from all business opportunities, employemts and even social. A large amountbof the population here is unemployed relying on social grants and subsistance farming.	Integrate human settlements to be closer to economic opportunities. Improve transport linkages between rural and urban areas.	Department of Human Settlement and Private Developers

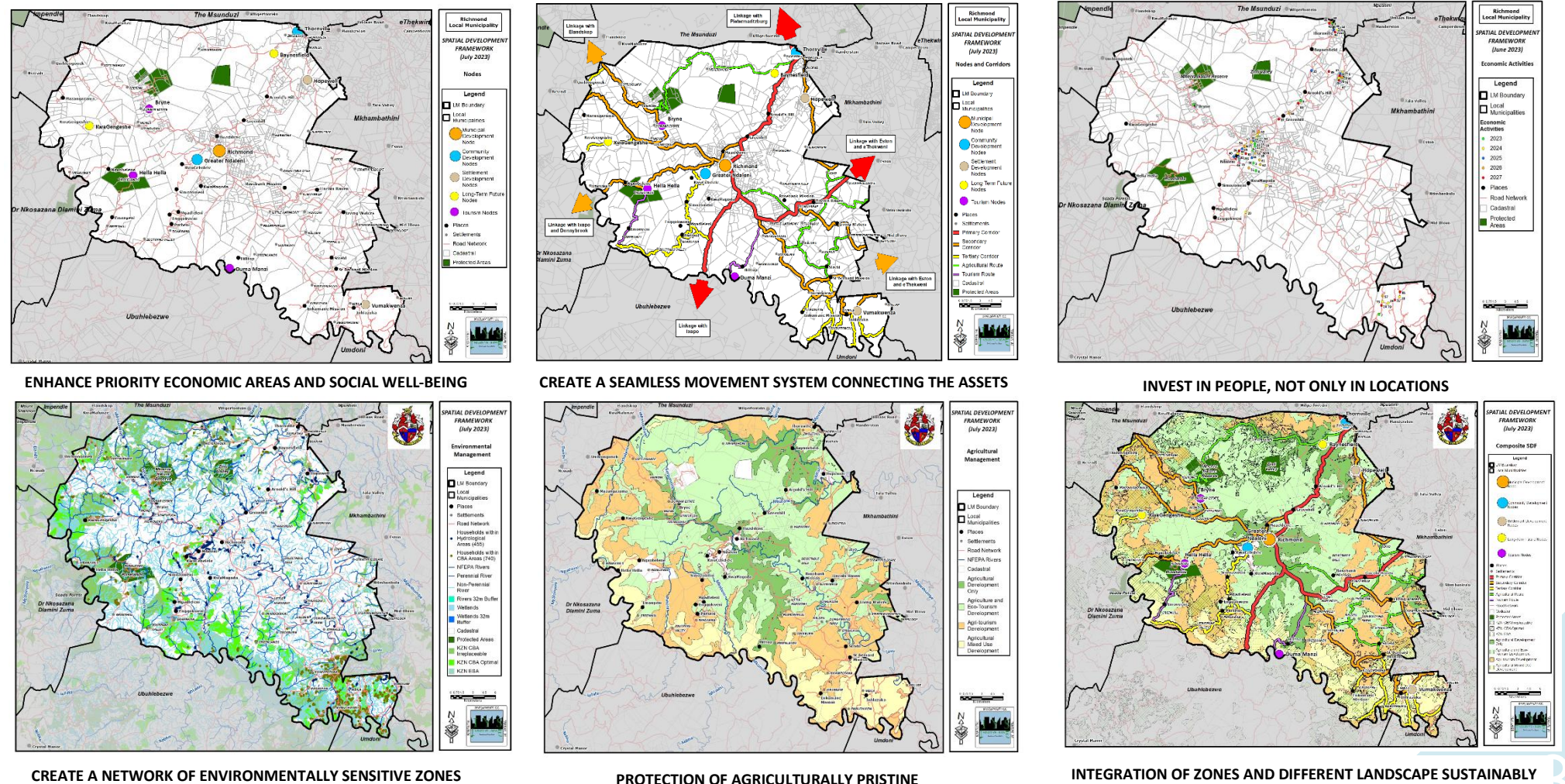
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS				
Urbanisation	Urbanisation trend (migration to Richmond town).	Increased migration towards Richmond CBD driven by desire to access economic opportunities and access to services. Increased pressure on existing infrastructure. Ward 1 and Ward 2	Strengthen nodal development along Thornville node to reduce the pressure in the CBD. Alignment of housing projects with bulk infrastructure capacity.	No available budget
Informal Settlements	Risk of: • Growth of informal settlements • Poorly located settlements acting as poverty traps	Richmond town is affected by informal settlements called Umkhuzane, Bhongoza and Umshayazafe	There is a proposed housing project called Commonage Informal Settlements Upgrade to address the informal settlements and currently the appointed service provider is undertaking detailed studies	R1 634 650.00 (Planning Stage) Funded by Department of Human Settlements
Housing backlogs	Key issues: • Housing shortages and backlogs • Poor-quality housing in rural areas	Affected areas are Hopewell, KwaMagoda and Nhlazuka	Housing applications have been submitted to DOHS and they have been approved however due to budget constraints faced by the Department no appointments have been made until the budget is available.	No available budget
Dispersed/scattered settlements	Settlement pattern challenges: • Dispersed, low-density rural settlements • Spatial inefficiency and weak integration with economic nodes	All Wards	Align settlement planning with existing Municipal Sector Plans (SDF). Strengthen coordination with Traditional Councils for land allocation	N/A
INFRASTRUCTURE				
Basic service delivery backlogs	Significant backlogs in basic services , especially in rural/peri-urban areas: • Water • Sanitation • Electricity • Roads	All Wards	Increase water supply through increased capacity and establishing new sources. Provision of VIP Toilets Infill electrification projects Road maintenance	uMgungundlovu District Municipality currently budget for water and sanitation projects. R1 600 000.00 for 2026/2027 FY (INEP grant funding) Electricity Project R2 900 000.00 road maintenance.

Aging infrastructure	Aging and inadequate infrastructure systems.	All Wards	Replacement of old infrastructure and increasing current infrastructure capacity i.e. water supply.	uMgungundlovu District Municipality
Disparities in service provision standards	Unequal service provision: - Urban areas relatively well-served - Rural areas severely under-served	All Wards	Increase capacity and water sources Infill electrification projects Sanitation projects VIP Toilets	R1 600 000.00 for 2026/2027 FY (INEP grant funding) Electricity Project uMgungundlovu District Municipality budgeted for water and sanitation.
Structuring element (Transport routes)	Development strongly influenced by: Transport routes and accessibility (key structuring element).	All Wards	Access road maintenance Development of Local Integrated Transport Plan (LITP) Development of Infrastructure Master Plan	R2 900 000.00 for 2026/2027 FY (Internal funds) road maintenance and R22 100 000.00 MIG funding for road upgrades. LITP developed internally and adopted 29 May 2029 Infrastructure Master Plan to be developed internally 2027/2028 FY
OVERALL CROSS-CUTTING				
Cross cutting trends	The municipality is experiencing: Urban growth + rural decline Infrastructure pressure Environmental stress Persistent spatial inequality	All Wards	Capacity building centered around issues of climate change and impacts. Promote integrated development planning in order to address spatial inequality.	R50 000.00 Capacity building programme

2. SECTION B: SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2.1 SPATIAL CONCEPT AND LONG-TERM SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT VISION

Figure 2: Spatial Concept and vision



The spatial development strategy is a guiding tool in adopting spatial transformation that is suitable for the municipality. Enabling one coherent spatial plan to guide and direct decision-making on a municipal level. The vision for Richmond Local Municipality will follow the rules and principles of uMgungundlovu District Municipality, ensuring that all proposed development and growth is in tune with the holistic plans of the province. Richmond LM vision, in essence, is to create a municipality that offers its residents with quality life. This to be achieved by offering economic development, service delivery, and infrastructure delivery which will improve the quality of life in communities. The spatial vision is an important factor in fulfilling the municipalities long term vision.

PROVINCIAL KZN SDF VISION 2035:

'KwaZulu-Natal will be a prosperous Province with a healthy, secure and skilled population, living in dignity and harmony, acting as a gateway to Africa and the World.'

PROPOSED RICHMOND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SDF VISION:

By 2042, Richmond will be a spatially equitable municipality with a sustainable socio-economic development, and a well managed environment.

UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT VISION:

'uMgungundlovu District Municipality will evolve into a dynamic metropolitan municipality, spreading its vibrant economic benefits to all its citizens and places and will, through concerted integrated development and service delivery, realise improvement in the overall quality of life.'

