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BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPALITY



DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

CREATING A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE SAFE AND
FEEL SAFE

SIRKULASIE		OPDRAG

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Mayor's Message

I am proud to present the Beaufort West Community Safety Plan 2024-2029 which identifies strategies to improve safety for all who live, work and visit our wonderful city.

The Beaufort West Municipality loves to share our place/s of national importance with visitors. We are committed to ensuring that all enjoy our town in safety.

Safety, and feelings of safety, have great impacts on our health, wellbeing and motivations to participate in community life.

The World Health Organization describes safety as an 'essential resource for everyday life, needed by individual and communities to realize their aspirations'¹. Safety is a fundamental human right and, along with shelter and food, it is considered a basic precondition for health.

Council understands that safety is reflected differently for particular groups in our community depending on age, gender, cultural background, abilities and past experiences. Council will work to ensure we consider everyone's wellbeing.

A Community Safety Plan is an important way of identifying those issues that matter to the Municipality of Beaufort West. It brings together the work of Council and key partners in coordinating and implementing actions and initiatives that will maintain and progress safety in the community. We all have a role to play. You can play your part by calling 10111 if you see someone who is clearly unwell or any kind of illegal behaviour.

Cllr JDK.Reynolds

Executive Mayor

1. World Health Organisation (1984). 'Health promotion: a discussion document on the concept and principles'.

Introduction

Crime & Safety is a top priority for Beaufort West municipality's residents and the Local Council for Beaufort West Municipality. This will be Beaufort West Municipality's first-ever Community Safety Plan (CSP).

The CSP is a five-year action plan focused on proactive actions to reduce risk, vulnerability and harm in our community. Through the engagement of local stakeholders, agencies and NGO's etc, the CSP reflects a shared vision and collective commitment to actions that will improve community safety and sense of safety.

Beaufort West Local Municipality (WC053) is located within the Central Karoo District in the Western Cape Province. The Central Karoo District comprises of three local municipalities, being Beaufort West, Laingsburg and Prince Albert Municipalities.

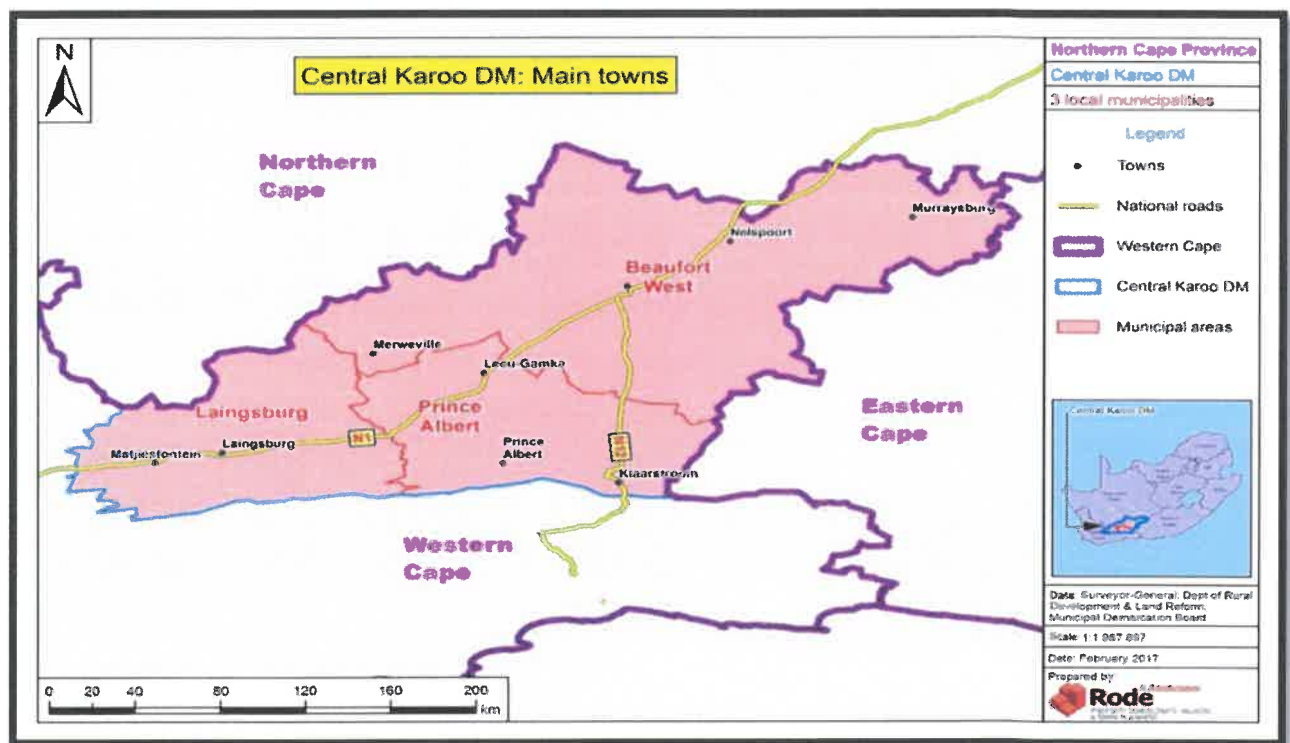


Figure 1.1: Locality of Beaufort West Municipality within Central Karoo District Municipality, Western Cape

The Municipality comprises 4 towns, namely Beaufort West, Murraysburg, Merweville and Nelspoort. The administrative head office of the Municipality is situated in Beaufort West, with a satellite office at each of the other towns, and estimated to had 51 582 citizens [Source: SEP-LG 2022 for Beaufort West Municipality] and 72 972 according to Census 2022.

