



# IDP



## The People's Plan | 2026 / 27

# FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **IDP participation is your CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, claim it!**

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2026 / 27

[www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)





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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS [FAQs]

# Understanding the IDP

### What is the Integrated Development Plan [IDP]?

The Integrated Development Plan is Joburg's strategic roadmap for municipal development and service delivery. The IDP translates your lived reality into budgeted action, ensuring that every clinic built, road paved, and service delivered aligns with community needs identified through public participation. Think of it as the blueprint that guides how the City allocates its R85 + billion budget for 2026/2027 across all seven regions.

### Why does Johannesburg have an IDP?

The IDP is a constitutional and legislative imperative. Section 152 of the Constitution mandates municipalities to encourage community involvement in local government matters. The Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 and the Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998 enforce this by establishing developmental local government as a cornerstone of democratic governance. Beyond legal compliance, the IDP exists because governance without your voice is guesswork. It ensures the City synchronises community needs with fiscal realities to deliver high-impact services across all regions.

### What's the difference between the IDP and the municipal budget?

Think of the IDP as the architectural blueprint and the budget as the construction contract. The IDP identifies what needs building; clinics, roads, housing, water infrastructure, economic development programmes. It sets developmental priorities based on community input. The budget then determines how much money gets allocated to each priority and when implementation happens. The IDP comes first, followed by budget tabling. Without your IDP input, Council would be designing your neighbourhood without asking what you actually need.

### How does the IDP affect my daily life?

Every municipal service you experience starts with the IDP. When you drive on a newly paved road, use a refurbished library, access healthcare at a clinic, benefit from waste collection improvements, or see new streetlights in your area, that's the IDP at work. Your participation in IDP consultations directly influences which services get prioritised in your ward for the next financial year. If you don't participate, decisions get made without your input, and your ward's unique needs might not be adequately reflected in service delivery planning.





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### Is the IDP only about service delivery?

NO. While service delivery is a major component, the IDP is comprehensive. It covers:

- Infrastructure development [roads, water, electricity, housing]
- Economic development and job creation
- Social services [health, libraries, community centres, sports facilities]
- Environmental sustainability and climate action
- Public safety and disaster management
- Spatial planning and urban regeneration
- Financial planning and revenue collection
- Governance and institutional capacity

### Why should I participate in IDP consultations?

Participatory democracy is the bridge between policy and people. By engaging in #YourJoburgIDP2026, you move from being a spectator of governance to a co-architect of the City's developmental trajectory. Your participation is a statutory right under the Municipal Systems Act, ensuring that the 2026/2027 budget reflects the lived reality of Joburg's 270 wards.

### Who can participate in IDP consultations?

All Johannesburg residents, including:

- Ratepayers and property owners
- Tenants and informal settlement residents
- Ward councillors and community leaders
- Business community members
- Youth and students
- Senior citizens
- People with disabilities
- Civil society organisations
- Faith-based organisations
- Traditional leaders
- Creatives and cultural practitioners
- Any stakeholder affected by municipal services

Participation is inclusive. If you live, work, or do business in Johannesburg, your voice matters.

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CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, claim it!**



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### **Is my participation really taken seriously, or is this just a formality?**

This is not a tick-box exercise. The Municipal Systems Act legally requires municipalities to incorporate community inputs into the final IDP. All comments submitted during the 21-day minimum consultation period must be documented, considered, and responded to. The IDP gets tabled in Council and forms the basis for budget allocation. Your input has legal weight and institutional impact.

Johannesburg is leveraging digital platforms to democratise participation. If you cannot attend physical regional sessions, you can:

- Join online via MS Teams or YouTube Live [7 regional online sessions for Regions A-G]
- Submit written comments via [www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)
- Use Facebook/X to engage during live sessions
- Access the draft IDP on the City's website, track your ward's priorities, and submit inputs through integrated digital touchpoints
- Drop written comments at regional input boxes located at Customer Service Centres and clinics

Democracy has never been more accessible; choose the participation method that works for you.

### **Do I need any special knowledge or qualifications to participate?**

Absolutely not. You are the expert on your lived experience. You don't need technical knowledge of municipal finance or urban planning, you need to know what matters in your community. Do potholes make your street dangerous? Is water supply unreliable? Are there enough clinics in your area? Does your ward need more job opportunities? That local knowledge is invaluable. Municipal officials will be present to explain technical aspects, answer questions, and translate your concerns into implementable plans.

### **How do I Attend online?**

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## How long is the public participation period?

