

ITEM

7.11	MUNICIPAL MANAGER
------	--------------------------

7.11.1	MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: PROGRESS REPORT BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER
--------	---

Collaborator No:

IDP KPA Ref No:

Meeting Date:

Good Governance and Compliance

17 January 2024

1. SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: PROGRESS REPORT BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 To report to Council in terms of Council Item 11.11.1 of the 17th Council meeting of 25 October 2023 . See attached **ANNEXURE 1**, in particular reference to resolution and resolution (g), respectively of the minutes of this meeting.

Resolution (d): “that Council take note of the Municipal Manager’s progress report / feedback .”

Resolution (g): “That Council re-evaluate and confirm the delegates / representatives from Stellenbosch Municipality that will serve on the Steering Group created by the multi-year agreement, by no later than end January of every calender year.”

To report on the procedure as suggested by ICLD on how to implement Resolution (g) See attached **ANNEXURE 2**.

- 2.2 To bring to Council’s attention the proposed pilot project for the upgrading / re-imagining of the Upper George Blake Avenue area.

3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Council.

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stellenbosch Municipality entered into a partnership agreement with Jönköping Municipality on the topic of Human Rights on 17 December 2020, which culminated in a multi-year agreement in December 2022. Therefore, and in accordance with the reporting standards created in the preceding years, the Municipal Manager must provide an annual report and / or alternatively an interim progress report to Council (as and when required), detailing the relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period.

The feedback to Council will deal with the following:

-
- 4.1 Visit by representatives from Stellenbosch Municipality to Jönköping Municipality;
 - 4.2 Report on Steering Group / Committee meetings and activities;
 - 4.3 Proposals for the multi-year programme;
 - 4.4 The conclusion of the International Training Programme of Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy;
 - 4.5 The alignment of the municipal partnership programme with the; Stellenbosch Municipality's Employee Wellness Programme; and
 - 4.6 Pilot Project – Upper George Blake Avenue - Urban and Social Revitalisation Project

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) that Council take note of the visit by representatives of Stellenbosch Municipality to Jönköping Municipality during December 2023;
- (b) that Council take note of the Municipal Manager's progress report / feedback dated 25 October 2023;
- (c) that Council take note of the integration between the Employee Wellness Programme (EWP) and the Municipal Partnership Programme (MPP);
- (d) that Council take note of the guidelines by ICLD for changing Steering Group members;
- (e) that Council re-evaluate and confirm the delegates / representatives from Stellenbosch Municipality that will serve on the Steering Group created by the multi-year agreement, by no later than end January of every calendar year;
- (f) that Council take cognizance that the ICLD requires an annual inter-partnership visit, i.e. that Stellenbosch Municipality visits Jönköping Municipality in Sweden once a year for the duration of the multi-year programme; and
- (g) that Council take note of the proposed pilot project for upgrading / re-imagining of the Upper George Blake Avenue (RUGBA) area.

6. DISCUSSION / CONTENTS

6.1 Background

Abbreviations

- ATC - Adam Tas Corridor
- GBA - George Blake Avenue
- ICLD - Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy

ITP	-	International Training Programme
NS	-	NORMSTORM
GBP	-	Gender Based Planning
EWP	-	Employee Wellness Programme
MPP	-	Municipal Partnership Programme
SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goal

6.1.1 Stellenbosch Municipality visit to Jönköping Municipality

Representatives from Stellenbosch Municipality visited Jönköping Municipality during December 2023. The visit started off with a shock to the system, as the representatives left South Africa as the longest day (continuous daylight) approached with average daily temperatures above 30 degree Celsius. They were met with days with 4-5 hours of daylight and temperatures that maxed out around zero (0) degrees Celsius.

Notwithstanding, the Swedes had a full programme planned which centered around gender issues and energy. This visit included visits to NGO's that concentrated on gender issues as well as assisting refugees and asylum seekers in Sweden. A special needs children's school was also part of the visit and the stark contrast between our education opportunity and that of the Swedes was almost tangibly visible.

The visit also concentrated on energy, in particular what steps the Swedes have taken to obtain energy from waste and other alternative sources. It was abundantly clear that the Swedes could not rely on sunlight as a source of alternative energy. According to them, the battery technology necessary to maximise the type of energy has not been developed yet and therefore this type of energy is not a viable option for the Swedes.