2.2 FIVE (5) YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN: 2022 - 2027

The Richmond Spatial Development Plan (SDP) translates the long-term (20-year) vision, objectives and spatial strategies of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) into implementable actions for the current five-year planning period. The specific spatial interventions, projects, investment priorities, and implementation actions over the 5-year period as translated from the SDF long-term vision, strategies and objectives can be summarized as follows:

Table 3: Impact & Relation of SDF Objectives with the SDP

SDF Objective	SDP Response
Address underdevelopment and service backlogs	Prioritise water, sanitation, electricity, roads, housing and social infrastructure projects.
Promote spatial equity	Direct investment towards under-served rural settlements and disadvantaged communities.
Strengthen the local economy	Identify economic development projects, agro-processing opportunities, tourism initiatives and investment corridors.
Protect environmental resources	Prioritise conservation areas, wetlands, biodiversity assets, agricultural land protection and climate resilience measures.
Improve accessibility and connectivity	Focus investment along transport corridors and road upgrades to support economic growth and service delivery.

The aim for the council term 2022-2027 must not divert from the longer vision which will be attained by the year 2042. In other words, what is being planned for, for the next five years must partially attempt to

achieve the objectives of the main vision of the municipal SDF. Therefore, for this subsequent period, a proposed vision is as follows;

“By 2027, RLM will have an improved bulk infrastructural serviced area, with adequate sustainable human settlements, and an economic driven population through the development of informed and innovative municipal/precincts strategic frameworks/plans.”

The land pockets which development will be prioritized for this council term will be spatially illustrated as the primary development areas in this SDP. These areas mostly include nodal locations of; Richmond, Ndoleni, Hopewell and Byrne. However, it must be indicated that other projects are municipal wide plans, which are not area based, but focal on achieving development for the entire municipal area. The strategies to implement the following objectives is through instigating and applying the economic activity projects enlisted on the CIF, and other projects related to the objectives below. The key objectives to be considered are enlisted as follows:

- ➡ Promote accessible town wide destination places.
- ➡ Provide sustainable housing and human settlements.
- ➡ Integrate land use, economic and transport planning.
- ➡ Provision of infrastructural development.
- ➡ Ensure local economic development and promote inclusive shared economic growth and development; and
- ➡ Development of municipal/precinct wide strategic frameworks/plans.

2.2.1 SERVICE DELIVERY PRIORITY AREAS

According to the Richmond Municipal Socio-Economic Profile (2021), households with access to services in terms of electricity is 82%, access to sanitation is 38,4%, waste removal is 15.1%, households with water inside is estimated at 4.5% and households with water in the yard are 5,5%. This simply means that there is still a lag behind. Areas that are mostly and severely affected include Baynesfield, Mazangazanga, Ndaleneni and mostly the rural areas throughout the municipality. These and other hinterland were not connected to the bulk water supply and were supplied variously by boreholes and small-scale river abstraction works equipped with package water treatment plants. There is currently a shortage of portable water in both rural and the urban areas. The existing infrastructure is designed such that it has to be upgraded to improve the supply of water to these areas first before the rural areas can receive water.

The current SDP serves as the first implementation phase of the long-term SDF vision. During the 2022–2027 period, priority is placed on:

- ✓ Upgrading and expanding water, sanitation, electricity and road infrastructure;
- ✓ Delivering housing projects and addressing informal settlement pressures;
- ✓ Focusing investment within Richmond Town, Thornville, Ndaleneni and other strategic nodes;
- ✓ Supporting economic development through agricultural and agro-processing initiatives;
- ✓ Improving social facilities such as clinics, community halls and recreational facilities; and

- ✓ Protecting environmental assets and critical biodiversity areas.

2.2.1.1 SANITATION PRIORITY AREAS

The southern part of the municipality which covers the areas within Ward 5 are facing a great challenge in terms of access to sanitation. This is followed by farms that include Ward 4 and 6. The low-income settlements of Siyathuthuka and Lusaka currently make use of pit latrines for basic sanitation. In addition, the urban areas of Richmond, Siyathuthuka and Ndaleneni are the most serviced areas. However, the existence of informal settlements within the urban areas causes the statistics to reflect a lower percentage access to sanitation.

2.2.1.2 ELECTRICITY PRIORITY AREAS

The semi-urban and rural areas are the most under serviced areas in terms of access to electricity. The areas that experience a higher backlog include Ward 4, followed by Ward 1 and 5.

2.2.1.3 WATER PRIORITY AREAS

In the semi-urban areas of Greater Ndaleneni and Hopewell households make use of communal water standpipes. The areas that experience a greatest amount of water backlogs include the rural settlements within Ward 5, this is followed by rural farms within Ward 4 and 6.

With the anticipated population growth and proposed economic development in Richmond Commonage, it's projected that the demand for water will surge by 3 ML/per day in the upcoming years. The Richmond town's current Water Treatment Plant (WTP) underwent refurbishment in 2006, optimizing sand filter operations and slightly

enhancing the works' capacity. A significant upgrade expanded the capacity to 3.5 ML/ per day for a high-growth projection. Therefore, with the projected increase of 3 ML/per day in Is safe to say the existing WTP does has the capacity to withstand the projected water demand.

With regards to sanitation, with the estimated population growth and proposed economic development in Richmond Commonage, it's projected that the effluent loading will increase by 9.28 ML/per day in the near future. Richmond Town boasts robust sanitation services, but issues arise due to the limited capacity of the sewerage plant affecting the reticulation system. Approximately two-thirds of Richmond town utilizes waterborne sewers, while areas like Greater Ndaleni and Siyathuthuka rely on VIPs or pit latrines. The activated sludge Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) currently handles around 1 ML/per day, effectively managing the load from the majority of Richmond town. However, the anticipated demand increase of 9.28 ML/per day poses a significant threat to the existing treatment plant. Thus, the Richmond municipality must consider upgrading its treatment plant to accommodate this expected surge in demand.

The anticipated expenses related to the increased demand for water and sanitation will be addressed and accounted for within the CIF table.

2.2.1.4 ROAD PRIORITY AREAS

The Richmond Commonage area will require new roads (including road, pavement, and stormwater) which will have an estimated length of 6,2km. The anticipated costs for these new roads will be accounted for and incorporated into the CIF table.

2.2.1.5 REFUSE REMOVAL PRIORITY AREAS

The Richmond Town area is the only place where solid waste removal services are available. The service is not available to households in the semi-urban and rural areas. It is therefore important for the Municipality to consider extending the refuse removal collection services to the semi-urban areas within the Municipal area or to have other alternative measure in place.

2.2.2 STRUCTURING ELEMENTS

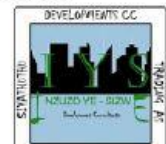
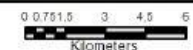
The spatial structure of Richmond Municipality is currently centred on **Richmond Town**, which functions as the primary service, administrative and economic node within the municipality. Secondary service nodes include **Thornville, Greater Ndaleni, Hopewell, Nhlazuka and Byrne**, which provide varying levels of community services to surrounding rural settlements. The municipality's spatial form is strongly influenced by the **R56 regional corridor** and associated road network, which facilitate movement, accessibility, trade and economic activity. The SDP directs **public and private investments** towards priority investment areas classified as;

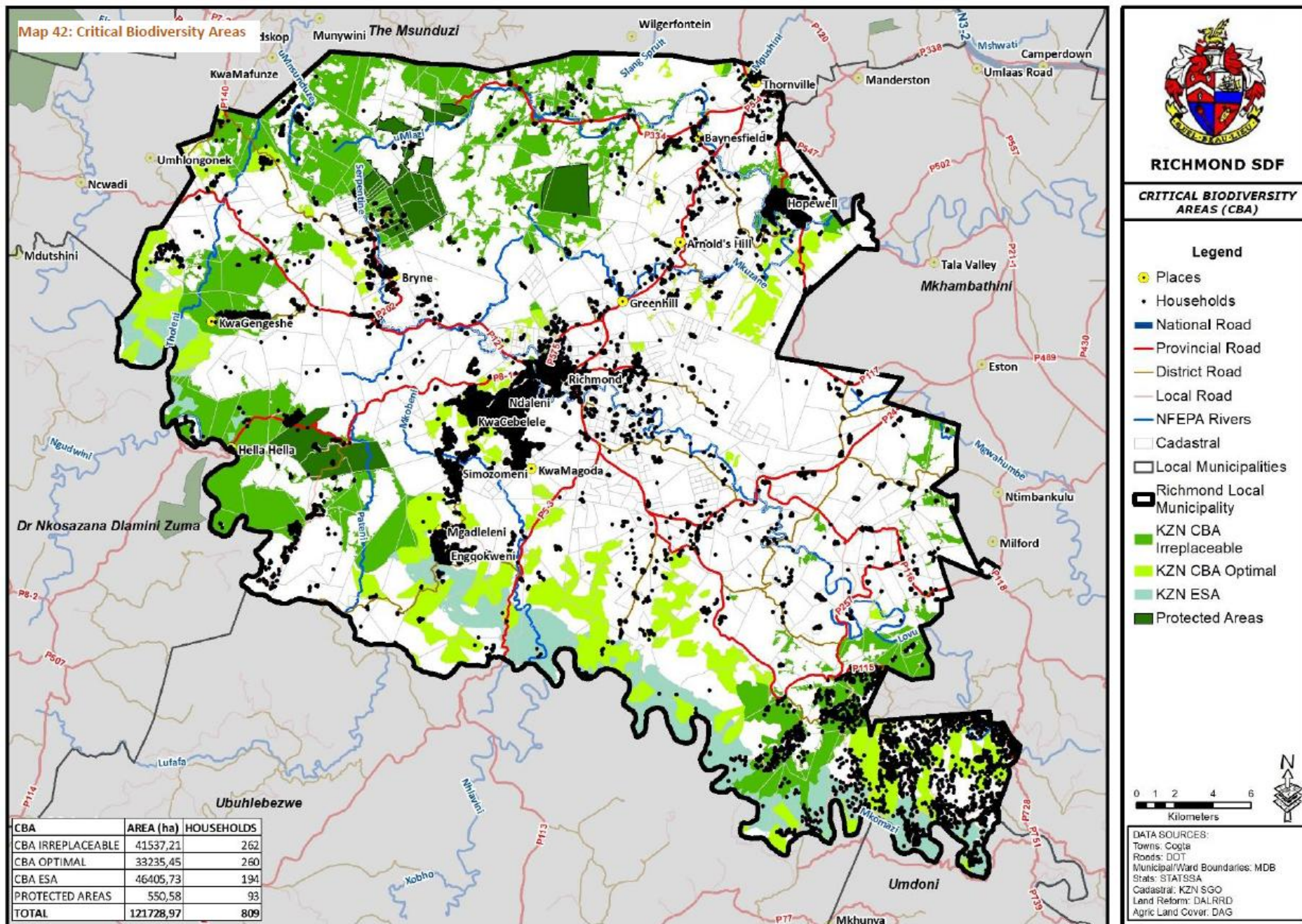
- ✓ growth nodes,
- ✓ housing development areas,
- ✓ infrastructure deficient settlements,
- ✓ economic opportunity zones,
- ✓ agricultural development areas, and
- ✓ strategic service delivery areas.

