



EMADLANGENI MUNICIPALITY

OVERSIGHT REPORT

2023/24

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) assigns specific oversight responsibilities to Council in regards to the Annual Report and the preparation of an Oversight Report.

Given the processes required by Council to effectively undertake its oversight role, the establishment of an Oversight Committee of Council would provide the appropriate mechanism in which Council could fulfil its oversight responsibilities.

The Oversight Committee's primary role will be to consider the Annual Report, receive input from the various role players and to prepare an Oversight Report for consideration by Council.

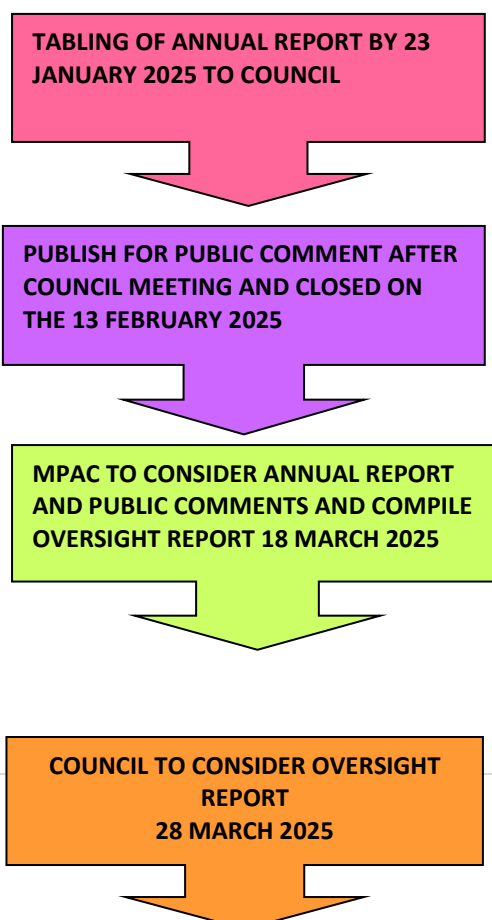
2. BACKGROUND

The oversight role of Council is an important component of the financial reforms and it is achieved through the separation of roles and responsibilities between Council, (Mayor and Executive Committee) and Administration. Good governance, effective accountability, and oversight can only be achieved if there is a clear distinction between the functions performed by the different role players.

Non-executive Councillors are required to maintain oversight on the performance of specific responsibilities and delegated powers that they have given to the Mayor/Executive Committee. In other words, in exchange for the powers in which Council have delegated to the Executive, Council retains a monitoring and oversight role ensuring that there is accountability for the performance or non-performance of the municipality.

The Municipal Finance Management Act, No.56 of 2003 (MFMA) vests in Council specific powers of approval and oversight.

- ✓ Approval of budgets;
- ✓ Approval of Budget related Policies; and
- ✓ Review of the Annual Report and adoption of the Oversight Report.



**COUNCIL ADOPTS
ANNUAL REPORT**

It is also important to highlight that a notice was given in terms of Section 21 of the Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000 read with Section 127(5) of the Municipal Finance Management Act that the Annual Report was open for comments and/or inputs by the community and stakeholders until the **13 February 2024**. The Annual report was available at all municipal offices, library and the municipal website www.emadlangeni.gov.za .

After the closing date for submission of comments and inputs on the annual report, the municipality did not receive any comments from the members of the public for consideration by the Management and Municipal Public Accounts Committee as an oversight body.

3. FUNCTIONS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The functions of the Oversight Committee are as follows:

- ✓ Undertake a review and analysis of the Annual Report.
- ✓ Invite, receive, and consider inputs from Councilors and Portfolio Committees, on the Annual Report.
- ✓ Consider written comments received on the Annual Report from the public consultation process.
- ✓ Conduct Public Hearing(s) to allow the local community or any organs of state to make representations on the Annual Report.
- ✓ Receive and consider Council's Audit Committee views and comments on the annual financial statements and the performance report.
- ✓ Preparation of the draft Oversight Report, taking into consideration, the views and inputs of the public, representative(s) of the Auditor-General, organs of state, Council's Audit Committee and Councilors.