6.1.2 Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy guidelines for changing Steering Committee Member

6.2 Background on Steering Group

ICLD requires the municipal partnership to operate on 2 levels, i.e. the Project level and the Steering Group (SG) level. The project level reports to the SG. Therefore, in essence the Steering Group plays an oversight and guiding role to the various project groups. Thus, a SG can manage several projects. For example, in our municipal partnership one project would be the interpretation and implementation of NORMSTORM concept in collaboration with various stakeholders and the collaboration of ideas and best practices with respect to energy.

6.3 ICLD guidelines on Steering Groups

ICLD's primary guideline for SG formation by the respective municipalities is as follows:

- i that a member from the ruling party is selected to serve on the SG
- ii that a member from the official opposition party is selected to serve on the SG

- iii that these members are preferably female
- iv that 2 members from the administration is selected, and that at least one (1) of these members is a female.
- v Refer 40th Council Meeting dated 27 January 2021 Item 11.10.2 for the adoption and implementation of the above-mentioned ICLD guidelines.

6.4 ICLD's clarification correspondence

As can be observed from the above, the original guideline did not specify how a change in SG members can be effected and accordingly ICLD was requested to provide some clarity on the matter (**ANNEXURE 2**), as well as the extract from the ICLD feedback hereunder. The ICLD confirmed that a change can be effected, however:

- i the change should be in collaboration with ICLD and
- ii that ICLD must approve the change.

Extract 1: Guideline regarding SG's from ICLD


Recommendation

ICLD recommends that the steering group are intact during the whole implementation period of the project. The ones that are engaged from the start has a better understanding of the project and have been participating in the process until the current state of the project.

The success of the project is essential for the progress and development of the municipalities involved, and the network of steering group members are also affecting the results of all partnerships engaged in the network for a positive change for the citizens.

In case the municipality need to change a member in the steering group it requires a close dialogue with ICLD and the partner municipality, to make sure the change will contribute to the results needed in the network. ICLD must approve the change in writing to the region/municipality before implementation.

Your sincerely



Johan Lilja
Secretary General - ICLD

6.5 SM Interpretation of the Guideline

It is the view of Stellenbosch Municipality that ICLD must only be informed of the name change or representative change and that Stellenbosch Municipality deals with the vetting of the representatives in terms of the ICLD guidelines and confirms the selection through a Council meeting prior to the end of January of every calendar year (**ANNEXURE 1**).

It is therefore proposed that the guideline be changed as follows:

- i. that ICLD is informed (timeously) of the change and
- ii. that ICLD is provided with reasons for the change.
- iii. that ICLD endorses the change as provided by the relevant local authority

6.6 **Stellenbosch scenario**

Proposed interventions and programmes that Stellenbosch Municipality will / must undertake in collaboration with Jönköping Municipality.

Table 1: Short-term interventions

1. Convince ICLD that the final conference must be held in Stellenbosch
2. SG to visit a Ward meeting;
3. It was requested that a public meeting must be attended by the SG (if a public meeting has been arranged for the period of their next visit);
4. SG requests attendance to a Council meeting (preferably the meeting of February 2024);
5. Walk through the the Upper George Blake area;
6. Attendance to the Street Soiree;
7. SG meeting in February 2024;
8. Discussion on the follow up meeting for representatives to visit the Swedish Municipality.

6.7 **Draft implementation strategy (Stellenbosch Municipality)**

Table 2: Medium-term interventions

Driving the RUGBA, i.e. re-imagining the upper George Blake Avenue area.

The Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy requires that, once the Inception Phase of a municipal partnership has commenced, the partnering municipalities must visit each other to determine if the match between the municipalities can result in a plausible future relationship. If the municipality are a match they should visit each other annually. It was therefore incumbent for Jönköping Municipality to visit Stellenbosch Municipality and *visa versa* in order to ascertain if the above is achievable and sustainable.

6.7.1 **Employee Wellness Programme**

The Employee Wellness Programme is a key element of the municipal collaboration. It is with keen interest that our Swedish counterparts are observing this programme from abroad especially the intertwining of gender matters in the workplace, as well as in less stressed environments such as the Employee Wellness Day activities.

Zumba

The Wellness Day was held on 1 December 2023, and it had a very specific and tangible gender focus. The Wellness Day to some extent concentrated on breaking down gender barriers and norms and one of the successes of this day has been the Zumba dancing event. This type of dancing / fitness regime is “normally” associated with females; however, the male employee population emphatically broke down this gender biased barrier.