The main service centre in the Municipality is Beaufort West.

Beaufort West is the economic, political and administrative heart of the Central Karoo. Located 32°21'S 22°35'E, about 460 km North East of Cape Town, the town was founded on the farm Hooyvlakte in 1818. The municipal area covers 16 330.10 km² and is structured into 7 Wards.

People of the Beaufort West Municipal Area

The Municipality is located 32°21'S 22°35'E, about 460 km North East of Cape Town. The Municipality spans an area of approximately 16 330 km², and according to the Stats SA 2016 Community Survey, is home to some 51 080 people, which has increased to 72 972 citizens according to Census 2022. **[Source: SEP-LG 2023 for Beaufort West Municipality]**.

The Municipality consists of a diverse society that faces various social, economic, environmental and governance challenges.

Population Distribution Profile – Census 2022

Population group	Total
Black African	11447
Coloured	56455
Indian or Asian	274
White	3612
Other	1021
Unspecified	163
Total	72972

It is noteworthy to mention that the SEP-LG 2023 for Beaufort West Municipality indicates that, Beaufort West municipal area has an estimated population of 72 972 as per the latest Census 2022 data. The municipal area is estimated to have relative population growth rate grew at rate of 3.7 per cent per annum) between 2011 49 586 and 2022 and is forecast to grow by an average annual rate of 0.5 per cent between 2022 and 2027 below the district forecasted growth of 0.7 per cent. Notably, household numbers have also shown an upward trend when compared to the figures recorded in 2011. Despite the growth in population and households it is noteworthy that the household size has remained consistent at 3.8 between the Census figures of 2011 and 2022. This implies that while there is an increase in the number of households, the average size of each household has not undergone significant changes over this period.

The municipality's average household size has decreased by 0.5 in 2016 from 3.9 in 2001. This may have been caused by people moving out of the municipality for work and study opportunities or mortality.

The data indicates that the average household size has decreased from 4.1 in Census 2001 to 3.4 in CS 2016, which indicates that the number of persons living in households within the municipality have decreased over time. The decrease in average household size could be related to migration out of the municipality, a decrease in fertility or an increase in mortality. All these have an impact on municipal services with regards to how households consume electricity, the need for more housing et.al

Population by Gender

The female population over time has consistently been greater than that of the male population. The sex ratio indicates the number of males to every 100 females within the municipality has only increased in 2011 but declined back to its 2001 figure in 2016. Within 2001, 2011 and 2016, those aged 0-4, 5-9 and 15-19 have consistently had a higher male to female ratio. In 2016 however there was also subsequently an increase in the male to female ratio of persons aged 20-24 and 45-49.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics [2011 vs 2022 Census]

The population structure reveals a notable improvement in the dependency ratio, which stands at 52.0 per cent in 2022. This marks a positive shift from the 2011 dependency ratio of 59.6 per cent. The improvement in the dependency ratio is attributed to the growth observed in the working age cohort, working age population (increased by 3.2 percentage points) coupled with a decline in the children population however, the aged segments increased by 0.6 percentage points between 2011 and 2022. This demographic trend signifies a positive trajectory in terms of the municipality's evolving age distribution, signalling a potential boost in the productivity and economic contributions of the working age population.

Understanding of the racial demographics is vital for formulating targeted policies, fostering social cohesion, and addressing disparities, ensuring a more equitable and inclusive economic development trajectory in the region. The racial split within the Beaufort West municipal area echoes that the population is predominately coloured the coloured racial group accounted for 77.5 per cent of the population, this is followed by the Black Africans accounting for 15.7 per cent, white racial group at 5.6 per cent, while Indians and Asians represent 0.4 per cent of the population.

Population by Gender and Age [Census 2022]

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0 – 4	3123	3024	6146
5 – 9	3357	3362	6719
10 – 14	3758	3606	7363
15 – 19	3351	3455	6807
20 – 24	2989	3216	6205
25 – 29	2651	2794	5444
30 – 34	2748	2895	5642
35 – 39	2599	2806	5405
40 – 44	2259	2459	4718
45 – 49	1820	2069	3889
50 – 54	1769	2079	3848
55 – 59	1476	1827	3303
60 – 64	1210	1547	2757
65 – 69	804	1205	2009
70 – 74	492	757	1249
75 – 79	254	494	748
80 – 84	138	293	431
85+	54	232	286

Beaufort West Municipality's population has seen a population growth rate of approximately 0.59% per annum between census 2011 and 2016.

The greatest percentage of the population remains in the lower income categories while a small percentage of the population earns higher incomes, thus showing a great disparity of wealth and dependence on social grants within the municipal area. Based on the Community Survey 2016, the municipality has ensured that over 90% of households have access to basic services in the four main areas of service delivery.