4. COMPOSITION OF OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

4.1 MEMBERSHIP

The Oversight Committee is a committee of Council established under section 79 of the Municipal Structures Act, 1998. Section 79, allows for the co-option of advisory members to a Committee of Council, who are not members of the Council.

Due to the separation of roles and responsibilities, between Council, Mayor and Executive Committee) it is not appropriate that members of the Executive Committee be members of the Oversight Committee.

4.2 AUTHORITY & POWER

The Oversight Committee is delegated the responsibility to conduct meetings and to hold public hearings to receive and hear public submissions on the Annual Report, on behalf of Council.

Timely notice of all meetings should be given and all meetings held by the Oversight Committee must be open to the public and minutes of the meetings must be submitted to Council meetings.

4.3 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Draft Annual Report submitted to Council on the 23 January 2024 meeting, was referred to the Oversight Committee. The community was advised through the print media of the availability of the Annual Report and was invited to submit representations on the report.

The Annual Report was available at municipal library, eMadlangeni Local Municipality Main Office and Municipal website. The Draft Annual Report was submitted to the Auditor-General, Provincial Treasury and the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

At the closing date for public submissions of 13 February 2024, no submissions were received.

This Oversight Report is for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 and addresses 2023/24 Annual Report. The said Annual Report must at least address the following:

a) Introduction and Overview –

Overview of the Municipal Area

b) Human Resource and Organizational Management –

Municipal Services; and Political and Administration Structures

c) Performance Highlights and Challenges –

Service delivery highlights for the year under review and possible interventions to improve performance where challenges were encountered.

d) Financial Information –

Annual Financial Statements; Audit Committee Report; Report from the Auditor General; and Management Responses to the Audit Report.

6. ANNUAL REPORT CHECKLIST

| INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORTS | COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS AND QUESTIONS | RESPONSES/ COMMENTS |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Financial Matters – Annual Financial Statements - Section 121 (3) MFMA | Financial reporting matters to be considered | Yes |
| 121 (3)(a) The Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for the municipality and, if applicable, consolidated statements (with all entities) as submitted to the Auditor- General. | The AFS are to be in the form as required by the applicable accounting standards. MFMA Circular 18 with annexures, 23 June 2005, provides guidelines on the accounting standards for municipalities. <u>Have the required standards been met?</u> | Yes. Refer to Chapter 5: Financial Performance, page 147. |
| 121 (3)(a) 121 (4) 121 (4)(b) | The above applies also to the AFS of municipal entities. | Yes, however it is not applicable to eMadlangeni Local Municipality. There are no municipal entities. |

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|---|---|---|
| <p>121(3)(e) An assessment by the accounting officer on any arrears on municipal taxes and service charges, including municipal entities.</p> | <p>Has an adequate assessment been included? Is there sufficient explanation of the causes of the arrears and of actions to be taken to remedy the situation? Is any other action required to be taken?</p> | <p>Yes. Refer to page 12-13 of the 2023/24 Draft Annual Report.</p> |
| <p>121 (3)(g) Particulars of any corrective action taken or to be taken in response to issues raised in the audit reports.</p> | <p>The conclusions of the annual audit are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ an unqualified audit opinion with or without management issues, which means that the financial statements are acceptable; ✓ The objective of the municipality should be to achieve an unqualified audit opinion. ✓ Taking into account the audit report, audit opinion and the views of the audit committee, council considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does the report indicate serious or minor financial issues? • To what extent are the same issues repeated from previous audits? • Is the action proposed considered to be adequate to effectively address the issues raised in the audit report? • Has a schedule of action to be taken been included in the annual report, with appropriate due dates? | <p>Yes. Refer to Chapter 6: Auditor General (pages 1 of 7 of the Audit Action Plan) of the 2023/24 Draft Annual Report.</p> |