In-her-shoes (GBV)

The second gender barrier breaker could however not be implemented, mainly because of poor comprehension, insufficient marketing and surprisingly age-old gender biases. The idea was that predominantly heterosexual males would wear woman's high heeled shoes as part of the EWP day to underscore the phrase "**in-her-shoes**". It is suspected that this would create a lighter moment, but more important address or make aware the seriousness of the GBV issues.

The original date of the EWP had to be cancelled as a result of the storm(s) in August 2023 and the damages that was experienced in the Western Cape area. The resultant mop up operations had to take priority over the EWP.

6.8 Alternative Energy

Stellenbosch Municipality representatives met with representatives of Jönköping Energi. The latter is the energy company of the Jönköping municipality. One of the interesting things undertaken by the Jönköping Municipality that the combination of heating, electricity and the provision of fibre by the municipality. The Jönköping Municipality generates up to 30% of their energy by means of alternative energy sources. Most of the energy derives through the incineration of household waste.

Creating heat is a by-product of this process. This heat is also sold to the public as heating in their winter and cooling in their summer. During the visit it was indicated that the municipality also buys biomass and household waste from neighbouring countries in order meet their incineration requirements and accordingly their energy needs. There are several programmes in operation dealing with the collection and recycling of the waste as a product of energy.

6.9 Waste Management

The Swedes and recycling are synonymous. There are all kinds of recycling happening across the country especially in Jönköping Municipality in particular. Their Waste Management Systems are impeccable and a study of these systems as a best practice could be undertaken.

They have for example a multi-bin system that is premised on sorting at the source. Moreover, this system is supported by a system of fines for transgressing the waste collection service. According to the representatives the number of fines has significantly tapered down as the populace begins to understand the system.

6.10 Pilot Project – Re-imagining Upper George Blake Avenue (RUGBA)

Urban and Social Revitalisation Project

George Blake Avenue (GBA) links Kayamandi to the Adam Tas Corridor (ATC) development. The ATC is the primary development corridor for Stellenbosch Municipality for the foreseeable future. GBA is the secondary vehicular movement link between Kayamandi and Stellenbosch Town Centre. It is however the primary pedestrian link between Kayamandi and Stellenbosch Town centre.

The GBA precinct however consists of various planning sections with diverse needs and requirements. The partnership seeks to concentrate its pilot project in the upper GBA area, i.e. between the pedestrian crossing and the circle (see image below).

It is the understanding that there are several (as yet unconfirmed) organisations that are interested working in this particular section of the GBA. It is therefore proposed that these organisations are brought into the fold and that a joint and collaborative effort is made to the upgrading of the Upper GBA area.

In essence the proposed pilot project draws its development principles from the ATC and the just energy transition concept. The proposal includes the deployment of solar lighting panels, integrated with a message board that portrays a GBV message. The full detail and design of the solar lighting and message board has not been finalised and will be presented to Council in a follow-up progress report or a dedicated Council item.

It is understood that this is a complex project with various dynamics that will play out over time. Therefore, the project will in all likelihood be subdivided into smaller projects in order to achieve the partnership goals and also to give the community a chance to adapt to and accept the proposals.

Image1: Upper George Blake Area



6.11 Way Forward

- It is proposed that all Ward meetings must henceforth have an item on GBV;
- That the representatives attend the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy required visits to Jönköping in Sweden as part of the multi-year programme;
- An item will be annually submitted to Council will include amongst others the revised MOU, the annual revision of delegates / representatives;
- That the GBA project be accepted by Council in principle.

Image 2: View from the turning circle in Upper George Blake Avenue towards the pedestrian crossing and Stellenbosch Town centre.



7. Financial Implications

None. Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy covers all costs directly associated to the project(s), as well as the cost for accommodation and travelling as and when required.