It is important that the decision-makers of the Municipality have an understanding of residents' perceptions of their living conditions, their satisfaction with municipal services, with their neighborhoods, and how satisfied they are with the quality of their own lives. In order to reach this understanding, the Municipality should conduct annual Municipal Services and Living Conditions Surveys, that is synchronized with the five year cycle of the IDP so that any methodological changes

are introduced at the beginning of the IDP cycle, indicating a 5 point scale, being very satisfied, satisfied, slightly satisfied, dissatisfied and very dissatisfied. The purpose of the survey should be to establish residents' satisfaction or dissatisfaction with municipal services. The main reasons for being satisfied may be that services were provided, they were reliable and residents generally did not have complaints. When problems with services arise, they could be promptly attended to. Reasons for being dissatisfied with services may include there being no services, infrastructure was not developed, and where there were services, these were not reliable and were not being maintained.

The key issues listed for each sector above would inform and guide the strategic direction that the Municipality should take in addressing the challenges that are faced by its communities.

Community safety is a priority

Community safety is not just about recorded crime, it is also about how safe people feel in our town. Feeling safe is key to positive health and wellbeing.

REALISING A VISION FOR THE WESTERN CAPE

The PSP clearly highlight that the WCG commits to building a values-based competent state that enables opportunity and promotes responsibility in a safer Western Cape by declaring the following:

- 🏛️ We will live and be held accountable to our values as a government and we will continue to build the capable state on this foundation.
- 🏛️ We will continue delivering opportunities to our people and we will expect them to take responsibility for improving their own lives.
- 🏛️ We will make this Province safer under the Rule of Law.

This vision is expressed in the five strategic priorities identified for 2019-2024, our Vision-inspired Priorities.



The Priority areas of the PSP is discussed below:

The Western Cape is a place where residents and visitors feel safe.

Safe and Cohesive Communities

The high levels of violent crime experienced by most communities in the Western Cape constitute one of our most serious and complex challenges. Lack of safety affects all other aspects of our lives, such as growing the economy, creating jobs, enjoying public spaces, attending school and recreational activities, and accessing government services.

As a result, enabling safe and cohesive communities is the overarching theme that guides interventions across all of our strategic priorities, and every provincial department is responsible for contributing to this through its Safety Priorities. Similarly, municipalities will support this VIP through their functions of law enforcement and town planning.

What we envisage is that, with effective policing and law enforcement and improved partnerships between all spheres of government, business, civil society, and communities, the rule of law will prevail. With social and infrastructure programmes that address the root causes of violence and crime, our communal spaces will be safer and more people-centered.

Growth and Jobs

An enabling environment for the private sector and markets to drive growth and create jobs.

We envisage that, through driving competitiveness in the Province, the Western Cape becomes an investment destination of choice due to a skilled labour force, excellent infrastructure, and improved productivity. It is well-connected to Africa and the world, with increasing exports and tourist visits growing the provincial economy. All of this will be done while promoting economic growth that is inclusive and

Residents of the Western Cape have opportunities to shape their lives and the lives of others, to ensure a meaningful and dignified life

resource resilient.

Empowering People

We envisage that, through a life-course approach, residents are empowered to access and seize the opportunities available to them. Families are strengthened and parents play an important role in the improved development and wellness of their children. Our youth have developed the hard and soft skills, knowledge, and social capital they need to thrive in the 21st-century world of work. People have access to excellent health services that meet the health demands of a growing population, and people take good decisions for their individual and collective wellbeing.

Residents live in well-connected, vibrant, and sustainable communities and move around efficiently on safe, affordable, low-carbon public transport.

Mobility and Spatial Transformation

We envisage that more people use safe, reliable, affordable, and low-carbon public transport. With more mixed-use, mixed-income neighbourhoods and sustainable densification of economic centres, the average time, cost, and distance of commuting is reduced. Through leveraging provincial and municipal investments in infrastructure, human settlements, spaces, and services, we can heal, connect, integrate, and transform our communities while reducing the vulnerability to climate change. This will make neighbourhoods safe places of equal opportunity, dignity and belonging.

Innovation and Culture

Government services are delivered to the people of the Western Cape in an accessible, innovative, and citizen-centric way.

We envisage that the people of the Western Cape will experience government services that respond to their needs and add value to their lives. As a leader in innovation and an organization that is continuously learning and improving, we envision the WCG as an employer of choice for people who want to partner across government and society to make a difference.

Influencing perceptions of safety

The Beaufort West Municipality is committed to address neighbourhood factors that influence perceptions of safety. People who perceive their neighbourhood has high levels of disorder are inclined to be 'more anxious about crime, fearful and mistrustful of their neighbours'.

Our priority areas for the Beaufort West Municipality's safety

The Community Safety Plan sets out the Beaufort West Municipality's contribution to making our community a safe and resilient place to live, visit, work and study. It describes our commitment to safety and our areas of focus for the next five years.

The South African Government is responsible for law and order, public housing and health.