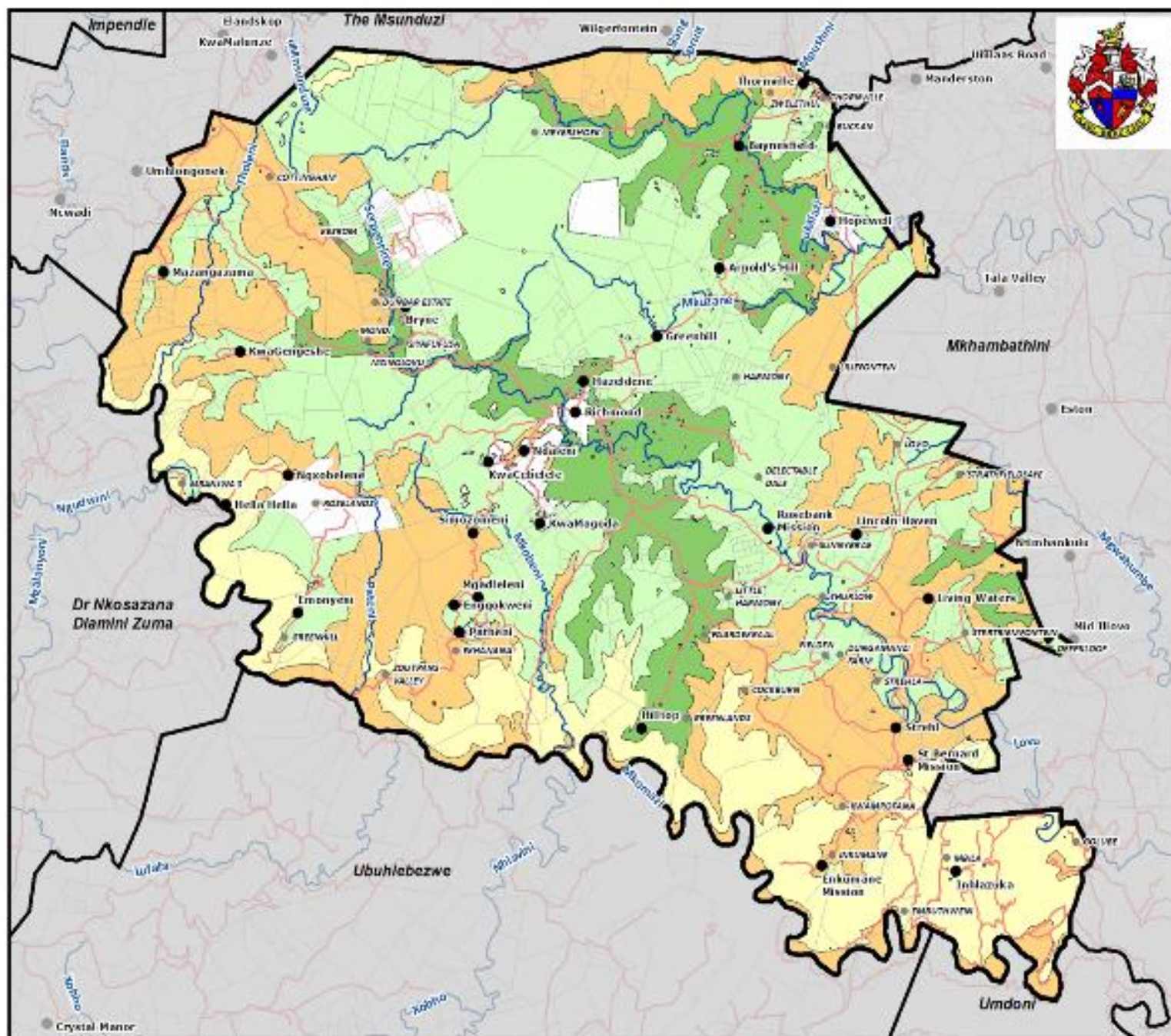
**SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK**
(July 2023)

Legend

-  LM Boundary
-  Local Municipalities
-  Municipal Development Node
-  Community Development Nodes
-  Settlement Development Nodes
-  Long-Term Future Nodes
-  Tourism Nodes
-  Places
-  Settlements
-  Primary Corridor
-  Secondary Corridor
-  Tertiary Corridor
-  Agricultural Route
-  Tourism Route
-  Cadastral
-  Protected Areas







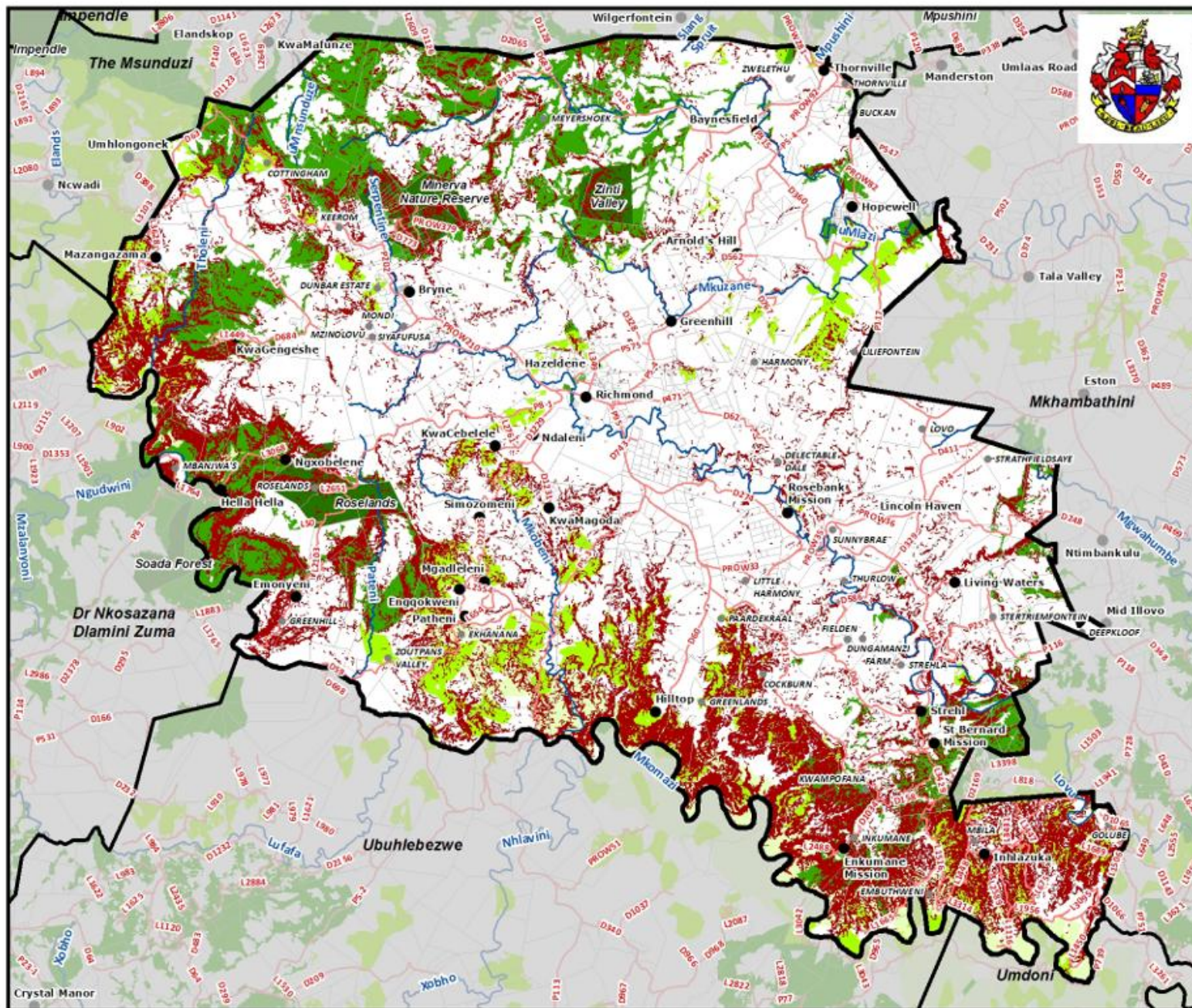
SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (July 2023)

