NDP Guidance Note

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| **Title:** | URBAN NETWORK PLANNING |
| **Purpose:**  | To guide municipalities on the planning deliverables and processes required as part of the Urban Network Strategy. |
| **Target Audience:**  | NDPG Urban Municipalities |
| **Glossary:** | BEPP – Built Environment Performance PlanCBD – Central Business DistrictCSP – Cities Support ProgrammeNDP – Neighbourhood Development ProgrammeSDF – Spatial Development FrameworkUNS – Urban Network Strategy |
|  | Please also refer to:* The NDP Key Terminology Guidance for detailed descriptions of network elements.
* The NDP Guidance on the Identification of Network Elements.
* The NDPG website ([http://ndp.treasury.gov.za](http://ndp.treasury.gov.za/)) for further toolkits, guidelines or revisions.
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# 1. Background

The Urban Network Strategy (UNS) is an investment planning, development and management approach based on network theory, transit-oriented good practice and precinct management principles. It focuses on strategic spatial targeting that is aimed at creating a post-apartheid city-wide hierarchy of strategic nodes and the optimisation of public transport connectivity across all scales of the urban network, i.e. pedestrian, non-motorised and public transport movement to nodes, between nodes and within strategic nodes.



The UNS requires of Municipalities to plan for an Urban Network with an interconnected hierarchy of strategic nodes and public transport links between and within nodes. It consists of primary and secondary networks that interconnect at strategic nodes known as urban hubs, which are located within marginalised areas, typically townships. Network planning will prepare the Municipality for the development of more detailed plans addressing local planning and the prioritisation of projects within CBDs, Urban Hubs and Activity Corridors.

This document explains in more detail the expected process and outputs required in terms of the Urban Network Strategy and more specifically the Urban Network Plan.

# 2. Urban Network Planning Steps

Urban Network Planning comprises of a number of steps to prepare municipalities for the catalytic investment in targeted areas. These steps are interlinked and involves the identification, prioritisation and phasing/costing of network elements.

Although the sequencing of the steps is essential, some of the steps may be revisited over time. For example, although the municipality may identify 2 Urban Hubs this year, a third may be identified in 5 years.

The Urban Network Planning process is of a strategic nature and will prepare and guide the municipality for more detailed planning eg. Precinct Plans.

What is the value of the Urban Network Planning process?

* Provide a credible planning process to systematically progress from strategic towards local planning.
* Allows municipalities to creatively link development objectives and strategic planning processes to physical projects on the ground (causal link).
* To target development within strategically well located areas to ensure value for money and optimise impact.
* To prevent ad hoc planning and capital investment in undesired and inadequate locations.

The process of urban network planning and the deliverables linked to the process is explained in the diagram below and in more detail in the sections that follow:



Figure 1: Urban Network Planning Process and Deliverables

**2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF NETWORK ELEMENTS**

The first step towards urban network planning is for each municipality to identify Urban Network Elements. This process is explained in more detail within the Guidance Note on Network Element Identification. Refer to the NDP Website for more information.

**2.2 URBAN NETWORK PRIORITISATION**

Once the network elements have been identified the municipality will prioritise them for further planning and development. This will ensure that capital expenditure is directed towards areas in greatest need and will support network investment optimisation.

The following elements should be prioritised:

* CBD
* Urban Hub and Primary Transport Links
* Activity Corridors
* Other Nodes on the network

**2.2.1 PRIORITISATION METHOD**

The NDP proposes the following method for prioritisation:

* CBD should be a prerequisite for prioritisation as this node will always be the centre of importance within the functional area and network.
* Urban Hubs on the network can be connected to primary public transport links (linking the CBD with the Urban Hub) and should be prioritised in terms of township cluster population sizes. A township cluster with 500 000 people would for example receive priority above a township with only 100 000 people. The prioritisation will determine the priority hub for precinct planning.
* The importance of activity corridors and their prioritisation should be determined by the importance of the Urban Hub. An activity corridor that links with the highest priority hubs will be the highest priority activity corridor.
* In terms of the overall urban network, each integration zone will thus be prioritised in terms of the priority of their activity corridor and urban hub.
* Also refer to the diagram below.

**2.2.2 DELIVERABLE**

The Municipality will be required to confirm the prioritisation of network elements within the attached template format. The ***SECOND STEP [BLUE]*** on prioritisation will be completed to comply with this step.

The diagram below is an illustration of the prioritisation of network elements.



Figure 2: Urban Network Prioritisation

**2.3 URBAN NETWORK PHASING/COSTING**

Once the network elements have been prioritised the municipality will embark on a process of phasing and funding interventions (strategies, programmes, projects) taking cognisance of the overall prioritisation of network elements within the urban network to ensure network optimisation. This process should be aligned with current municipal planning processes such as the IDP, SDBIP and also BEPP processes.

**2.3.1 DELIVERABLES**

It is proposed that the detail of each municipality`s capital investment framework be confirmed within the BEPPs and SDFs of the municipalities:

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| **MUNICIPALITY** | **DELIVERABLE** | **DETAIL** |
| CSP | BEPP | The Built Environment Performance Plan (BEPP) of the Municipality should illustrate the intervention, sequencing, budget allocation and funding source **for each network element identified and prioritised on the Urban Network**. The BEPP requires the Municipality to:* Provide details of catalytic projects and programmes on the primary network.
* Provide proposed timeframes for the preparation and execution of catalytic projects or programmes within the network.
* Provide a summary of financial allocations in the MTREF to support the spatial development strategy including the value of programmes and projects within the network, also linked to development sectors.

The BEPP is submitted annually to the CSP of National Treasury. The BEPP is funded by ICDG funding. (Also refer to CSP BEPP Guidelines. ) |
| Non-CSP | SDF | In terms of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013 [Section 21(n)], the municipality is required to depict their capital expenditure framework spatially within the Municipal Spatial Development Framework (SDF).  |

**The NDP requires each municipality to complete a summary of capital investment within the urban network by means of the attached template and to complete the *THIRD STEP* [ORANGE] by filling the proposed allocation and phasing of funds within and beyond the Primary Network of the urban network.**

**2.3.2 REVIEW**

The NDP on an annual basis will review the interventions proposed in the Urban Network Plan and BEPP/SDF to determine whether the municipality has/will ensure capital expenditure within areas prioritised on the urban network. The elements that were prioritised should thus:

* Be prioritised for detailed planning (eg. Precinct Plans);
* Be prioritised in terms of financial allocations; and
* Be targeted for capital implementation projects.

Planning for development in the prioritised areas may only be achieved over a period of time as alignment with other planning processes such as the IDP process is essential.

# 3. Who is Responsible?

While roles and responsibilities vary in the Urban Network Process, broadly it is the responsibility of the Municipality do the Urban Network Planning and it is the responsibility of the CSP/NDP Unit to guide the process and at points along it to ensure contractual compliance and to provide strategic procedural and administrative review of the municipal process.