The plan sets out three priority areas for action:

Safer places, streets and activity centres

- 🏠 Working with partners to increase actual and perceived public safety in our streets and spaces as well as management of lighting, parks, footpaths and waste management.
- 🏠 Implement design principles to balance the liveability of an area by using appropriate. plantings of shrubs and trees and attractive lighting to encourage place users.
- 🏠 Working with partners to improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety.

Crime prevention and harm minimization

- 🏠 Contributing to reducing local crime by supporting initiatives that address domestic and family violence, sexual assault and safeguarding

- 👤 children from abuse including online abuse and cyberbullying.
- 👤 Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur, e.g. advice about scams, property safety and fraud.
- 👤 Working with police and emergency services where crimes are observed taking place in public spaces.

A welcoming, inclusive and resilient community

- 👤 Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety
- 👤 Working together to better prepare for and respond to emergencies that may arise, and strengthening community resilience.
- 👤 Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in the Beaufort West Municipal area.
- 👤 Working together to increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.

Contributing to the Beaufort West's Council's Integrated Development Plan 2022-2027

Public safety influences many different aspects of our town's quality of life and sustainability for its growing population of residents, workers and visitors. Consequently, the areas for action in this plan contribute broadly to Council's overarching vision for Beaufort West set out in our Council's Integrated Development Plan 2022-2027.

Council, in adopting the Integrated Development Plan 2022– 2027, committed to the delivery of actions across five strategic directions, reflected in Council's Mission Statement, among others. Relevant to the Community Safety Plan are:

To reflect the will of the South African people as reflected in the Constitution and by Parliament:	
Service Delivery:	To provide excellent services to the residents of Beaufort West Municipality
Growing the economy:	To implement infrastructure to grow the economy and create jobs;
Sport centre:	To become the sport and recreational mecca of the Karoo, creating harmony and unity
Safe place:	To create a crime-free, safe and healthy environment
Reduce Poverty:	To reduce poverty and promote the empowerment of women, youth and people living with disabilities

Direction 1 – Service Delivery: [To provide excellent services to the residents of Beaufort West Municipality] - **Outcomes by 2027 include:**

- 🏡 A Town of diverse and distinctive neighbourhoods and places

Direction 2 – Growing the economy: [To implement infrastructure to grow the economy and create jobs] - **Outcomes by 2027 include:**

- 🏡 A Town of dynamic and distinctive retail precincts
- 🏡 A prosperous Town that connects and grows business
- 🏡 A Town where arts, culture and creative expression is part of everyday life

Direction 3 – Sport Centre: [To become the sport and recreational mecca of the Karoo, creating harmony and unity] - **Outcomes by 2027 include:**

- 🏡 A safe and active community with strong social connections.
- 🏡 Community diversity is valued and celebrated.

Direction 4 – Safe place: [To create a crime-free, safe and healthy environment] - **Outcomes by 2027 include:**

- 🏡 Access to services that support the safety, health and wellbeing of our growing community.

Direction 5 – Reduce Poverty: [To reduce poverty and promote the empowerment of women, youth and people living with disabilities] - **Outcomes by 2027 include:**



Our role and approach to community safety

While the South African Government is responsible for law and order, public housing, health, including mental health treatment services and public transport, we can contribute to the safety of the community in a number of ways led by a set of key principles that guide how we work. The following describes Beaufort West's operating principles for community safety:

1. Safety is central to our approach

Safety is fundamental to how we approach our work and how we deliver our services. Under the Central Karoo District Safety Plan, the Beaufort West can influence some of the drivers of crime and public safety issues in the town/municipal area through:

- using our planning controls to specify the design quality and safety of new buildings and infrastructure, and regulate their usage (for example, licensed premises)
- directly managing the public domain, including waste, street lighting, public events, public art and community recreational spaces
- using our regulatory functions to promote safety, including outdoor alcohol restrictions and our animals policy
- maintaining a high standard of governance to ensure policy and procedures contribute to a safe organization and community.

2. We work together for collective impact

No one organization can solve complex safety issues in isolation. The Beaufort West Municipality works with a range of partners – including community members, government agencies, non-government organizations, and businesses – to identify agreed solutions and share resources to respond to priority issues.

Community feedback plays or will play a key part in developing our priorities. Our residents, visitors and businesses are essential partners in making our community safer. We recognize the valuable skills, experience and knowledge they hold and create the conditions for them to collaborate and contribute to decision making.

3. We will co-design solutions with community members

Where possible, we seek or will seek to co-produce our programs with community members. Co-production means delivering programs through an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours. This involves both designing and delivering initiatives with those who are

likely to be impacted the most by the changes implemented. Where activities are co-produced in this way, both services and neighbourhoods can become far more effective agents of change.

Some of the ways we can do this are through our involvement in community-led working groups and safety audits.

4. We take a proactive and informed approach

Changes in infrastructure and technologies; shifts in patterns of behaviour; and broader social, economic and environmental factors can impact community safety and patterns of crime. To keep informed, we will work closely with our partners and draw on available evidence to identify and understand emerging risks to community safety and, where possible, put pre-emptive measures in place to mitigate risks.

We recognise the need for flexibility and will adjust our areas of focus and activities in the plan as required to reflect local, regional and even global changes that affect our environment over the next five years.

