



Informal Settlement Solid Waste Management in the Draft City of Tshwane 2026/27 Budget

29 April 2026

1. Key Highlights and Concerns

The following are some notable positive developments relating to informal settlement solid waste management:

- We welcome the City's new allocation of R5 million for centralised collection point infrastructure in and around informal settlements.
- We are also pleased to see that the City's Metro Trading Services Reform Strategy – Performance Improvement Action Plan includes specific indicators in respect of the implementation of the City's Informal Settlements Waste Management Strategy.

Asivikelane is proud to be collaborating with the City on the implementation of this strategy and looks forward to strengthening collective efforts to entrench community-centred approaches to ensuring basic dignity and service delivery for the most vulnerable residents.

On the other hand, several developments may have a negative impact on waste management in informal settlements, including:

- While the move to increase internal capacity and reduce reliance on contractors is a welcome long-term principle, it is not clear if some of the the R55 million allocation for the acquisition of municipal trucks and a bin tracking and tagging system is earmarked to improve waste collection in informal settlements, or whether the reduction in contractors will negatively affect service delivery in the short to medium term.
- Related to this, the budgets for both solid waste contracted services and household have decreased significantly from the previous year's budget. It is unclear how these decreases will affect solid waste collection in informal settlements.
- It is not clear if the R14 million allocated for waste containers (more than double the previous year's allocation) includes provision for informal settlements.

2. Broader Budget Context

The City of Tshwane's draft budget was informed by several guiding principles, including:

1. Exploring alternative service delivery models with a focus on operational efficiency.

2. Reducing reliance on contracted services and create internal capacity within available resources.¹

The latter could have significant implications for informal settlements, particularly in relation to sanitation and waste management. However, we trust that, as this transition is implemented over the medium term, basic service delivery to those most in need will not be unduly compromised. We also recognise that strengthening internal capacity is, in the long run, the appropriate approach if the necessary capabilities are properly invested in, and therefore welcome the introduction of this principle.

3. Budget Allocations for Solid Waste Management

The Environmental and Agricultural Management Directorate houses the City’s Waste Management Unit. The Directorate’s operating budget includes allocations for household refuse removal and contracted services. In line with the City’s aim to reduce its dependency on contracted services, the budget for this item has decreased by 6% from the 2025/26 adjusted budget. The budget for household refuse has declined by an even greater margin—8% from 2025/26. It is unclear how these decreases will impact solid waste collection in informal settlements.

The budget indicates that R55 million in savings, resulting from reduced spending on contracted services, will be allocated to the acquisition of municipal trucks and bin tagging, but it is unclear if and how informal settlements will benefit from this investment.

Environmental and Agricultural Management: Operating Expenditure ²

	2024/25 Final budget	2025/26 Adjusted budget	2026/27 Draft budget
Household refuse	R567 million	R613 million	R566 million
Contracted service	R720 million	R660 million	R624 million

We welcome the new allocation of R5 million for centralised collection point infrastructure in informal settlements. The budget for the provision of waste containers has also almost doubled, from R7 million in 2025/26 to R14.6 million in the draft 2026/27 budget. These are positive developments. However, both projects are described as “Tshwane-wide”, and it is unclear whether informal settlements will benefit from these allocations.

4. Metro Trading Services Reform Strategy

National Treasury introduced trading services reforms to improve the performance of municipal trading services (electricity, water, sanitation and refuse removal) and increase investment in

¹ **Source:** City of Tshwane Draft 2026/27 MTREF, Annexure C (PDF p. 3). <https://www.tshwane.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/19.-Draft-2026-2027-MTREF-for-CoT-1.pdf>

² Source: City of Tshwane Draft 2026/27 MTREF (PDF p. 69). <https://www.tshwane.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/19.-Draft-2026-2027-MTREF-for-CoT-1.pdf>

Tshwane's Performance Improvement Action Plan (Annexure 3 of the draft budget) contains the following key indicators to be implemented over the coming years as part of the City's Informal Settlement Solid Waste Management Strategy:³

- 2026/27: Implement the Informal settlement waste strategy – community-based contracting and collection systems.
- 2026/27: Explore a cost-recovery mechanism for informal settlements.
- 2027/28: Household counts and total service needs assessments, cost of service assessments.
- 2028/29: Alternative waste containerisation and efficient collection mechanism.
- 2029/30: Waste billing and cost-recovery mechanism for informal settlements.
- 2030/31: Progressively extend waste collection service coverage to additional informal settlements.

³ **Source:** City of Tshwane Draft 2026/27 MTREF, Annexure 3 (PDF p. 1041). <https://www.tshwane.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/19.-Draft-2026-2027-MTREF-for-CoT-1.pdf>