The Municipal Systems Act requires a minimum of 21 days for public input. Johannesburg exceeds this by providing 43 days for comprehensive engagement. This extended period ensures:

- All seven regions get dedicated consultation sessions
- Multiple participation channels remain open
- Targeted stakeholder groups receive focused engagement
- Digital and non-digital demographics have equal access



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# IDP participation is your **CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, claim it!**





## What should I do to prepare for an IDP session?

Preparation maximises your impact:

### Before the session:

1. Review the draft IDP at [www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)
2. Identify your top 3-5 priorities for your ward
3. Gather evidence if possible [photos of potholes, water outage documentation, community petitions]
4. Consult neighbours to understand collective concerns
5. Note specific locations/streets where issues occur

### During the session:

1. Listen actively to municipal presentations
2. Ask clarifying questions
3. Participate constructively in breakaway groups
4. Provide specific, actionable input [not just complaints]
5. Submit written comments for formal record

### After the session:

- Follow up via [www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za) to track inputs
- Encourage neighbours to participate

## When will I see results from my participation?

The IDP follows this implementation timeline:

- Public consultations and input collection
- Draft IDP tabled in Council
- April 2026: State of the City Address [progress on current IDP]
- May 2026: Final IDP incorporating community inputs approved
- May 2026: 2026/2027 Budget tabled [aligned with IDP priorities]
- 1 July 2026: New financial year begins – IDP implementation starts
- Quarterly: Progress reports on IDP implementation
- Ongoing: Community monitoring and mid-year adjustments

Service delivery doesn't happen overnight, but documented IDP priorities become enforceable commitments that communities can monitor and hold Council accountable for throughout the year.





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## How do I submit written comments on the IDP?

Multiple submission channels are available:

### Online methods:

- Web Application: [www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)
- Microsoft 365 Forms: [link provided on website]

### Physical methods:

- Regional input boxes at all Customer Service Centres
- Regional input boxes at municipal clinics
- Hand-delivered comments to regional offices
- In-person submission during physical consultation sessions

### Virtual meeting methods:

- MS Teams chat box during online regional sessions
- YouTube Live comments during livestreamed sessions

### All submissions must include:

- Your full name and contact details
- Ward number and region
- Specific priority/issue being raised
- Proposed solution [if possible]



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**IDP participation is your**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, claim it!**



## What if the City doesn't implement IDP priorities?

The IDP is legally binding. Once Council approves the IDP, it becomes the municipality's developmental mandate for the year. Communities have several accountability mechanisms:

1. Quarterly performance reports – Council publishes progress on IDP implementation
2. Ward committee oversight – Ward committees monitor local IDP implementation
3. Public participation in Budget monitoring – Mid-year Budget reviews allow community input on spending
4. Mayoral imbizos – Executive Mayor hosts community accountability sessions
5. Annual State of the City Address – Public report on IDP achievements and challenges
6. Auditor-General review – External audit of municipal performance against IDP targets
7. Legal recourse – Communities can approach the Public Protector or courts if IDP commitments are systematically ignored

The IDP isn't a wish list; it's an enforceable social contract.



## Can the IDP be changed after approval?

YES, but with limitations. The Municipal Systems Act allows for IDP amendments under specific circumstances:

- Unforeseen crises [disasters, pandemics, infrastructure failures]
- Significant revenue changes [national budget cuts, economic shocks]
- New legislative requirements
- Inter-governmental alignment needs

However, amendments require:

- Council resolution with public motivation
- Community consultation [abbreviated process]
- Transparency in explaining why changes are necessary

Routine changes to avoid IDP commitments are not permitted; this protects community inputs from being arbitrarily discarded.



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### How does the IDP relate to ward committees?

Ward committees are the permanent community participation structure. They:

- Facilitate IDP civic education in wards
- Mobilise residents for regional IDP consultations
- Consolidate ward-level priorities for submission
- Monitor IDP implementation throughout the year
- Report back to communities on progress
- Escalate implementation challenges to councillors

If you want sustained engagement beyond the annual IDP cycle, join your ward committee. Contact your ward councillor via [www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za) to find your local committee.

### What is the role of councillors in the IDP process?

Ward councillors serve as the bridge between communities and Council. They:

- Represent ward priorities in Council IDP deliberations
- Attend and facilitate regional IDP consultation sessions
- Assist residents with submission processes
- Advocate for ward-specific needs during budget negotiations
- Monitor IDP implementation in their wards
- Report back to communities on Council decisions

Councillors are accountable to you, hold them responsible for ensuring your IDP inputs reach Council chambers.

**DON'T JUST ID THE PROBLEM.**  
**IDP THE SOLUTION**



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**Where can I get more information or assistance?**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

<https://joburg.org.za/Documents/2026-Notice/2026-27-Meeting-Schedule-Updated.pdf>

**Draft IDP:**

<https://joburg.org.za/documents/Pages/Draft-IDP-Budget-and-Tariffs-documents.aspx>

**Comments and Submissions:**

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAN\\_v9EuN\\_VUQTRTWjEyWkILSjZNTE5WOTBYT1Y1TDFPSS4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAN_v9EuN_VUQTRTWjEyWkILSjZNTE5WOTBYT1Y1TDFPSS4u&route=shorturl)

(Submissions close Monday, 18 May 2026 at 17:00)



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