The role of South African Government

The South African Government creates and maintains legislation that provides an overall system and framework for laws that govern appropriate conduct and behavior for a well-regulated and fair society. The South African Government oversees and is responsible for:

- ✿ funding the legal system which upholds the law
- ✿ national security, including through counter-terrorism activities
- ✿ national crimes that include money laundering, human trafficking, cyber-crime and drug trafficking
- ✿ co-ordinating and funding national emergency management programs;
- ✿ the South African Police Services
- ✿ supporting community safety at the local level by funding local crime prevention and security infrastructure programs.

The role of Western Cape Government

The Western Cape Government develops laws and supporting guidelines and engages in a range of other activities and functions that impact on safety and security, including:

- ✿ funding and supporting the Western Cape legal system including prisons, youth justice and rehabilitation centres

- 🏠 responsibility for Western Cape Police who respond to crime such as traffic offences, theft, online abuse, assault, property damage, family violence and antisocial behavior
- 🏠 supporting communities through delivering a wide range of health, wellbeing and safety programs and funding emergency and social housing
- 🏠 leading on issues that affect safety such as family violence and overseeing the control of alcohol and gambling
- 🏠 Funding of the provision of mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment and support services

The role of Local Government/Council

Council, as the local level of government, has a critical role in ensuring safety, peace and order in its municipal jurisdiction through many functions, services and activities including:

- 🏠 creating and enforcing local laws including those that regulate animal management, parking, and planning for new developments. Council also has responsibility to enforce building controls.
- 🏠 providing and maintaining public places for community that are safe and support community development, sporting, leisure, social and business activities
- 🏠 supporting safe travel and transport through planning, road and footpath design and maintenance; bicycle paths and walking tracks; contributing to local road safety programs; working with public transport providers; and ensuring adequate levels of street lighting
- 🏠 delivering a range of community services for family, children and youth services, older people and people with a disability and working to build social cohesion and harmony.
- 🏠 supporting programs and community approaches to crime prevention.
- 🏠 providing safety information and raising awareness on safety issues including through libraries, online, community groups and community programs.
- 🏠 forming partnerships with strategic stakeholders and/or community to improve safety.

The role of partners

Partnerships are key to achieving community safety. A number of other key agencies and stakeholders that work towards community safety and/or with mandated responsibilities include:

- 🏠 Beaufort West Police is the key agency for law enforcement
- 🏠 The Department of Education plays a strong role in maintaining connections to school and providing support services for young people who may be at risk.
- 🏠 The Department of Justice
- 🏠 The Department of Health
- 🏠 Other key partners include Ambulance and Fire Brigade

The role of the community

The community is fundamental to the successful implementation of community safety initiatives and are key to achieving community safety. Council, the government and other agencies work in partnership with the community through avenues such as:

- 🏠 Working with neighbourhood groups/watches on community safety audits and other initiatives
- 🏠 Working with traders, traders associations and businesses around the economic impacts of community safety
- 🏠 assist in the education of licensed premises in our town around things such as Responsible Service of Alcohol.

Beaufort West Municipal Council recognises that young people are citizens that will become adults of our community.

Priority Area 1: Safer places, streets and activity centres

Safe streets and spaces are clean, active, inviting, well designed and cared for, and welcoming for everyone. The positive *'look and feel'* of our streets and spaces can contribute to reducing crime and increase feelings of safety. A priority of the Beaufort West Municipal Council will be to ensure our streets, network of walking paths and cycleways, entertainment precincts, parks and outdoor spaces provide a vibrant, safe and welcoming environment that can be enjoyed by all both day and night.

Increasing actual and perceived public safety

Perceptions of safety often come from how people feel about an area or place. These fears can impact people's quality of life and the social and economic wellbeing of communities.

Perceptions can be influenced by environmental and design factors such as poor lighting; lack of clear sight lines; damaged property or rubbish; an absence of other people; or a lack of seating or recreational spaces. They can also be influenced by

social factors including the behaviour of other people – for example, alcohol or drug consumption in public places, dogs off-leash, or unsafe road and cycling behaviour.

Making changes to the environment through designing, activating and managing the town's streets and public places can reduce fear of crime and opportunities for actual crime to occur.

Safe streets and welcoming public spaces

Council is responsible for our streets and public spaces. One of our key responsibilities will be to ensure our local areas are designed and planned to minimize the potential for crime to occur.

Design techniques to improve safety include implementing ample lighting, clear sight lines, space activation and the use of physical barriers to control access. The Local Integrated Transport Plan [LITP] is Council's plan to ensure our Town's transport network, streets and places cater for our growing community and that our community is healthier because it has safe, connected and convenient active transport choices.

Council is committed to improving safety of all road users on the transport network with the aim to eliminate fatalities and reduce the risk and severity of injuries on our roads, allowing people of all ages and abilities to travel on our road network safely and with confidence.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

If people are using the public domain confidently, safely and into the evening this is an effective component of a safe public domain. The domain can also be designed to discourage criminal activity by ensuring there is more chance for offenders to be seen, challenged or caught; reducing opportunities for criminal activity; and creating the impression that more effort is required to commit a crime, with limited rewards. This approach is referred to as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, CPTED. Aspects such as poor lighting, amenity, visibility and wayfinding, and limited natural surveillance and patronage, may present greater opportunities for crimes to occur.