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| | <p>Note that actions taken on audit issues are to be reported to the provincial legislature, the MEC for Cooperative Government & Traditional Affairs to report on any omissions by municipalities in addressing issues. Council should confirm that the audit report has been forwarded to the MEC.</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>121 (3)(f) An assessment by the municipality's accounting officer of the municipality's performance against measurable performance objectives for revenue collection from each revenue source and for each vote in the approved budget.</p> | <p>The budget of the municipality must contain measurable performance objectives for revenue from each source and for each vote in the budget, taking into account the IDP (MFMA S17(3)(b)). The accounting officer must include these objectives in the annual report and report on performance accordingly.</p> <p>Has the performance met the expectations of council and the community?</p> <p>Have the objectives been met?</p> <p>What explanations have been provided for any non-achievement?</p> <p>What was the impact on the service delivery and expenditure objectives in the budget?</p> | <p>Yes.</p> <p>Refer to the Overall Organizational Performance Scorecard 2023/24 on page 83-109 of the Draft Annual Report</p> |

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| 121 (3) (i) (k) Any information as determined by the municipality, the entity or its parent municipality. | Review any other information that has been included in this regard to the AFS. | Not applicable. |
| 121 (3)(j) and 121 (4)(g) Recommendations of the audit committee in relation to the AFS and audit reports of the municipality and its entities. | Have the recommendations of the audit committee with regard to the AFS been adequately addressed by the municipality and/or the entity? What actions need to be taken in terms of these recommendations? Conclusions on these recommendations and the actions required should be incorporated in the oversight report. | Yes. Refer to page 42-43 of the 2023/24 Draft Annual Report where Performance Audit Committee convened a meeting to deliberate on the 2023/24 Annual Performance Report and Annual Financial Statement matters. |
| 2. Disclosures - Allocations received and made - Section 123-125 MFMA | Considerations | Refer to Chapter 5: Financial Performance page 51-53 of the Annual Financial Statements. |
| 123 (1)(a) Allocations received by and made to the municipality. | The report should disclose: ✓ Details of allocations received from another organ of state in the national or provincial sphere. ✓ Details of allocations received from a municipal, entity or another municipality. | Yes. Refer to chapter 5 page 60-63 of the 2023/24 Draft Annual Report (AFS). |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Details of allocations made to any other organ of state, another municipality, or a municipal entity. ✓ Any other allocation made to the municipality under Section 214(1) (c) of the Constitution. <p>Have these allocations been received and made? Does the audit report confirm the correctness of the allocations received in terms of DORA and provincial budgets? Does the audit report or the audit committee recommend any action?</p> | |
| <p>125 (1) Information in relation to outstanding debtors and creditors of the municipality and entities.</p> | <p>Municipalities and entities are reminded of the requirement to include, in their annual financial statements, amounts owed to them and persistently delayed beyond 30 days, by national or provincial departments and public entities.</p> <p>It is also a requirement to report on whether the municipality or entity has met its statutory commitments, including the payment of taxes, audit fees, and contributions for pension and medical aid funds.</p> <p>Council should be satisfied that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the information has been properly disclosed; ✓ conditions of allocations have been met; and ✓ that any explanations provided are acceptable. | <p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 5: Financial Performance (page 51-53 of the Annual Financial Statements) on the 2023/24 Draft Annual Report.</p> |
| <p>123 (1)(c)</p> | <p>Section 123 of the MFMA and MFMA guidance</p> | <p>Refer to Chapter 5: Financial</p> |

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| <p>Information in relation to the use of allocations received.</p> | <p>circular 11, require that the municipality provide information per allocation received per vote and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The current year and details of spending on all previous conditional grants, for the previous two financial years. Information is to be provided per vote. (For example, municipalities must report on all transfers received from provincial housing departments for housing subsidy grants for three financial years, and indicate how such funds were spent, and for what projects. ✓ Information stating whether the municipality has complied with the conditions of the grants, allocations in terms of section 214(1)(c) of the Constitution and allocations received from other than another organ of state. Where there is non-compliance, details of the reasons for non-compliance are to be provided. ✓ Information on whether allocations under the DORA were delayed or withheld and the reasons advanced for this. <p>This information is required on all allocations excluding the municipality's portion of the equitable share and where prescribed otherwise by the nature of the allocation.</p> | <p>Performance page 63-69 of the Annual Financial Statements in the 2023/24 Annual Report.</p> |

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| | <p>The Auditor-General will ensure that the audit process includes a proper assessment (and reconciliation) on all national grants received by a municipality. Council should consider this aspect of the audit report and comments by the audit committee on the use of allocations received.</p> <p>Council should be satisfied that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the information has been properly disclosed; ✓ conditions of allocations have been met; and ✓ that any explanations provided are acceptable. <p>The comments of the Auditor-General and the views of the audit committee should be used to determine the accuracy and appropriateness of this information.</p> | |
| 3. Disclosures in notes to AFS | Considerations relating to Section 124 | |
| Information relating to benefits paid by municipality and entity to Councillors, Directors and officials. | <p>Information on the following items is to be included in the notes to the annual report and AFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ salaries, allowances and benefits of political office bearers, Councillors and boards of directors, whether financial or in kind; | <p>Yes.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 5: Financial Performance (page 63-69 of the Annual Financial Statements) on the 2023/24 Draft Annual Report.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ any arrears owed by individual Councillors to the municipality or entity for rates and services, which at any time were outstanding for more than 90 days, including the names of Councillors; ✓ salaries allowances and benefits of the municipal manager, CEO of a municipal entity, CFO and every senior manager; ✓ contributions for pensions and medical aid; ✓ travel, motor car, accommodation, subsistence and other allowances; ✓ housing benefits and allowances; ✓ overtime payments; ✓ loans and advances, and; ✓ any other type of benefit or allowance related to staff. <p>Council should be satisfied that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the information has been properly disclosed; ✓ conditions of allocations have been met; and ✓ any explanations provided are acceptable. <p>The comments of the Auditor-General and the views of the Audit Committee should be used to determine the accuracy and appropriateness of this information.</p> | |
| 4. Municipal | Considerations | |

| INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORTS | COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS AND QUESTIONS | RESPONSES/ COMMENTS |
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| Performance | | |
| <p>The annual performance reports of the municipality and entities.</p> | <p>Section 46, MSA requires municipalities to submit a performance report reflecting the performance of the municipality and each service provider, a comparison of the performance with targets set for the previous year and measures taken to improve performance. The report must form part of the annual report. Questions that may be considered are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Has the performance report been included in the annual report? ✓ Have all the performance targets set in the budgets, SDBIP, service agreements etc, been included in the report? ✓ Does the performance evaluation in the annual report compare actual performance with targets expressed in the budgets and SDBIP approved for the financial year? <p>In terms of key functions or services, how has each performed? E.g. have backlogs for water, sanitation, and electricity been reduced? What are the refuse collection volumes, library usage statistics etc.?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To what extent has performance achieved targets set by council? ✓ Is the council satisfied with the performance levels achieved? ✓ Is the community satisfied with performance? Has a customer satisfaction | <p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 3: Service Delivery Performance, pages 110-118 of the 2023/24 Draft Annual Report.</p> |

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| | <p>survey been undertaken and, if so, how do the results align with the annual report contents? What were the outcomes of public consultation and public hearings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What actions have been taken and planned to improve performance? ✓ Is the council satisfied with actions to improve performance? ✓ Did the targets set in the budgets, SDBIP agree with the targets set in the performance contracts of the municipal manager and each senior manager? ✓ Does the report evaluate the efficiency of mechanisms applied to deliver the performance outcomes? ✓ Taking into account the audit report and opinion and the views of the audit committee, is performance considered to be efficient and effective? ✓ To what extent have actions planned for the previous year been carried over to the financial year reported upon? ✓ Have any actions planned in the reported year been carried over to the current or future years? If so are any explanations been provided by the municipal manager and are these satisfactory? <p>Council should comment and draw conclusions on information and explanations provided.</p> | |
| Audit reports on | Section 45, MSA requires that the Auditor- | Yes |

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| performance. | General must audit the results of performance measurements, as part of the internal auditing processes and annually. Have the recommendations of internal audit been acted on during the financial year? Have recommendations by internal audit and/or the auditor-general been included in action plans to improve performance in the following year? | Refer to Chapter 6: Auditor General, 2023/24 Action Plan. |
| Performance of municipal entities and municipal service providers. | <p>The annual report of the municipality should provide an assessment of the performance of the municipal entities and all contracted service providers. This is in addition to the separate annual reports of the entities.</p> <p>The report should evaluate the effectiveness of these services and whether alternative mechanisms should be considered.</p> <p>Is the council satisfied with the evaluation and conclusions of the municipality?</p> <p>What other actions are considered necessary to be taken by the accounting officer?</p> | <p>Yes.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 3: Service Delivery Performance, pages 110-118 (Table 10.3 Assessment of External Service Providers 2023/24 Financial Year) of the 2023/24 Annual Report.</p> |
| 5. General information | The following general information is required to be disclosed in the annual report. | |
| Relevant information on municipal entities. | The municipality should disclose all information relating to the municipal entities under the sole or effective control of the municipality. Information to be disclosed includes names and types of entities, members of the board, addresses, and contact details for entities, the purpose of the entity, the functions, and | Not applicable. There are no municipal entities. |

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| | services provided the type and term of service level agreements with the entities. | |
| The use of any donor funding support. | <p>What donor funding has the municipality received?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have the purposes and the management agreements for the funding been properly agreed upon? ✓ Have the funds been used in accordance with agreements? ✓ Have the objectives been achieved? ✓ Has the use of funds been effective in improving services to the community? ✓ What actions need to be taken to improve utilization of the funds? | Not Applicable. No donor funding was received. |
| Agreements, contracts and projects under Private-Public-Partnerships. | <p>Information similar to the details of municipal entities should be provided.</p> <p>Council should ensure that all details have been supplied.</p> | The municipality has a partnership with Uitkomst Colliery to build an Emergency Service Centre. |
| Service delivery performance on key services provided. | <p>This may be a high level summary, in addition to detailed information on performance, which sets out overall performance under the strategic objectives of the municipality. Overall results on the strategic functions and services should be summarized. This should cover all services whether provided by the municipality, entities or external mechanisms.</p> <p>Council may draw conclusions on the overall performance of the municipality.</p> <p>This information may be found in an executive</p> | Refer to Chapter 3: Service Delivery Performance, pages 40-77 of the 2022/23 Annual Report. |

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|---|--|---|
| | summary section of the annual report and or in statistical tables. | |
| Information on long-term contracts. | Details of all long-term contracts including levels of liability to the municipality should be included. Council should ensure all information is correctly supplied. | Not applicable |
| Information technology and systems purchases and the effectiveness of these systems in the delivery of services and for ensuring compliance with statutory obligations. | <p>Details of significant IT activities should be outlined indicating the effectiveness of the IT projects and the quality of IT services.</p> <p>Council should consider how effectively the IT services support and facilitate performance of the municipality and whether value for money has been obtained.</p> <p>Details of any future IT proposals should be summarized. Council should comment and draw conclusions on the information provided.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality utilizes SAGE for daily accounting transactions and PayDay for delivering Payroll and HR activities. • For protecting the ICT System against cyber-attacks, the Municipality uses SOPHOS for anti-virus and firewall. • For email protection the Municipality uses Perception Point security tool. • For printing purposes, the Municipality got into a contract with KONICA MINOLTA for the period of 36 Months ending April 2025. • For internet connectivity the Municipality uses Imvula Technologies. |
| Three year capital plan for addressing infrastructure backlogs in terms of the Municipal | <p>A summary of the long-term capital plans and how these address the backlogs of services in the municipality should be provided.</p> <p>This should include details of types and scale of</p> | Only the year under review appearing on the SDBIP the 3 year capital plans is under review by the municipality to be included in the 2025/26 IDP and 2024/25 Annual report. This is a |

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| Infrastructure Grant (MIG) framework. | <p>backlogs, projected cost implications, strategies to address the backlogs and plans proposed and/or approved. The summary here should cross reference to the performance reports in the annual report and also will be highlighted in the coming budgets.</p> <p>Council should consider whether the plans appropriately address the backlogs and are consistent with the strategic policy directions of council and needs of the community.</p> | finding from COGTA 2024/25 IDP assessment team. |
| 6. Other considerations recommended | | |
| Timing of reports. | <p>Was the report tabled in the time prescribed?</p> <p>Has a schedule for consideration of the report been adopted?</p> | Yes |
| Oversight committee or other mechanism. | <p>What mechanisms have been put in place to prepare the oversight report?</p> <p>Has a schedule for its completion and tabling been adopted?</p> | Yes. The schedule was adopted |
| Payment of performance bonuses to municipal officials. | Refer to Section 57 MSA as amended. Bonuses based on performance may be awarded to a municipal manager or a manager directly accountable to the municipal manager after the end of the financial year and only after an evaluation of performance and approval of such evaluation by the municipal council. Preferably such evaluation should be considered along with the annual report. The | Performance Bonuses were not paid to any Section 57 Managers due to the Municipal financial constraints. |

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| | <p>basis upon which performance is evaluated for payment of bonuses should be reconciled with the municipal performance reported in the annual report.</p> <p>Have bonuses been paid based on achievements of agreed outputs and after consideration of the annual report by council?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If so has a proper evaluation of performance been undertaken? ✓ Was the evaluation approved by council? ✓ Does the performance evaluation align and reconcile with the performance reported in the annual report? If not, what reasons have been given for non-reporting of the basis of evaluation in the annual report? ✓ Are the payments justified in terms of performance reported in the annual report? | |
| APR | Reported achievement not supported by sufficient appropriate evidence, not valid, accurate or complete. | Refer to Chapter 6: Auditor General, Action Plan on the 2023/24 Annual Report. |

7. CONCLUSION

EMandlangeni Local Municipality

EMadlangeni Local Municipality attained an Unqualified Audit Outcome in the 2023/24 Financial Year. The MPAC has had the pleasure of seeing first-hand the efforts being put in by the Municipal administrative officials led by the Municipal Manager to produce a document that talks to the work being done by the Municipality. Local Government provides a dynamic environment for both the political and administrative officials and our Municipality is fortunate to be enjoying a period which shows the balance being struck between providing service delivery and ensuring compliance is maintained at the same time. The hard work of the Municipal Manager and her dedicated management team is clearly evident and it deserves much appreciation. Also mention must be given to council, the executive committee and members of the MPAC for the oversight role they played which ensured good governance was maintained.

Having performed the following tasks:

- ✓ Reviewed and analysed of the Annual Report;
- ✓ Invited, received, and considered inputs from Councilors and Portfolio Committees, on the Annual Report;
- ✓ Considered that no written comments were received on the Annual Report from the public consultation process;
- ✓ Received and considered Council's Audit Committee views and comments on the annual financial statements and the performance report; and
- ✓ Prepared the Draft Oversight Report, taking into consideration, the views and inputs of the public, representatives of the Auditor-General, organs of state, Council's Audit Committee, Councilors and CoGTA;

The Oversight Committee has pleasure in presenting the Oversight Report to Council to consider one of the following resolutions and then to be forwarded to the relevant Departments and Provincial Legislature:

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council having fully considered the Draft Annual Report of the eMadlangeni Local Municipality for the 2023/24 Financial Year, adopts the Oversight Report for the 2023/24 Financial Year with the following reservations:

1. That the Oversight report for 2023/24 be adopted by Council.
2. That the Oversight Report be made public in accordance with Section 129(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003.
3. That the Oversight Report be submitted to the Provincial Legislature, National and Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in accordance with Section 132(2) of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003.