8. Legal Implications

None

9. Staff Implications

None

6.10 Previous / Relevant Council Resolutions

17TH COUNCIL MEETING: 2023-10-25: ITEM 11.11.1

RESOLVED (nem con)

- (a) that Council takes note of the visit by representatives of Jönköping Municipality during February 2023;
- (b) that Council takes note of the visit to Gaborone Botswana during March 2023 by a delegation from Stellenbosch Municipality as part of the International Training Programme;
- (c) that Council takes note of the training in Lusaka, Zambia during December 2022 and October 2023 by a delegation from Stellenbosch Municipality as part of the International Training Programme;
- (d) that Council takes note of the Municipal Manager's progress report / feedback;

- (e) that Council takes note of the approval multi-year application by Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy; and
- (f) that Council takes note of the integration between the Employee Wellness Programme and the Municipal Partnership Programme.
- (g) that Council re-evaluate and confirm the delegates / representatives from Stellenbosch Municipality that will serve on the Steering Group created by the multi-year agreement, by no later than end January of every calendar year.
- (h) that Council takes cognizance that the International Centre for Local Democracy requires an annual inter-partnership visit, i.e., that Stellenbosch Municipality visits Jönköping Municipality in Sweden once a year for the duration of the multi-year programme.

8TH COUNCIL MEETING: 2022-10-26: ITEM 13.5**RESOLVED (nem con)**

- (a) that Council takes note of the visit to Jönköping Municipality by a delegation from Stellenbosch Municipality;
- (b) that Council takes note of the visit to Lund Municipality by a delegation from Stellenbosch Municipality as part of the International training programme;
- (c) that Council takes note of the Municipal Manager's progress report / feedback;
- (d) that Council takes note for the multi-year application;
- (e) that the Municipal Manager submits an updated (interim) report to Council as soon as the final application to the International Commission for Local Democracy is approved by the latter;
- (f) that the possibility of a Twinning Agreement be investigated and the results be reported to Council; and
- (g) that Council takes note of the training in Lusaka, Zambia during December 2022.

3RD COUNCIL MEETING: 2022-03-30: ITEM 11.11.7**RESOLVED (nem con)**

- (a) that Council takes note of the Municipal Manager's progress report / feedback;
- (b) that Council take note of the visit to Stellenbosch Municipality by a delegation of from Jönköping Municipality;
- (c) that the Municipal Manager submits an updated report to Council as soon as the final application to Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy is approved by the latter; and

-
- (d) that Council appoints the following office bearers, as representatives to the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy:
- (i) Cllr Z Dalling (Ms)
 - (ii) Cllr M Nkopane (Ms)

40th COUNCIL MEETING: 2021-01-27: ITEM 11.10.2

RESOLVED (majority vote)

- a) that Council takes note of the requirement to identify and confirm the appointment of two (2) suitable Councillors to represent the Municipality in this partnership;
- b) that Council takes note of the requirements to identify and confirm the appointment of two (2) suitable Officials to represent the Municipality in this partnership;
- c) that council takes note that the traveling and accommodations requirements for the four (4) staff members will be covered by Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy;
- d) that Council takes note of the fact that there currently are international travel restrictions in place as a result of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic;
- e) that Council confirms the appointment of Cllrs WC Petersen (Ms) and Z Dalling (Ms) – with Cllr E Groenewald (Ms) to be second- to represent the Municipality in this partnership, who's particular will be recorded in the Inception Application; and
- f) that Council confirms the appointment of the Municipal Manager, Ms Geraldine Mettler, and the Manager: Housing Administration, Ms Rotanda Swartboo, as the two (2) suitable Officials to represent the Municipality in this partnership.

39th COUNCIL MEETING: 2020-11-25: ITEM 11.10.1

During deliberation on the matter, Cllr P Sitshoti (Ms) requested that the topic of Human Rights be discussed with Council before the partnership is undertaken. The Speaker replied that her request is NOTED.

RESOLVED (majority vote with 1 abstention)

- a) that Council notes the invitation by ICLD annexed hereto as “**APPENDIX 1**”;
- b) that Council approves that Stellenbosch Municipality enters into a partnership with a Swedish Municipality on the topic of Human Rights;
- c) that the Municipal Manager be authorized to negotiate the terms of the partnership agreement with the identified Swedish Municipality as per the requirements of the Inception Phase of the partnership; and
- d) that the Municipal Manager submits a report to Council subsequent to the conclusion of the Inception Phase, i.e. after one (1) year or as soon as practically possible thereafter.

6.11 Risk Implications

This report has no risk implications for the Municipality.

6.12 Comments from Senior Management

No comments required.