Agricultural Management

Legend

- LM Boundary
- Local Municipalities
- Places
- Settlements
- Road Network
- NFEPA Rivers
- Cadastral
- Agricultural Development Only
- Agriculture and Eco-Tourism Development
- Agri-tourism Development
- Agricultural Mixed Use Development





SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (July 2023)

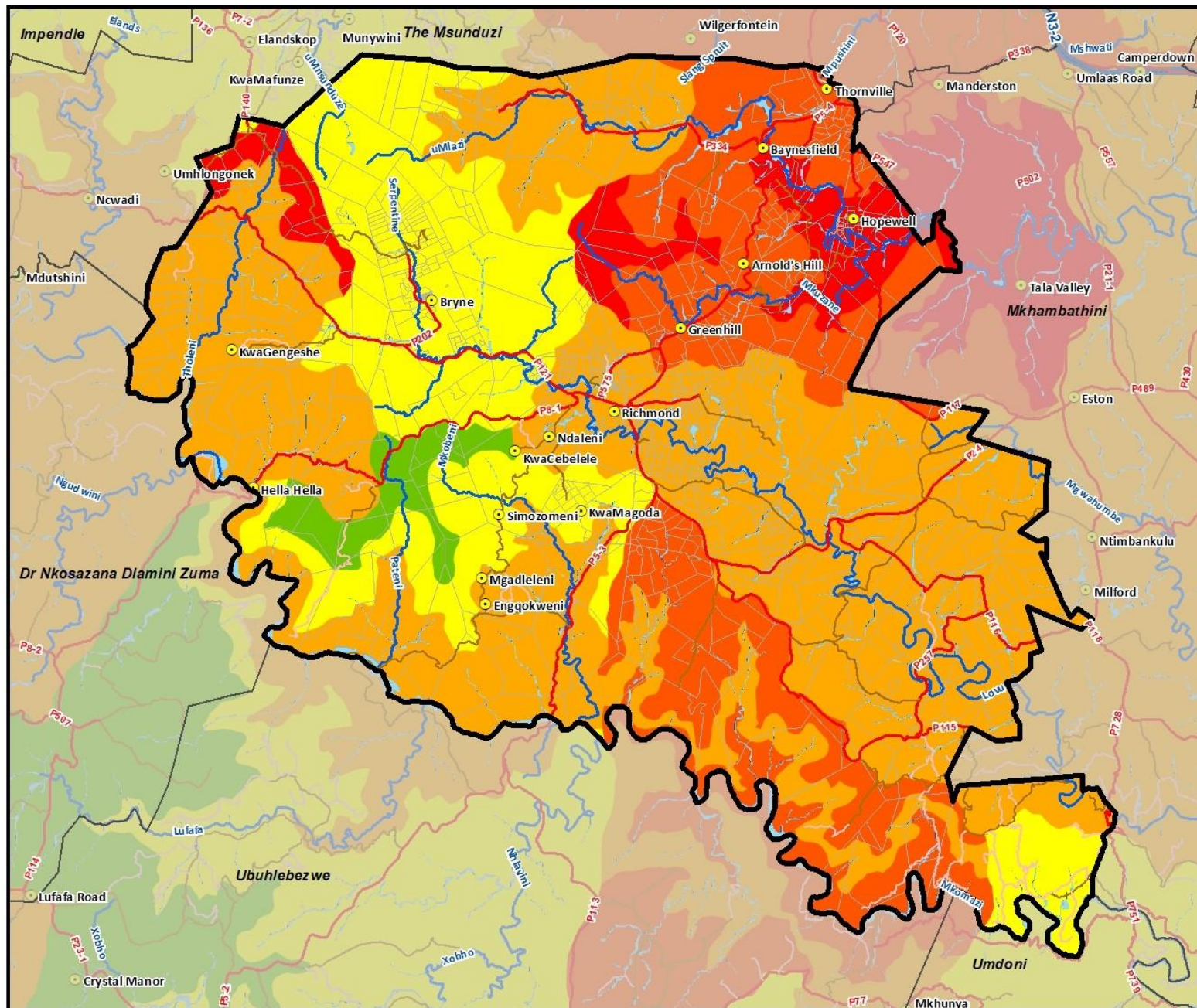
Development
Intensity

Legend

- LM Boundary
- Local Municipalities
- Places
- Settlements
- Road Network
- NFEPA Rivers
- Cadastral
- Steep Slopes
- Protected Areas
- KZN CBA Irreplaceable
- KZN CBA Optimal
- KZN ESA

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6
Kilometers





RICHMOND SDF

Flood Risk Areas

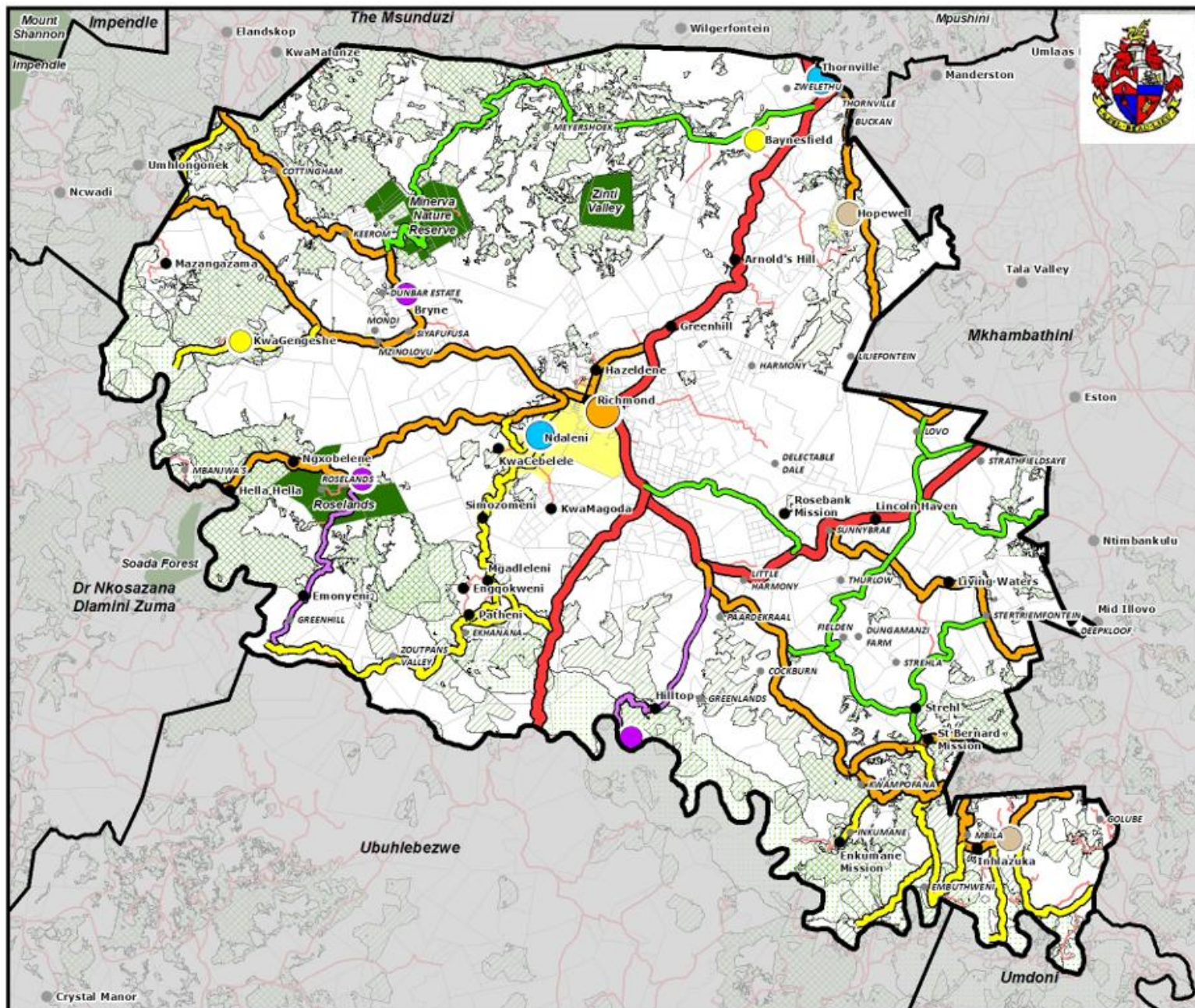
Legend

- Places
- National Road
- Provincial Road
- District Road
- Local Road
- NFEPA Rivers
- 1:20 Year Floodline
- 1:50 Year Floodline
- 1:100 Year Floodline
- Cadastral
- Local Municipalities
- ◻ Richmond Local Municipality
- Flood hazard index**
 - Very low
 - Medium
 - Very high