CPTED provides strategies for urban designers and planners to contribute to local crime prevention and increase perceptions of safety.

Managing and maintaining our streets and spaces

A cared-for environment can also give the impression that greater effort is required to commit a crime, with heightened risks of being seen or caught. The ongoing process of maintaining, cleansing and removing waste from our streets and spaces contributes to

enhancing actual and perceived safety for members of the public.

Our work includes upgrading our infrastructure such as cycleways, footpaths, parks and signage. We also have a focus on improving and maintaining a high standard of lighting [The Electrical Master Plan and implementation Plan is currently under Review].

As part of managing our streets and spaces, Council will aims to ensure that pets and people live together harmoniously. Our policy for animals balances the rights of animals and their owners with the needs of the wider community and environment, and encourages responsible animal ownership.

Outdoor alcohol restrictions

Alcohol restrictions in public places can help prevent alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, including offensive behaviour, littering and excessive noise, and help mitigate crimes such as malicious damage and acts of violence. They assist Beaufort West Municipality's Police existing powers to intervene early by confiscating alcohol within designated areas. The Beaufort West Municipality will considers outdoor alcohol restrictions in certain areas at regular intervals by analysing applications, submissions and current crime statistics.

Safer places, streets and activity centres

Increase actual and perceived public safety in streets and spaces to ensure they are well-lit and attractive

- 👤 Continue to deliver high-quality cleansing and waste services to the community
- 👤 Continue to use CPTED principles in the design of the public domain
- 👤 Activate spaces in the public domain through events and programs to enhance safety
- 👤 Promote responsible pet management and safety in the public domain
- 👤 Work with partners to minimise safety impacts arising from street sexwork

Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour

- 👤 Manage outdoor alcohol restriction compliance
- 👤 Create a positive social and physical environment around licensed premises and events to attract patrons and help people to feel and be safe
- 👤 Support initiatives to deliver safety interventions for people in the Municipal area who are intoxicated at night.

Improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety

- 👤 Partner and work with government stakeholders to improve road and pedestrian safety through behaviour change and education.

PRIORITY AREA 2: CRIME PREVENTION AND HARM MINIMISATION

Crime prevention refers to the range of strategies that are implemented by individuals, communities, businesses, non-government organizations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimization.

The social approach to crime prevention focuses on addressing the underlying social and economic causes of crime in the community (such as a lack of social cohesion, and limited access to affordable and secure housing, employment, education and health services) and the motivations for people to commit offences.

The environmental approach to crime prevention aims to modify the physical environment to reduce opportunities for crimes to occur. This includes situational crime prevention techniques and broader urban planning initiatives. This approach is referred to as '*crime prevention through environmental design*' (CPTED), and is discussed under *Safer places, streets and activity centres*.

Our focus areas will be determined by an analysis of crime problems affecting our local area.

To inform our work and respond to changing patterns of crime, we will:

- 👤 identify crime hotspots in the local area and continually monitor crime trends
- 👤 regularly consult with stakeholders, such as the Beaufort West Police, community members, businesses and other levels of government
- 👤 conduct surveys with residents, businesses and visitors on their perceptions of safety and get insights from members of the public on an ongoing basis through our customer service channels.

We can also direct people impacted by crimes – including bystanders, victims and survivors of crime – to relevant information and support services.

Reducing opportunities for crime to occur

Certain types of crime are often opportunistic. Situational crime prevention aims to change contextual factors to reduce opportunities for offenders to engage in criminal behaviour. An example would be locking windows and doors when leaving your home or not leaving valuables in plain sight in an unattended vehicle to reduce the risk of burglary or theft.

The Beaufort West Municipality operates in close proximity to our businesses, visitors and residents. This level of community engagement positions us well to support local preventive activities that reduce the opportunities for crime to occur, such as raising awareness, providing information and building skills and knowledge.

An example of collaborative work with the community is the neighbourhood watches we have to identify and reduce crime and safety risks in local neighbourhoods.

Safety Audits

The Beaufort West Municipality – in partnership with the local community and Beaufort West Police, Council will undertake a safety audit of all the areas.

This will involve a collaborative approach, using CPTED principles to:

- 🏠 identify possible safety concerns and community perceptions of safety.
- 🏠 make recommendations to appropriate agencies to respond to safety concerns such as maintenance issues, lighting etc.
- 🏠 enable the community to monitor the implementation of recommendations.

“Well-planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimization, but also promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of countries. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long-term benefits in terms of reducing the costs associated with the justice system, as well as other social costs that result from crime.” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Protection against cybercrime

As technologies and online behaviors rapidly evolve, so do the risks of crime that can be associated with digital technologies for organizations, businesses and members of the public.

Fraud is an ongoing problem and is constantly changing as new technologies and payment options are introduced. The Beaufort West Municipality will work with Police

and others to reduce these risks for residents and businesses.

Cybercrime is defined as a crime in which a computer is the object of the crime (for example, hacking, phishing and spamming) or is used as a tool to commit an offence electronically (for example, theft, fraud, distribution of child pornography, online abuse and hate crimes).

