**MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY**

**Sustainable Development & City Enterprises**

The Greater Edendale Vulindlela Development Experience

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| **ISOCARP: Background** |
| The International Society of City and Regional Planners is a global association of experienced City and Regional Planners, founded in 1965. The ISOCARP has grown to become a global network of City and Regional Planners, creating and sharing knowledge for better cities, promoting education and planning practice, and supporting City and Regional Planners in all places and all fields of activity – professional practice, administration, policy making, teaching and research. The ISOCARP congress is a non-governmental organization which is recognized by the United Nations (UN), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHCS/UN-HABITAT), and the Council of Europe. The Society also has a formal consultative status with the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).  One of the main activities of ISOCARP is the organization of its annual World Congress which focuses on a planning theme of foremost international interest. The ISOCARP network brings together individual and institutional members from more than 80 countries worldwide. Members are planners and other stakeholders involved in the development and maintenance of the built environment.  The congress takes place in a different city every year, recent hosts being Rotterdam in Netherlands (2015); Gdynia in Poland (2014); and Perm in Russia (2013). ISOCARP has held congresses on vital topics in the field of city and regional planning in every year since 1965. Combining a unique, triple perspective in theory, policy and practice, ISOCARP has pioneered the focus of the planning profession on issues such as regional urban planning (1966), urban regeneration (1981), planning for land and water (1998), the creative economy (2005) and low carbon cities (2009). |

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| **Congress Theme and Focus: 2016** |
| The principle Congress Theme for 2016 is declared as “The cities we have *vs* the cities we need” and reflects the need for a radical transformation development agenda and placing people at the center of this agenda. The Sub themes include the following:   * Transforming Human settlements * Planning Activism and Social Justice * Envisaging Planning Theory and Practice for the next decades * Urban Planning and Policy making in times of uncertainty, fragility and insecurity, * Intelligent Cities for people and * Planning for an interlinked and integrated rural-urban development.   The Msunduzi Municipality was invited to submit a Concept Note and chose to reflect the above sub theme in the context of the Greater Edendale Vulindlela Development Initiative as a case of best practice. |
| **Submission By The Msunduzi Local Municipality** |
| Broad intellectual processes can contribute to conceptual alterations and shifts which are often the major agents of policy innovation. Urban policy making therefore is the product of a continuous interaction of intellectual process and institutional response and decision making. From this it can be argued that urban policy and decision making are driven by successive sets of powerful, and relatively consistent, value judgments which have had a profound influence on how urban problems are defined, and on the policies derived to deal with those problems. The principle mandate of the Municipality is to expediently secure and advance the reconstruction and development of the Greater Edendale and Vulindlela Area as a cohesive system made up of functionally interrelated elements. Given the long years of neglect that has to be reversed, the transformation challenges are formidable.  The tour has two study areas namely Greater Edendale and Vulindlela which provide a mix of all the themes of the conference and a dialogue for transformation. The re-development of Greater Edendale and Vulindlela within a shifting institutional, socio-economic and political environment is accordingly explored and with the collapse of apartheid, these areas have re-emerged as a centre of symbolic hope. Urban Renewal and Urbanization hold great promise for economic and social progress, the improvement of access to basic services for a greater number of people and for cultivating democracy and equality. In so saying, the Technical Tour attempts to reflect some of the challenges of urban development management in the post-apartheid period and within a highly volatile and contested urban landscape. In this context, the establishment of GEVDI [Greater Edendale Vulindlela Initiative] by the Municipality as an integrated area–based urban development model is introduced. |
| **Greater Edendale Vulindlela Experience** |
| The Case Study brings into focus the ability of a GEVDI to deliver on its mandate ie. a developmental local government tasked with attacking the blight of poverty, exclusion and deprivation. Moreover, the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994 ushered in a period of numerous policy and legislative changes, which has had a profound impact on the working practice of development institutions. As such, the adoption of a holistic and integrated approach to development is a pressing pre occupation of policy and to this end; the Case Study provides an analysis and planning of Edendale and Vulindlela along more innovative lines of inquiry and responds to laissez faire approach to the development of the area.  The intention is to paint a spatial picture of the municipality and consequently, define the planning, socio-economic, human settlement, environmental and land development terrain within which the initiative unfolds and in particular, the emergence of a polycentric city. The Strategy and Plan opens new windows through which to re-engage time space relationships and city making in a more appropriate symmetry. Finally, GEVDI provides a perspective that is linked to a continuous process of spatial transformation [restructuring of the city landscape] wherein substantial room for creativity is allowed both in development, planning and decision making. In this context, it supports a renewed focus on decisive interventions to ensure accelerated and shared economic growth, poverty alleviation, improved service delivery and eradicating historical inequalities such as spatial distortions, inefficient and unproductive city form and so on; and finally fitting the municipal’s actions into a coherent spatial term of reference. |

**General Manager**

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**Msunduzi Municipality**