0 1 2 4 6
Kilometers

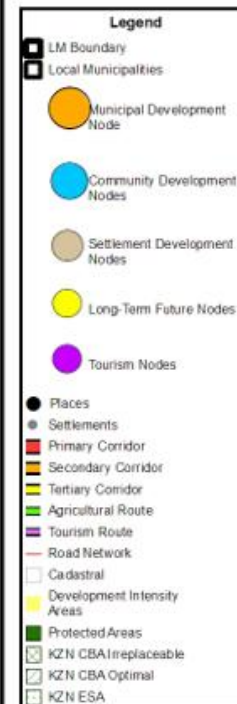


DATA SOURCES:
Towns: Cogta
Roads: DOT
Municipal/Ward Boundaries: MDB
Environmental Data: KZN WILDLIFE
Stats: STATSSA
Cadastral: KZN SGO



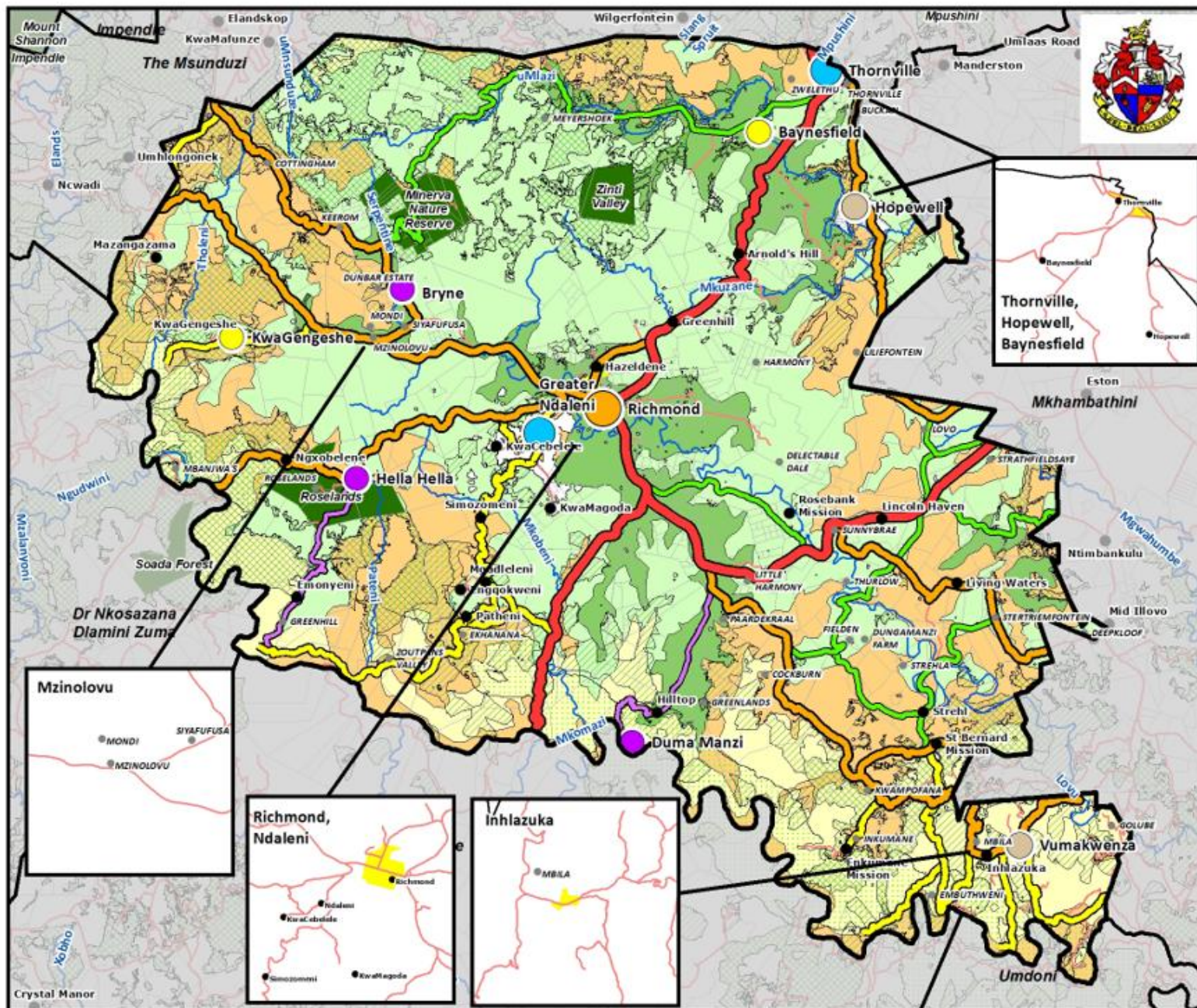
SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (July 2023)

Development Intensity



0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6
Kilometers





SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (July 2023)

Development Areas 2022 - 2027

- Legend**
- LM Boundary
 - Local Municipalities
 - Municipal Development Node
 - Community Development Nodes
 - Settlement Development Nodes
 - Long-Term Future Nodes
 - Tourism Nodes
 - Places
 - Settlements
 - Primary Corridor
 - Secondary Corridor
 - Tertiary Corridor
 - Agricultural Route
 - Tourism Route
 - Road Network
 - NFEPA Rivers
 - Cadastral
 - Development Areas
 - Protected Areas
 - KZN CBA Irreplaceable
 - KZN CBA Optimal
 - KZN ESA
 - Agricultural Development Only
 - Agriculture and Eco-Tourism Development
 - Agri-tourism Development
 - Agricultural Mixed Use Development

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6
Kilometers



2.2.2.1 GUIDELINES FOR LAND USE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The Richmond Municipality adopted its Single Land Use Management System in September 2022 as part of ensuring the sustainable use of land within the municipal jurisdiction. The development and adoption of the municipal SDF/SDP created a need to review the set provisions within the scheme document so as to forge alignment with the spatial development vision of the municipality.

The land use management system should support the municipality's desired spatial structure by promoting development within identified nodes, corridors, growth areas, and priority investment zones, while discouraging development that undermines environmental sustainability, agricultural protection, infrastructure efficiency, and spatial integration.

In light of the above, the SDP proposes short-term amendments to the current land use scheme in the form of introducing:

a) Alignment of Zoning and Land Use Rights

- ✓ Amend zoning provisions to accommodate proposed housing, mixed-use, commercial, industrial, tourism, and agricultural development areas identified in the SDF.
- ✓ Introduce flexible land use rights within designated nodes and corridors to encourage investment and economic activity.
- ✓ Support densification and infill development within existing urban areas to reduce urban sprawl and protect agricultural land.

b) Overlay Zones and Environmental Controls

- ✓ Introduce environmental management overlays for Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), wetlands, water catchments, steep slopes, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- ✓ Strengthen development controls in areas exposed to environmental risks and natural hazards.
- ✓ Protect high-potential agricultural land through appropriate land use restrictions.

c) Nodal and Corridor Development Controls

- ✓ Establish development incentives and streamlined approval processes within identified development nodes and along strategic transport corridors.
- ✓ Prioritise land uses that support economic development, public transport accessibility, and service delivery within these areas.

d) Human Settlements and Densification

- ✓ Amend the Scheme to facilitate integrated residential development, affordable housing, social housing, and incremental upgrading of informal settlements.
- ✓ Introduce appropriate density standards in areas identified for future housing expansion and urban restructuring.

e) Infrastructure-Led Development

- ✓ Ensure that land use approvals are linked to infrastructure capacity and the municipality's capital investment priorities.
- ✓ Direct development towards areas where infrastructure investment is planned or already available.

f) Municipal Planning By-Law Amendments

- ✓ Simplify application procedures in strategic development areas.
- ✓ Strengthen compliance and enforcement provisions.

- ✓ Incorporate SDF spatial directives as a mandatory consideration in all land development applications.
- ✓ Provide clear criteria for assessing applications within priority development, environmental management, and agricultural protection areas.

2.2.2.2 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is of utmost importance to ensure that the necessary capacity are organised and in place to drive the implementation of the objectives of the SDP. The following elements have been considered crucial in establishing the short-term institutional arrangements:

(i). Strengthen Municipal Planning Capacity

- ✓ Strengthen the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management function within the municipality.
- ✓ Ensure adequate staffing in planning, GIS, development control, infrastructure planning, environmental management, and project management.
- ✓ Build technical capacity to administer the Municipal Planning By-Law and Single Land Use Scheme.

(ii). Spatial Planning Implementation Committee

- ✓ Establish an internal multi-disciplinary implementation committee comprising:
 - Spatial Planning;
 - Infrastructure Services;
 - Technical Services;
 - Local Economic Development (LED);
 - Environmental Management;
 - Housing and Human Settlements;

- Finance; and
- Project Management Units.

- ✓ The committee should coordinate implementation of SDP projects and monitor progress against targets.

(iii). Alignment with the IDP and Budget Process

- ✓ Integrate SDP priorities into the IDP, Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP), Capital Investment Framework (CIF), and Municipal Infrastructure Investment Plans.
- ✓ Ensure annual budgets support identified spatial priorities and catalytic projects. The SDF specifically requires alignment between spatial planning, capital expenditure, infrastructure investment, and implementation planning.

(iv). Land Use Management Alignment

- ✓ Review and amend the Single Land Use Scheme.
- ✓ Review Municipal Planning By-Laws.
- ✓ Introduce spatial overlays and development management tools required to implement SDF proposals.
- ✓ Establish procedures that ensure all development applications are assessed against the SDF and SDP.

(v). Intergovernmental Coordination

- ✓ Strengthen coordination with:
 - uMgungundlovu District Municipality
 - KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
 - Department of Human Settlements
 - Department of Agriculture
 - SANRAL
 - uMngeni-uThukela Water
- ✓ This is necessary because many infrastructure, housing, environmental, and economic projects depend on sector department funding and implementation support.

(vi). Monitoring and Evaluation System

- ✓ Establish spatial performance indicators.
- ✓ Develop annual implementation reports.
- ✓ Monitor investment, infrastructure delivery, housing development, environmental protection, and economic development projects.
- ✓ Regularly review implementation progress against the SDF and SDP objectives.

The successful implementation of the SDP will require a combination of short-term and long-term institutional arrangements. A combination of activities are anticipated to support long-term implementation of the SDF.

Municipal Land and Infrastructure Management Programme

- ✓ Create and maintain a strategic land inventory.
- ✓ Identify and acquire well-located land for future housing, economic development, public facilities, and infrastructure expansion.
- ✓ Reserve strategic corridors and infrastructure servitudes.

Long-Term Infrastructure Coordination Platform

- ✓ Develop long-range infrastructure master plans.
- ✓ Coordinate future water, sanitation, electricity, transport, and digital infrastructure investment.
- ✓ Align infrastructure planning with projected population growth and development areas identified in the SDF.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Framework

- ✓ Develop policies and procedures for attracting private sector investment.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms for partnerships in housing, tourism, agro-processing, renewable energy, and commercial development.

- ✓ Prepare investment promotion strategies for identified nodes and corridors.

Future Growth Management Structures

- ✓ Establish mechanisms to manage urban expansion around Richmond Town and emerging settlements.
- ✓ Coordinate densification, infill development, and settlement restructuring initiatives.
- ✓ Prepare for future urbanisation pressures identified in the SDF.

Environmental and Climate Governance Arrangements

- ✓ Create long-term environmental management partnerships.
- ✓ Develop catchment management and biodiversity stewardship programmes.
- ✓ Establish climate adaptation and disaster risk management structures to address environmental vulnerabilities identified in the SDF.

Cross-Boundary Planning Arrangements

The SDF identifies growing interaction between Richmond and neighbouring municipalities, particularly around Thornville and the Msunduzi interface. Future institutional arrangements should therefore include:

- Joint planning forums;
- Cross-boundary infrastructure coordination;
- Economic corridor planning; and
- Regional growth management initiatives.

2.2.2.3 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The Richmond Municipality is part of a District Joint Municipal Planning Tribunal (JMPT) established through the legislative provisions provided in Section 34(2) of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 2013 (Act no. 16 of 2013). Agreements of the JMPT are still valid and the process of appointing new members to serve on the tribunal is in its final phases. The appointment of the new members was concluded on the 31 March 2026 through a Council Resolution and the process of gazetting the newly appointed members is underway with the assistance of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. The JMPT has been functional and it sat on a regular basis in order to decide on SPLUMA development application. The intervals of the JMPT meetings are determined by the number of submitted SPLUMA development applications.

The Richmond Municipality has an appointed Municipal Planning Authorised Officer and a Municipal Planning Registrar who are fulltime employees of the municipality within the Planning and Development Unit. The Executive Council Committee serves as the Appeals Authority and by default the Municipal Manager serves as the Municipal Planning Registrar for the Appeals Authority.

These structures have been established in order to deal with development applications submitted to the municipality. There are no challenges with regards to the functionality of the structures and applications are attended to within prescribed timeframes.

Table 4: List of 5-year projects

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	LONG TERM-TERM SPATIAL OBJECTIVES	IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM/PROJECT	PROJECTS	ESTIMATED BUDGET
Poor management of historic sites within the municipality	Promote tourism to boost the economy of the municipality.	Revitalizing historical sites to elevate their charm and significance, establishing them as prominent tourist attraction within the municipality's offerings.	Fencing and maintenance of Bambatha rebellion sites	R80 000.00
Poor service delivery and condition of infrastructure within the Municipality	Enhance quality of the environment & reduce risk disasters.	➡ Providing tools for the maintenance of overgrown grass in designated areas. ➡ Placement of recycling bins in specified zones and ensuring regular waste collection. ➡ Installing lighting infrastructure in marginalized areas to prioritize community safety from natural disaster.	➡ Grass cutting on vacant pieces of land. ➡ Installation of Dustbins. ➡ Installation of lightning conductors.	➡ R150 000.00 ➡ R200 000.00 ➡ R400 000.00
	➡ Promoting safety in remote areas ➡ Improve movement systems and connectivity and bulk infrastructure. ➡ Enhance the delivery of essential services in the municipal areas.	➡ Installing lighting infrastructure in marginalized areas to prioritize community safety. ➡ Comprehensive road safety and enhancing initiatives by elevating municipal roads standards and safety, constructing speed humps and bridges. ➡ Implementation of electricity infrastructure in underserved areas to expand access. ➡ Road safety Enhancement Initiative by upgrading roads and providing pedestrians with safe side walks. ➡ Implementation of Network Infrastructure in Underserved areas to Expand Access	➡ Widening and maintenance of passages ➡ Tarring of roads ➡ Upgrading of roads ➡ Installation of High Mast Light ➡ Installation of Street lights ➡ Construction of pedestrian bridge ➡ Upgrading of water infrastructure ➡ Provision of water and sanitation services ➡ Construction of storm water drainage ➡ Upgrade of stormwater	➡ R2 000 000.00 ➡ R5 000 000.00 ➡ R2 000 000.00 ➡ R3 000 000.00 ➡ R3 000 000.00 ➡ R6 000 000.00 ➡ R3 500 000.00 ➡ R1 000 000.00 ➡ R2 000 000.00 ➡ R2 000 000.00 ➡ R300 000 000.00 ➡ R3 000 000.00 ➡ R1 500 000.00 ➡ R20 000 000.00 ➡ R4 000 000.00

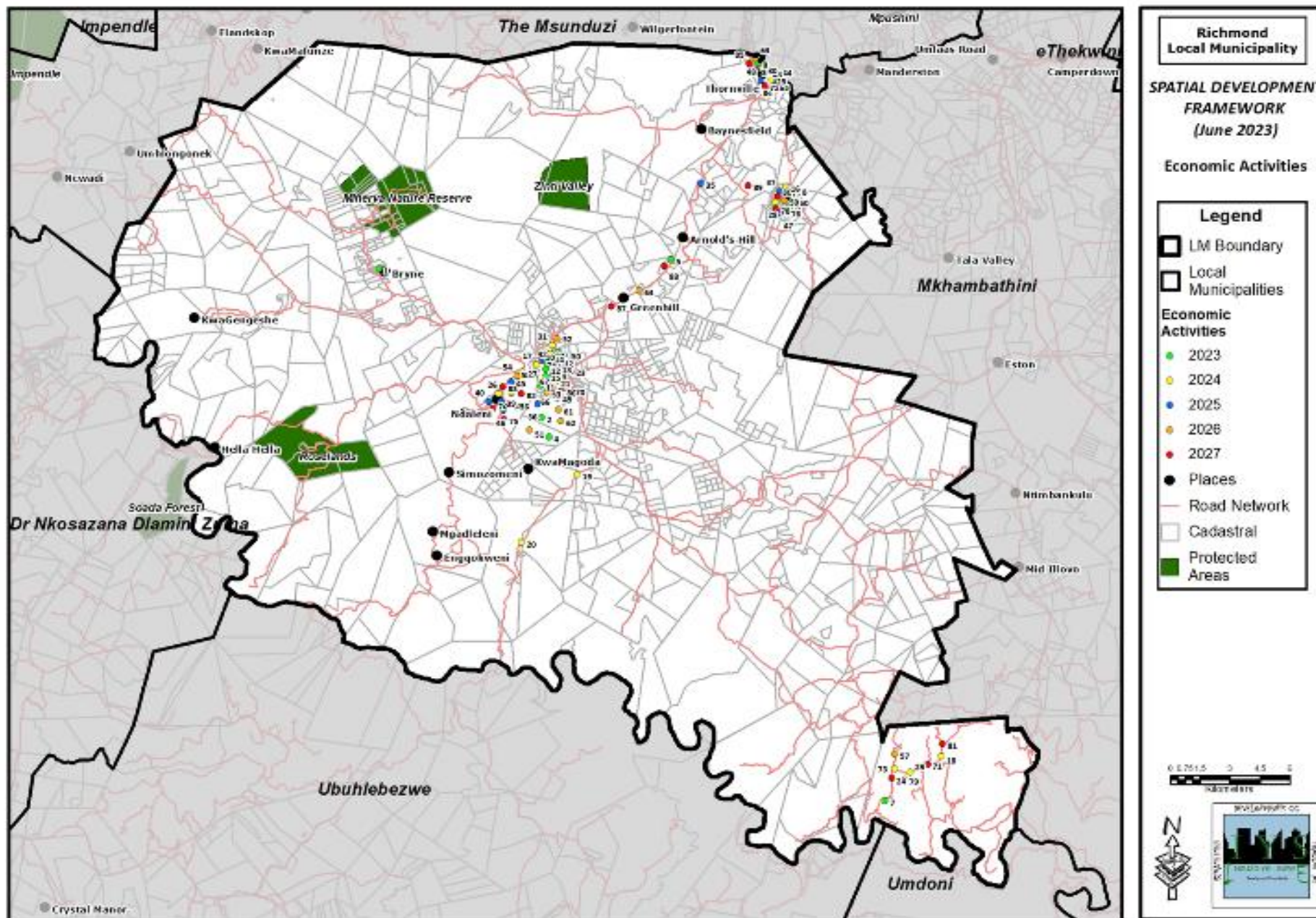
CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	LONG TERM-TERM SPATIAL OBJECTIVES	IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM/PROJECT	PROJECTS	ESTIMATED BUDGET
			- Construction of access roads - Construction of bridge - Construction of bus stops - Construction of sidewalks - Electrification Project - Soler street Lighting	
Disaster prevention and management	Improve movement systems and connectivity and bulk infrastructure.	Comprehensive road safety enhancing initiative by elevating municipal roads standards and safety, constructing speed humps and bridges.	- Construction of driveways - Construction of speed humps - Rehabilitation of Moreland Road	- - R300 000.00 - R2 000 000.00
Enhancing the quality of life for communities by improving accessibility, strengthening connections and fostering economic growth.	- Improve movement systems and connectivity and bulk infrastructure. - Enhance the delivery of essential services in the municipal area. - Improve movement systems and connectivity and bulk infrastructure.	- Comprehensive road safety and enhancing initiatives by elevating municipal roads standards and safety, constructing speed humps and bridges. - Implementation of Water Infrastructure in underserved areas to Expand Access - Implementation of Water Infrastructure in underserved areas to Expand Access - Comprehensive road safety and enhancing initiatives by elevating municipal roads standards and safety, constructing speed humps and bridges Widening and maintenance of passages. - Comprehensive road safety enhancement initiative by upgrading roads and providing pedestrians with safe side walks. - Implementation of Electricity Infrastructure in Underserved areas to Expand Access	- Upgrade of access roads and passages - Construction of side walks - Construction of storm water drainage - Upgrading of sanitation - Installation of street light masts - Provision of water for new houses - Widening and maintenance of passages - Tarring of internal roads - Construction of speed humps - Installation of Network Tower	- R400 000 000.00 - R2 000 000.00 - R2 000 000.00 - R1 000 000.00 - R3 000 000.00 - R2 000 000.00 - R16 000 000.00 - R20 000 000.00 - R6 000 000.00

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	LONG TERM-TERM SPATIAL OBJECTIVES	IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM/PROJECT	PROJECTS	ESTIMATED BUDGET
			➡ Provision of sanitation services ➡ Rehabilitation of all road passages ➡ Installation of street and high mast lights ➡ Installation of electrification	
Elevating Community Well-Being through the Establishment of Clean Water and proper sanitation Infrastructure, Propelling Economic Progress	➡ Enhance the delivery of essential services in the municipal areas. ➡ Improve movement systems and connectivity and bulk infrastructure.	➡ Implementation of electricity infrastructure in underserved areas to expand access. ➡ Implementation of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Underserved areas to Expand Access	➡ Installation of High Mast Light ➡ Provision of sanitation facilities ➡ Provision of water ➡ Maintenance of leaking water meters	➡ R3 000 000.00 ➡ R1 000 000.00 ➡ R5 000 000.00 ➡ R1 000 000.00
Improving standard of living by providing adequate housing and bringing dignity to the less fortunate	Improve Quality of life and ensure sustainable human settlement	Rolling out of housing infrastructure to benefit those in need within the municipal area.	➡ Provision of housing ➡ Provision of low-cost housing ➡ Nhlazuka Human Settlement Project ➡ Smozomeni Housing Project ➡ Upgrading of Siyathuthuka/Magodini Phase 3 ➡ Slum Clearance ➡ Mzinolovu Housing Project	➡ - ➡ - ➡ Budget approved ➡ Application phase
Limited access to public facilities (schools, clinics, etc.) in marginalised areas due to topography.	Provision of Social Facilities & Upgrade of Existing Facilities.	➡ Providing essential infrastructure to enhance the community's means of living. ➡ Development of key small businesses in key designated areas ➡ Providing essential infrastructure to enhance the community's means of living.	➡ Construction of animal impound site. ➡ Extension of Richmond Library	➡ R1 200 000.00 ➡

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	LONG TERM-TERM SPATIAL OBJECTIVES	IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM/PROJECT	PROJECTS	ESTIMATED BUDGET
			➔ Maintenance and extension of cemeteries ➔ Upgrade of sports grounds ➔ Construction of ablution facilities ➔ Construction of long-distance taxi rank ➔ Upgrading of fire station ➔ Construction of track and field Sport Stadium ➔ Upgrade and maintenance of sport fields ➔ Construction of long-distance taxi rank ➔ Upgrading of fire station ➔ Extension of hand of hope disabled School ➔ Construction of a recreational park with outdoor gymnasium ➔ Construction of a skills development centre ➔ Construction of community halls ➔ Construction of a Post Office ➔ Construction of a Youth Centre ➔ Construction of community clinic	

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	LONG TERM-TERM SPATIAL OBJECTIVES	IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM/PROJECT	PROJECTS	ESTIMATED BUDGET
			➡ Renovation and maintenance of community halls ➡ Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing sport fields ➡ Construction of taxi rank and bus shelters ➡ Construction of Handcraft Centre ➡ Construction of high school with laboratory and computers ➡ Rehabilitation and extension of Thusong Centre ➡ Construction of a cultural village ➡ Construction of a ECDC (Creche) ➡ Construction of a training centre ➡ Construction of community youth centre ➡ Construction a creche ➡ Construction of pension pay-out point.	
Municipality does not have SMME policies or regulations in place to promote SMME development or give preference to local suppliers of businesses.	Promote Robust Sustainable economic development and job creation.	Development of key small businesses in key designated areas.	➡ Construction of a multipurpose centre ➡ Construction of Small Business Training Centre ➡ Construction of Market Stalls for SMME Businesses	➡ TBC

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	LONG TERM-TERM SPATIAL OBJECTIVES	IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM/PROJECT	PROJECTS	ESTIMATED BUDGET
			➡ Revitalization of Town of Richmond ➡ Development of hides and leather Products ➡ Establish Agro tourism products ➡ Establishment of small business incubator centre ➡ Construction of SMME stalls and storage ➡ Development of Township Tourism Experience facility	



2.2.3 MEDIUM-TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK LINKAGE WITH SDP

The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) provides Government with a tool to manage the tension between competing policy priorities and budget realities. The MTEF is a valuable tool for promoting fiscal responsibility, improving resource allocation, and enhancing the effectiveness of public spending. RLM should include additional priority projects addressing identified challenges. The SDP proposed interventions should be included in the municipal IDP of Richmond, additionally the CIF should be included with the IDP's Municipal Financial plan for the next five (5) years. The municipality should ensure the implementation of the strategic planning spatial projects are implemented as per MTEF cycle as this will allow a smooth implementation of the projects aimed at addressing identified challenges indicated on table 2.

Table 5 Strategic Spatial Planning Projects

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGET	MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK		
			2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Feasibility Study and Township Establishment for Mixed Use Development and Layout Plan and concept design for R56 Business / Commercial Development	The plan will be built on targets areas identified for commercial, mixed use, social activity. Conceptual precinct plans must focus on movement, urban form, public space, quality of environment. Broad development guidelines must be developed to assist the municipality in accessing development applications for this area.	-	R 1 000 000.00	Concept Plan adopted in 2024/2025 FY	Sourcing funding
Development of Local Area Plans for Municipal Development Nodes	The plan sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of a specific area. The LAP will aid to define a community's vision for the future; provide guidelines and policies to minimize land use conflicts; ensure future development and growth occurs in an orderly manner; provide residents with the opportunity to influence the decisions about land use.	R 500 000.00 per Local Area	Appointed a Service Provider for the Primary Node Precinct Plan (Richmond Commonage) R452 985.00 Adopted by Council 27 June 2025	R413 000.00 Development of Investor Prospectus and accompanying documents	Source funding for secondary nodes
Integrated Waste Management Plan	Advised by the MEC (2022) in the letter, Richmond must develop an IWMP with the purpose to ensure provision of efficient and effective waste management services. The Plan must be focused on Waste Minimisation, the diversion of waste from landfill disposal towards the beneficial use of waste, thereby contributing	-	Internal Review ongoing with the assistance from KZN EDTEA (Technical Services)	Adopted by Council 25 February 2026 Implementation of the plan	Implementation of plan

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGET	MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK		
			2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
	towards waste economy, and overall, environmentally sound management of all waste streams.				
Development of Sector Disaster Management Plan	Section 26 (g) of Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 requires the municipal IDP to reflect an applicable Disaster Management Sector Plan (DMP).	-	Internal Review of existing plans (Community Services)	Adopted by Council on the 30 June 2025	Implementation and review
Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan	The preparation of an Integrated Transport Plan is a legal requirement in terms of Section 27(2) of the NLTTA. This indicates that the ITP must be formulated for the planning authority's official vision, policy, and objectives. This must be consistent with the national and provincial policies, due regard being given to any relevant integrated development planning or land development objectives.	-	Limited available budget, which has resulted to internal development of the Draft Document (Technical Services).	Submitted to Department of Transport for comments March 2026. Adopted by Council 29 May 2026	Implementation of the plan and review.
Comprehensive Tourism Development Strategy	This will guide the municipality in terms of tourism promotion and development. The focus shall be on tourism product development and maintenance.	-	R 500 000.00	-	-
Land Invasion Policy	This policy is intended to prevent the mushrooming of informal settlements within municipal owned land. It must identify options and guide the municipality on how to avoid such.	-	R 300 000.00	Limited of available funds has result to internal development	Engage Department of Human Settlements to assist with the development of the policy internally.
Review of Infrastructure Investment Plan	The Infrastructure Investment Plan is a process through which a municipality prepares a strategic plan for unlocking development through infrastructure delivery and development in a medium to long term period as a means to facilitate effective implementation of the Integrated Development Plan. It will serve as principal infrastructure planning instrument which guides and informs infrastructure planning decision-making in a municipality. It will be a component of RLM (IDP) and aims	-	R 800 000.00	Limited available funds has resulted to seek support from KZN Cogta.	Review process to be support by Cogta.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGET	MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK		
			2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
	to create the enabling environment for economic and social investment through infrastructure delivery which unlocks such development intentions.				
Environmental Management Framework	EMF is a tool to guide development initiatives from an environmental perspective, thus providing an environmental support to decision makers of the municipality.	-	Commencement with the development of the framework through available internal capacity. Climate Change and Adaptation Plan adopted by Council 30 May 2025	Invasive Alien Plant Species Draft plan adopted by Council 29 May 2026 with final plan anticipated to be adopted by June 2026.	Source support from EDTEA, DFFE and Ezemvelo Wildlife to complete suite of environmental specialist assessments.
Development of Comprehensive Agricultural Plan	An agricultural plan guide agricultural development in the area, provides guidance on which agricultural activities are suitable for which areas and make recommendations about activities to be supported by and for the municipality.	R 600 000.00	R 600 000.00	-	-
Farmworker Housing and Rural Development Strategy	The plan will target the needs for farmworkers in terms of farmworker housing and agrarian reform. It will inform the municipality and the Departments (Dept. of Rural Development and Land Reform as well as the Department of Human Settlements) about important interventions that needs to be done to improve the lives of Richmond farm dwellers.	R 500 000.00	-	-	-
TOTAL		R 1 600 000.00	R 2 652 985.00	R 413 000.00	R 0.00

2.2.4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Table 6: Monitoring and evaluation

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Environmental Management	- Established programmes for clearing of invasive aliens through Working for Water, or other forms of rehabilitation e.g., through Working for Wetlands and Land Care. - Established environmental management programs. - Effective Water Resource Management - Delineation of flood risk areas - Establishment of protected areas - Catchment management - Alien plant management - Protected area development. - Wetland management - Biodiversity zones	1:50 years and 1:100-year flood lines. - People removed from flood risk areas. - Developed Water Resource Management Strategy - Improved sanitation and waste management infrastructure and services in primary nodal areas. - Rehabilitated wetlands and riparian zones. - Catchment management programme. - Participation in national catchment management initiatives. - Application of carrying capacity standards to grazing land management. - Amount of land cleared of alien plants. - Programme to remove alien plants. - Initiatives to rehabilitated land affected by soil erosion. - Protection of indigenous forestry. - Proclamation of environmentally sensitive areas that are not currently protected. - Delineation of all major wetlands. - Observation of a 32m buffer from each wetland.	The municipality must work with all stakeholders towards an environmentally sustainable development.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
		- Management of bio-diversity corridors. - Environmental overlays.	
Regional Access and Road Network	- Upgrading of major access and arterial/link roads. - Improving access to the existing and growing settlements. - Creating new linkages. - Location of development nodes along and at the intersection of key roads. - Focusing development projects on settlements located along strategic roads.	- Number and location of roads upgraded. - KMs of roads upgraded. - New roads. - Number of high impact and catalytic projects located along development corridors. - Type and level of services provided to settlements located along development corridors.	The municipality must work together with government departments to improve the basis services
Clustering Public Facilities and Economic Activities in Development Nodes	- Development of service centres. - Focusing strategic and high impact projects within development nodes. - Promoting clusters of public facilities as a means to encourage nodal development.	- Number, nature, and budgets for municipal projects in each of these nodes. - Level of access and location of public facilities serving different communities in these nodes. - Availability of infrastructure in nodes to enable these to perform their role. - Number of public facilities locating in identified service	Development nodes have potential to improve access to basic and public services.
Protection of agricultural land	- High potential agricultural land - Agricultural protection plans. - Agricultural development support	- Identification and mapping of agricultural land with high potential. - Size and use of high potential agricultural land Scheme clauses designed to protect high potential agricultural land. - Introduction of land use controls for agricultural land. - Initiatives to promote agriculture.	Agricultural land is under threat from non-agricultural uses such as settlement.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Unlocking Economic Development	▪ Tourism development ▪ Commercial & industrial development in nodal areas ▪ Number of Public Private Partnership Agreements signed	▪ Direct support to land reform projects. ▪ Increased investment in terms of commercial, tourism and leisure within RLM. ▪ Branded Tourism Route. ▪ Introduction of new tourism products and untapped tourism assets. ▪ Number of new tourism facilities and products located in Richmond. ▪ Commercial and industrial development applications received by the municipality. ▪ Percentage increase in commercial land. ▪ Uptake of commercial land in dense rural settlements.	▪ The municipal employment rate will decrease, and more economic opportunities will be unlocked.
Development of social and service infrastructure	▪ Improved sanitation services and infrastructure ▪ Improved access to water ▪ Improved access to electricity ▪ Improved access to social facilities	▪ All households access a health facility within a 5km radius. ▪ Number and location of new health facilities. ▪ Weakly mobile clinics ▪ Number of VIPs in rural areas ▪ Waterborne sanitation system in areas inside urban edge ▪ Piped water within the house in urban settlements. ▪ Water on site or at least within a 200m from each household in dense rural settlements ▪ Eradication of electricity backlogs ▪ Number of new health facilities ▪ Number of new schools	▪ The municipality must work together with government departments to improve the quality of life of residents through the development and improvement of social and service infrastructure.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Sustainable Spatial Planning System	▪ The sustainable Spatial Planning System must be able to map out all the strategically located land parcels for packaging for commercial and tourism investments.	▪ Council approved land use management system. ▪ Continuum of settlements from urban high density to remote low-density settlements. Number of functional tertiary nodes. ▪ Availability of infrastructure in RLM to enable the area to perform its role.	▪ The municipality must refine the SDF and develop it further through the formulation of a series of plans with varying degrees of detail and flexibility.
Developing sustainable human settlements	▪ Upgrading of informal settlements. ▪ Consolidation of settlements located along primary and secondary corridors. ▪ Level and type of infrastructure in each settlement. ▪ Implementation different types of housing projects.	▪ Number of informal settlements upgraded. ▪ Number of consolidated settlements. ▪ Number of Integrated Residential Development packaged.	▪ There is a need to improve the structure and form of settlements.