The provision of access to free public Wi-Fi and digital facilities at our libraries and community centres/Thusong Centres provides an opportunity to promote awareness of safer internet use for residents, workers and visitors, including reducing the risks of identity fraud, scams, exploitation, and online abuse of children and young people.

For our organization, we have protections in place to safeguard our digital infrastructure and the data we hold that has been provided to us by the public and local organizations, and we continue to assess risks and upgrade protections on a regular basis.

Contributing to reducing domestic and family violence, and sexual assault

Anyone can experience domestic and family violence, and sexual assault, regardless of their age, gender, sexuality or cultural background. However, it is widely recognized that women are disproportionately affected by these forms of violent crime. These crimes have complex underlying social factors that require a whole of community approach to reducing the prevalence and impact of these crimes.

Reducing harm from alcohol

Although major alcohol control policies are the responsibility of the government, council can reduce residents' risk of harm from alcohol by:

- 🏠 strategic plans and policies that explicitly aim to reduce alcohol-related harm
- 🏠 designing environments that reduce alcohol-related harm
- 🏠 implementing strategic approaches that change alcohol cultures by changing social norms, attitudes and beliefs about alcohol consumption and intoxication
- 🏠 building local partnerships that reduce alcohol-related harm.

Reducing harm from drugs

Illicit drug use has both short-term and long-term health effects, which may include poisoning, mental illness, self-harm, suicide and death. The social impacts of illicit drug use include stressed family relationships, family breakdown, domestic

violence, child abuse, assaults and crime.

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas that can be used to reduce negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm reduction may incorporate a spectrum of strategies from safer use, to managed use to abstinence addressing the conditions of use along with the use itself.

The following principles are central to harm reduction practice:

- 🏠 Drug use is a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe abuse to total abstinence, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others.
- 🏠 The quality of individual and community life and well-being—not necessarily cessation of all drug use—is the criteria for successful interventions and policies.
- 🏠 Non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing harms.
- 🏠 Drug users and those with a history of drug use routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.
- 🏠 Drug users themselves are the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use, and seeks to empower users to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use.
- 🏠 Recognises that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination and other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm.

Contributing to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses

Incidents continue to occur in wide-ranging contemporary institutional and community settings, including through online platforms. Child sexual abuse is still significantly under-reported to police and typically involves delayed disclosure and reporting. Crime data reflects only a small proportion of incidents.

The following information outlines the key actions the Beaufort West Municipality will undertake over the next three to five years to contribute to crime prevention and harm minimization.

Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur

- 🏠 Facilitate capacity building of businesses and the community to prevent crime
- 🏠 Conduct safety audits with Beaufort West Police, businesses and residents to reduce the risk and impact of crime
- 🏠 Track crime trends and community perceptions of crime and safety to identify priorities and emerging risks

Contribute to reducing domestic and family violence, and sexual assault

- 🏠 Increase collaboration across agencies to reduce domestic and family violence
- 🏠 Partner with the Beaufort West Police and other agencies to encourage bystanders to support victims and increase reporting of domestic and family violence
- 🏠 Support prevention strategies to reduce violence against women
- 🏠 Partner with government and non-government agencies to provide information and support for victims of sexual assault and harassment

Contribute to preventing child abuse and supporting effective responses

- 🏠 Support local child-related businesses and organizations to be child-safe
- 🏠 Support community initiatives to prevent child abuse including online abuse

Reduce harm from drugs and alcohol

- 🏠 Provide support for targeted harm minimization initiatives in the Beaufort West Municipal area
- 🏠 Increase community awareness of where to get help and support with drug and alcohol issues

PRIORITY AREA 3: A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Creating culturally safe and welcoming spaces

An important aspect of feeling safe is for people to feel welcome and respected for who they are. To create and champion safe and welcoming spaces for all, we use/will use inclusive language, signage and cultural symbols in Council facilities,

venues and parks. This includes recognized symbols such as flags, artwork, multilingual resources and place names. Symbols of recognition can contribute to people feeling safer. Council partners with our community to create welcoming and inclusive spaces.

Ready and resilient

A resilient town is prepared and connected. It has networks primed and ready to act together in an emergency or in response to chronic issues. The systems and infrastructure that support how it functions are diversified to enable essential businesses and institutions to keep running during shock emergency events. Strong connections between organizations, governments and communities help them to recover from shocks and to deal with longer-term stresses together.

People participate in decision-making and are agents of change, contributing to shared solutions.

Sudden shocks that cause short-term, acute disruptions include emergencies such as extreme weather events (heatwaves and storms), water supply issues, infrastructure failures (for example, power outages or building collapses), digital network failures, terror attacks, cyber attacks and disease pandemics.

Examples of stresses that can weaken the fabric of a town over the longer term include high unemployment, a lack of affordable and secure housing, increasing rates of chronic disease, diminishing social cohesion, drug and alcohol abuse, high crime rates, and increased inequality across communities.

With strong connections and a commitment to sharing knowledge and creating opportunities for diverse perspectives, we can better prevent or mitigate such stresses and shocks, adapt to situations, and rapidly recover and thrive after disruptions.

