The hard work and dedication of eThekwini Municipality’s Special Crime Prevention and Clean-Up Team has led to the arrest of 15 suspects that appear on the South African Police Service’s (SAPS) Most Wanted list.

The Team’s first blitz operation took place on 7 March, with eThekwini Municipal units such as Metro Police and Cleansing and Solid Waste working in conjunction with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) and SAPS.

The joint operation saw them raid the boundary between railway lines below Che Guevara (Moore) Road under the M4 southbound freeway where a number of whoonga addicts were living and openly taking drugs.

The action taken heeds the call made by eThekwini Deputy Mayor Fawzia Peer, who recently met with PRASA in order to find solutions to tackling the high crime rate in the area. Residents have reported muggings, the sale of drugs and vagrancy in the precinct.

Acting Metro Police Head Steve Middleton said the City was determined to fight crime in the area.

“It has become dangerous for residents to walk near the bridge. Those who dared to walk there on their way into town or the nearby learning institutions have been robbed and assaulted. We could not stand by and allow this to continue,” he said.

Middleton said a team would be posted under the bridge and on the nearby roads until the area was clean again.

“All those apprehended will undergo finger printing at the nearest SAPS station. Those found wanted for crimes will be arrested immediately. We are working closely with other City departments in order to help those apprehended who would like to go home and be reintegrated back into society,” he said.

The operations are on-going.
IN ORDER to retain business and attract more investment to the City, eThekwini Municipality’s Economic Development and Planning Committee on 8 March agreed to set aside R1.8 million for the precinct management programme over the next three years.

The initiative is a collaboration between the Municipality and the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA), who will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the purpose of strategically improving the management of Durban’s key economic precincts.

This partnership, set to run from April 2018 until June 2020, will drive a proactive strategy to promote precinct management. It will promote the improved management of the safety, cleanliness, municipal services efficiency and maintenance of public realm in these precincts.

The programme roll-out plan will include developing and operationalising a plan to facilitate and support the establishment of precinct management initiatives. This will be done in prioritised precincts based on the City-wide mapping and strategic assessment of all industrial, commercial, township, suburban and rural economic precincts.

Furthermore, it will develop and implement a best practice learning agenda to empower the sector and improve the quality of precinct management services. It will facilitate a City/business working group dealing with the development of policy, strategy, systems and guiding operational priorities.

The initiative will also facilitate a forum of established precinct management bodies for their development and cooperation with the Municipality as well as facilitate cooperative service delivery interactions between Municipal line functions and precinct management bodies.

Presenting to the Committee, Head of the Economic Development and Investment Promotion Unit Shunnon Tulsiyam said: “In order to attract investment and growth, the City precinct needs to be well managed. Precinct management is an internationally proven approach to urban management.”

Tulsiyam said he is excited that this initiative is now moving ahead as there has been a growing dialogue between the Municipality and the commercial property sector about the importance of precinct management over the past 18 months.

Deputy City Manager of the Economic Development and Planning Cluster Phillip Sithole said the fact that SAPOA will also contribute financially towards the initiative indicates the commitment between the public and private sector in driving economic growth.

“I am confident that this initiative will work because the Florida Road Precinct was dying a few years back but it is now booming because similar interventions were implemented,” said Sithole. Economic Development and Planning Committee Chairperson Councillor Sipho Kaunda said they are fully behind this programme because the potential of attracting future investment, growth and job creation as well as increased rates revenue can be achieved through effective management of eThekwini’s economic precincts.

Councillor Kaunda added that this programme is in line with the Municipal Systems Act as well as the Municipal Property Rates Act that provides mechanisms that enable the establishment and funding of precinct management bodies.
TO ensure better management of urban growth and spatial transformation, eThekwini Municipality is calling for businesses and residents to comment on the draft Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF). The deadline for all comments is 23 April 2018.

Head of the Development Planning and Environmental Management Unit Musa Mbhele outlined the importance of the MSDF at length during the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting on 8 March. He urged everyone, including councillors, to be active and get involved.

“The Framework is very critical to catalytic projects as it determines how land is being used and should be used in the future, identifies opportunities for growth and development and management of land as well as public interest,” said Mbhele.

The key catalytic projects and investment areas to be prioritised in the MSDF includes the Inner City Regeneration, Cato Ridge, Port and Back of Port, Cornubia, Illovo South, Aerotropolis as well as projects located in rural areas such as at Uminzi, Umbumbulu, Mpumalanga, KwaXimba, Inchanga and Mzinyathi.

He said the Framework is able to anticipate growth of the population at a projection of five to ten years, but revealed that they review it annually as priorities may change.

Economic Development and Planning Committee Chairperson Councillor Sipho Kaunda encouraged councillors to lobby business and residents at their wards to comment on the proposed draft spatial plans.

“These spatial plans are aimed at providing direction towards revitalisation of township nodes, urban renewal, supporting transit-oriented development, rural planning and stimulating economic development,” added Councillor Kaunda.


The public is urged to provide written comments marked for the attention of the Senior Manager: Ms Helene Epstein: Strategic Spatial Planning Branch, Development Planning Department, Room 226, 2nd Floor City Engineers Building, 166 KE Masinga Road, Durban. For more information, the public can contact Helene Epstein or Siauree Dehal on 031 311 7159 or 031 311 7744 or email: Helene.Epstein@durban.gov.za or Siauree.Dehal@durban.gov.za respectively.

EThekwini Municipality calls on all service providers to ensure that their banking details are updated and correct on both the eThekwini Supplier Database and National Treasury’s Centralised Supplier Database (CSD).

The CSD came into effect in July 2017 and aims to create a national point of contact for all government business with regard to supply chain management.

Head of Supply Chain Management in the Municipality Andre Peterson said: “It has come to our attention that the banking details that eThekwini Municipality has on its historical database differ to some of the newest records accessed from the Central Supplier Database of National Treasury. The onus is on the supplier to ensure that their CSD records are correct.”

Peterson added that the previous banking details will be overwritten with those that have been verified by National Treasury.

“EThekwini Municipality’s database will be an exact replica to that of Treasury, as per legislation,” added Peterson.

Payments to suppliers will be done utilising the banking details on the CSD record.

Suppliers can send queries to the National Treasury helpdesk by emailing csd@treasury.gov.za or calling 012 406 9222. Suppliers that wish to enquire using the Provincial Treasury can email database@kzn treasury.gov.za or call 033 897 4516.

For queries regarding eThekwini’s e-Procurement system, suppliers may email eprocurement@durban.gov.za or call 031 322 7011.
PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON R1 BILLION LOAN TO FUND CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE CITY

A SPECIAL Full Council meeting held on 28 February approved a request to acquire a loan of R1 billion to fund capital projects in the City. The loan will be used to fund capital projects identified through the City’s Integrated Development Plan. These projects will include water, roads, electricity and sanitation infrastructure. Interested members of the public can inspect the loan agreement.

City Manager Sipho Nzuza has issued a public notice in this regard. Interested members of the local community may inspect the draft loan agreement at City Hall, Dr Pixley kalsa kaSeme (West) Street, Durban during office hours. Written comments or representations in writing may be submitted to the Municipal Manager, City Hall, Dr Pixley kalsa kaSeme (West) Street, Durban on or before 23 March 2018. If any person cannot write he/she may, during office hours, contact Ms Nomusa Kweyama on 031 311 1625, who will assist with the recording of the comments or representations. The information required in terms of section 46 (3) (a) (i) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (56 of 2003), is as follows:

(a) Particulars of the loan: The raising of the long term loan of R1.0 billion from Nedbank repayable in six monthly instalments over a period of fifteen years to finance capital expenditure projects at an indicative fixed interest rate of 10.11% NACS.

(b) Amount of loan: R 1.0 billion.

(c) Purpose of loan:

To finance capital expenditure as set out in the approved Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure framework.

(d) Security: Not applicable.

Speaking at the Full Council meeting, eThekwini Deputy Mayor Fawzia Peer said due diligence has been done to ensure the City can afford it and that the loan will not affect the financial standing of the Municipality. She said the loan was part of an approved budget and service delivery will not be hampered in any way.

IMPROVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GRANT-IN-AID FUNDING

THE CITY’S Community Participation and Action Support Unit was given the green light to call for applications and subsequently distribute Sundry Grant-In-Aid to beneficiaries. This follows recommendations taken at a Community Services Committee meeting held on 8 March. The meeting, held every month, is a platform where various programmes and projects being spearheaded by units within the committee are discussed.

The Municipality’s Grant-In-Aid programme provides support to civil society organisations, giving them resources that will allow them to carry out their duties and improve people’s lives, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. The Committee also approved that the Community Participation and Action Support Unit sets aside R500 000 to assist four Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) who have made ad-hoc applications for Grant-In-Aid. The Grant-In-Aid programme was established in 2003 and places emphasis on supporting organisations from poor communities focusing on young people, women, the elderly and people with special needs. The organisations are Child of Africa, Black Diamonds Social Welfare, Olive dumiso Organisation and the National Sea Rescue Institute. The Municipality has two types of grants under the Grant-in-Aid programme, namely sundry and ad-hoc grants.

For the sundry grants applications are invited from NPOs between May and June of each year. An advert is published before the application period starts, where the entire eThekwini community is informed of the dates, when and where application forms will be collected and returned. The focus here is on the following categories: Social Welfare, Early Childhood Development, Sporting, Culture and Recreation and Economic Development. Not all organisations that apply qualify for support as there is a selection criteria that is used.

Ad-hoc grants, unlike sundry grants are open to non-profit organisations and individuals. Individual applications to be considered are those whereby an individual is going to represent Durban in tournaments, competitions or other events elsewhere, thereby promoting the Municipality and putting Durban on the map.