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE 1 – Minutes of 17th Meeting of Council: 2023-10-25: Item 11.11.1

ANNEXURE 2 - Change of Steering Group Members

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

NAME	Geraldine Mettler
POSITION	Municipal Manager
DIRECTORATE	Municipal Manager
CONTACT NUMBERS	021- 808 8025
E-MAIL ADDRESS	municipal.manager@stellenbosch.gov.za
REPORT DATE	2024-01-04

ANNEXURE 1

11.11	MUNICIPAL MANAGER
11.11.1	MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: PROGRESS REPORT BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Collaborator No: 11/2/5/2/2

IDP KPA Ref No: Good governance and compliance

Meeting Date: Mayco: 11 October 2023 & 17th Council: 25 October 2023

1. SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: PROGRESS REPORT BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

2. PURPOSE

To report to Council in terms of Council Item 13.5 of the 8th Council meeting of 26 October 2022 . See attached **ANNEXURE 1**, in particular reference to resolution (e) of the minutes of this meeting.

Resolution (e): “that the Municipal Manager submits an updated (interim) report to Council as soon as the final application to Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) is approved by the latter.”

3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Council.

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stellenbosch Municipality entered into a partnership agreement with Jönköping Municipality on the topic of Human Rights on 17 December 2020, which culminated in a multi-year agreement in December 2022. Therefore, and in accordance with the reporting standards created in the preceding years, the Municipal Manager must provide an annual report to Council, detailing the relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period.

The feedback to Council will deal with the following:

- 4.1 The conclusion of the Inception Phase of the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy Programme;
- 4.2 The application to the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy for a multi-year project;
- 4.3 Visit by representatives from Jönköping Municipality;
- 4.4 Establishment of a Steering Group / Committee;
- 4.5 Proposals for the multi-year programme;
- 4.6 The International Training Programme of Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy;
- 4.7 The alignment of the municipal partnership programme with the Stellenbosch Municipality’s Employee Wellness Programme; and
- 4.8 Visit to neighbouring countries by representatives from the Stellenbosch Municipality (in accordance with the International Training Programme).

17TH COUNCIL MEETING: 2023-10-25: ITEM 11.11.1**RESOLVED** (nem con)

- (a) that Council takes note of the visit by representatives of Jönköping Municipality during February 2023;
- (b) that Council takes note of the visit to Gaborone Botswana during March 2023 by a delegation from Stellenbosch Municipality as part of the International Training Programme;
- (c) that Council takes note of the training in Lusaka, Zambia during December 2022 and October 2023 by a delegation from Stellenbosch Municipality as part of the International Training Programme;
- (d) that Council takes note of the Municipal Manager's progress report / feedback;
- (e) that Council takes note of the approval multi-year application by Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy; and
- (f) that Council takes note of the integration between the Employee Wellness Programme and the Municipal Partnership Programme.
- (g) that Council re-evaluate and confirm the delegates / representatives from Stellenbosch Municipality that will serve on the Steering Group created by the multi-year agreement, by no later than end January of every calendar year.
- (h) that Council takes cognizance that the International Centre for Local Democracy requires an annual inter-partnership visit, i.e., that Stellenbosch Municipality visits Jönköping Municipality in Sweden once a year for the duration of the multi-year programme.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

NAME	Geraldine Mettler
POSITION	Municipal Manager
DIRECTORATE	Municipal Manager
CONTACT NUMBERS	021- 808 8025
E-MAIL ADDRESS	municipal.manager@stellenbosch.gov.za
REPORT DATE	2023-10-18

ANNEXURE 2

Change of Steering Group Members

Introduction

In cases when the municipality want to change members in the steering group, ICLD are referring to the guidelines that the municipality in its contract need to adhere to. It requires a formal decision from the municipality with valid arguments to replace the current members in the steering group. All this is to avoid any decision that goes against the condition against anti corruption set by Sida.


Recommendation

ICLD recommends that the steering group are intact during the whole implementation period of the project. The ones that are engaged from the start has a better understanding of the project and have been participating in the process until the current state of the project.

The success of the project is essential for the progress and development of the municipalities involved, and the network of steering group members are also affecting the results of all partnerships engaged in the network for a positive change for the citizens.

In case the municipality need to change a member in the steering group it requires a close dialogue with ICLD and the partner municipality, to make sure the change will contribute to the results needed in the network. ICLD must approve the change in writing to the region/municipality before implementation.

Your sincerely



Johan Lilja
Secretary General - ICLD