Ensuring Beaufort West Municipality knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies

In resilient towns, communities are aware and prepared. They know how they can prepare and equip themselves in the event of a major shock, both as individuals and as members of their local neighbourhoods and communities.

Certain emergencies in the town require a significant coordinated response from emergency services and other government agencies, such as those responsible for health and transport. To manage a coordinated response, emergency service agencies in the local area work with us to

develop our local emergency management plan, which describes the local arrangements to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. As part of

this, we must also have ancillary plans to address differing contexts. This includes plans for vulnerable communities – for example, people sleeping rough who are at risk from the adverse effects of extreme weather events.

Owners and operators have the primary responsibility for protecting their sites, including a duty of care to take steps to protect people that work, use or visit their site. By working together to implement this plan, owners and operators are in a better position to protect crowded places.

Building resilient and connected communities to increase safety

A strong community has the capacity to cope with change or challenges. It fosters connections between people which helps to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. A sense of belonging, social cohesion and purpose in life are the foundations that support a safe community. Individuals and families connected to others and to the broader community, young people involved in activities and education, neighbours knowing and supporting one another, and people having meaningful activities and purpose in life are all factors that help to create a safer community and help people to feel safe within their community. These factors contribute to personal attitudes and social capital essential for safety: respectful relationships, pride of place, caring for others, tolerance, inclusiveness and understanding, and a lack of discrimination

Appropriate housing contributes to safer communities

Access to safe and sustainable housing is fundamental to increasing safety and building community resilience. Homelessness can be both a cause and a consequence of being a victim or an offender of crime. Some people in the community report feeling unsafe as a result of confusing rough sleeping with antisocial behaviour.

Domestic violence can also be one of the leading causes of homelessness in South Africa. Victims fleeing an unsafe home environment are often left without the resources to access alternative accommodation. There is insufficient rental housing across Beaufort West Municipal area available for people and families on low incomes.

The Beaufort West Municipality lacks a dedicated organization/person/team to help people experiencing homelessness, access long-term housing with support.

This should be central to our commitment to maintaining a diverse, inclusive and equitable town, especially for those who are disadvantaged and marginalized.

Over the next 10 years, Beaufort West Municipality will strive to grow the supply and diversity of affordable housing in the Municipal area to address priority local housing needs. This will include facilitating new RDP housing projects through soliciting housing subsidies from Provincial Government.

Ensuring visitors feel safe and welcome

People visiting the Beaufort West Municipal area make a significant contribution to our local economy.

However, we have a limited number of initiatives in place to welcome visitors and to help them familiarize themselves with and contribute to our local area. We provide effective signage and wayfinding tools to help visitors easily and safely navigate to popular destinations.

The following outlines the key actions the Beaufort West Municipality will undertake over the next three to five years to contribute to ensuring the town is a welcoming, inclusive and resilient community.

Ensure Beaufort West knows how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies

- 🏠 Work with emergency services, relevant agencies and the community to build resilience in communities to prevent, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety

- 🏠 Collaborate with the Western Cape Government, non-government agencies and residents to address safety and amenity issues for social housing residents
- 🏠 Facilitate, provide and support community capacity – building initiatives in social housing neighbourhoods to increase tenant participation in increasing safety.
- 🏠 Coordinate community events to increase opportunities to meet with police, neighbours and local services, and increase knowledge about safety.
- 🏠 Support people sleeping rough to access safe and sustainable housing and health services.

Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome

- Continue to implement programs to welcome visitors as they familiarize themselves with the Beaufort West Municipal area
- Use culturally inclusive language, signage and symbols in Council facilities, venues and parks to create and champion safe and welcoming spaces for all

Developing the draft action plan

The draft plan will build on the Municipality's current strategies, plans and policies, and draws on our day-to-day experience working with our partners, networks and community members to address safety.

To identify immediate and longer-term priorities and desired outcomes for the action plan, the Local Municipality of Beaufort West will:

- engage with community members, Beaufort West Police, non-government organizations, government agencies, Community Safety Forum and the Community Police Forum.
- draw on outcomes from extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken for the development of the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan.
- analyze long-term trends in local crime data and community indicators to identify risks and areas of resilience and strength to build on conducted research projects, such as community safety audits with community members, agencies and Beaufort West Police.
- review community safety and crime reduction initiatives.

THE END OF PROPOSED DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

HAVE YOUR SAY

To help finalize the Community Safety Plan, we welcome you to have your say and provide feedback on this draft plan.

This document will be advertised/available for Public Comment from ____ May 2025 to ____ May 2025. You can provide comments and submissions via:

Municipality's Website: www.beaufortwestmun.co.za

Email: stephanusp@beaufortwestmun.co.za

winstona@beaufortwestmun.co.za

**Postal address: The Municipal
Manager**

112

Donkin Street

Beaufort West
6970

Need help providing feedback?

We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to provide ideas and feedback

- 👤 If you or someone you know would like to talk to us in person about the Draft Community Safety Plan, please phone us on **(023) 414 8100** to connect with the responsible Beaufort West Municipal staff [**Mr.S Pheiffers & Mr.W Andrews**]
- 👤 Electronic versions of the draft Plan are also available upon request.

KEY SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT PLANS, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES INCLUDE: