

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In terms Section 25 (1) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, each municipal council must, within a prescribed period after the start of its elected term, adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of the municipality which, inter alia, links, integrates and co-ordinates plans and takes into account proposals for the development of the municipality, align the resources and capacity of the municipality with the implementation of the plan. In order to ensure certain minimum quality standards of the Integrated Development Plan process and a proper co-ordination between and within the spheres of government, the preparation of the planning process have been regulated in the Municipal Systems Act. The Act further provides, inter alia, for the core principles, mechanisms and processes that are necessary to enable municipalities to move progressively towards the social and economic upliftment of local communities, to establish a simple and enabling framework for the core processes of planning, performance management, resource mobilization and organizational change. In terms of Section 26 of the Municipal Systems Act, the core components of an Integrated Development Plan are: