



The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Cape Higher Education Consortium

WESTERN CAPE ECONOMY INNOVATION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM 2026

Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely but succinctly.

1. Contact details

Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Steven Kenyon	Provincial Treasury			Steven.Kenyon@westerncape.gov.za

Nominated Person	Nominated Organisation	Sub-sector one of the following: Private Sector or Academia or Public Sector or Non-Profit	Cell phone number	e-mail address
Dian Cronje	Provincial Treasury	Public Sector	084 628 0935	dian.cronje@westerncape.gov.za
Kim-Kay Neethling	Provincial Treasury	Public Sector	073 942 7574	Kim-kay.neethling@westerncape.gov.za
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2. Short description

+100 word description of what the innovation / solution is and who needs to be recognised for which parts of the solution.

(e.g. new service /product /solution /regulation /infrastructure /institutional capacity)

The Local Government Budget Performance Publication is a first-of-its-kind innovation by the Western Cape Provincial Treasury that transforms raw municipal financial data into an accessible, insight-rich, public-facing annual review.

Developed entirely in-house by the MFMA Coordination Unit, the publication consolidates and interprets the financial performance of all 30 municipalities across the province. Using narrative storytelling, data visualization, district-level analysis, and comparative trends, it tells the full story of local government finances in a way that supports both government oversight and public understanding.

Key benefits of the in-house approach include:

- Demonstrates government commitment to innovation without relying on external consultants
- Cost-effective production, ensuring taxpayers' money is used efficiently
- Builds internal institutional capacity, strengthening Provincial Treasury expertise in data analytics, narrative reporting, and visual communication

The publication improves transparency, supports evidence-based decision-making, strengthens oversight, and enhances public understanding of how municipal finances impact service delivery and the provincial economy.

Recognition:

- MFMA Coordination Unit: Conceptualisation, analysis, narrative development, and design
- Provincial Treasury Analysts and Designers: Data visualisation, comparative analysis, and trend interpretation
- Provincial Cabinet: Endorsement and institutionalization as an annual accountability tool
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The publication functions as *economic infrastructure*: by reducing information asymmetry between government, investors and businesses, it lowers uncertainty in the local operating environment and strengthens the Western Cape's competitiveness relative to other provinces.

3. Detailed description

Please answer all the questions (a) to (j) below, and place answers in the prescribed place as indicated in the table below (to construct a results chain):

a. What is the target business group/s that this innovation serves and improves?

The innovation serves the entire Western Cape business ecosystem by strengthening the financial sustainability of all 30 municipalities in the province.

Direct users include municipal CFOs, finance units, accounting officers, councils, and oversight bodies. Indirectly (think NB for this nomination), it serves –

- Small, medium and large businesses operating within municipal jurisdictions
- Property developers and infrastructure investors
- Industry bodies and chambers
- Households whose consumption underpins local economic activity
- By improving municipal financial decision-making and transparency, the publication strengthens the operating environment in which businesses function.

b. How many of these target businesses have already utilised this new solution?

All 30 Western Cape municipalities are covered by the publication, representing a combined operating revenue base of approximately R97 billion, infrastructure investment of approximately R15 billion annually. Thousands of businesses that rely on municipal electricity, water, roads, waste services and planning approvals.

While businesses do not “consume” the document directly, the improved financial governance and oversight it enables affects the entire provincial economy.

c. How did these businesses access and receive the new solution?

The publication is freely accessible as a public Provincial Treasury document, distributed online, shared with municipalities through formal engagements (e.g., MFMA EXCO briefings, Integrated Municipal Engagement Sessions), and used as a standard reference in planning, budgeting and public communication. Future planned outreach includes public engagements and translated summaries.

d. What did this new solution help these businesses become better at?

By translating municipal financial data into actionable insights, businesses can make more informed operational and investment decisions. The publication helps them:

- Anticipate municipal tariffs and service costs, supporting budget and pricing decisions
- Plan investments with confidence, guided by evidence-based infrastructure pipelines
- Identify risks early, such as service delivery disruptions or financial instability
- Assess transparency and governance, improving trust in local partners and government

e. How did this help to improve their business performance? Increased sales, lower costs, increased investment, increased employment, increased exports?

The publication's insights improve the stability, predictability, and efficiency of the municipal operating environment. Concrete outcomes include:

- Reduced service disruptions, lowering operational risks and business interruptions
- Stable and predictable tariffs, helping manage costs and cash flow
- Improved infrastructure rollout, accelerating investment opportunities
- Stronger municipal financial governance, lowering risk premiums for local investment
- Provincial outcomes that reinforce business confidence includes aggregated operating surpluses of R3.9 billion (2024/25), 20 municipalities achieving clean audits and aggregate revenue collection at 101% (R97 billion)

By improving municipal financial performance, the publication indirectly enables businesses to operate more efficiently, invest with confidence, and reduce costs associated with local fiscal uncertainty.

f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?

A consolidated, insight-driven, public annual review that interprets municipal financial performance using three-year trends, district insights, visual analytics, cost-of-service data, capital performance, funding positions, and debt dynamics. It reframes financial reporting from compliance-heavy to insight-driven, enabling broader understanding across government, communities, and business.

The publication is distributed as an interactive digital flipbook with a QR code that enables rapid access via mobile devices. This ensures accessibility across government, business, and community stakeholders, including users who primarily access information through smartphones.

g. What makes it new, compared what existed before? (Novelty in the WC economy)

This is the first publication in the Western Cape (and nationally) that converts comprehensive municipal mSCOA financial data into an accessible, user-friendly, public-facing performance narrative. Previously, PT produced technical reports; this innovation introduces:

- Plain-language commentary
- Storytelling and data visualisation
- District comparative analysis
- Public accountability rather than internal reporting

No other province produces an integrated, public-facing, consolidated municipal financial performance review of this scale. This positions the Western Cape as a national leader in subnational fiscal transparency and strengthens its reputation as the best governed and most investment-ready province in South Africa.

The model is fully replicable across other provinces and spheres of government. And serves as a scalable blueprint for improved fiscal transparency.

h. What makes it better than what existed before?

Unlike previous municipal reports, which were often fragmented, technical, and inward-looking, this publication provides a single, authoritative, integrated view of financial performance across all Western Cape municipalities.

By consolidating multiple datasets it eliminates data silos and removes the opacity that made previous reports difficult for both oversight bodies and the public to interpret.

The publication turns raw financial data into actionable intelligence, enabling:

- Stronger oversight by councils, provincial departments, and audit committees
- Better-informed budget planning and resource allocation
- Early identification of financial risks that could disrupt municipal services
- Greater transparency for businesses, investors, and communities

In contrast to compliance-focused reports, such as those produced by the Auditor-General, this innovation adds context and insight, helping stakeholders understand not just whether municipalities comply with regulations, but how their financial decisions impact service delivery, infrastructure rollout, and the broader business environment.

i. How is/was the new solution made available to the target market / business group?

Made available through:

- Online distribution (official Provincial Treasury publication)
- MFMA structures (MAF, CFO Forum, EXCO briefings)
- Municipal engagement workshops
- Cabinet approved public dissemination
- Its design is intentionally user friendly for technical and non-technical audiences.

The QR code integration allows real-time access during engagements, strengthening transparency and immediate evidence-based discussion.

j. What will ensure that the financial viability / sustainability of providing the innovative solution and the beneficial consequences remain intact over this period? E.g. profitable business with enduring competitive advantage in the market. What is the expected longevity of this this solution? E.g. 5yrs, 10 yrs, 10+ years

- Provincial Cabinet endorsed the publication as an annual, institutionalised PT product, ensuring longevity (10+ years). Sustainability is guaranteed through internal capabilities (analysts, narrative specialists, design capacity) and mSCOA-based data pipelines that are permanent features of municipal finance.
- This innovation was produced 100% in-house at no external cost to the Province (no consultants engaged), maximising value for money while building lasting state capability.

- This approach signals prudent stewardship of public funds and respect for taxpayers by avoiding consultancy expenditure where internal capability exists.

Output: A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	Outcome: Improved business environment (for the target business group)	Impact: Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	Longevity: Duration of benefits
A new, catalytic, insight-driven annual municipal budget performance publication; first-of-its-kind; improves accessibility of complex data; enhances oversight and transparency.	Public access to financial intelligence via PT website, EXCO, IME engagements; user-friendly design; communication to municipalities and residents strengthens understanding and use.	<p>The publication benefits the entire Western Cape business ecosystem, including small, medium, and large enterprises, property developers, investors, and industry bodies operating across all 30 municipalities.</p> <p>Ultimately, by strengthening municipal financial health and accountability, the publication creates a more predictable, reliable, and business-friendly environment, helping companies reduce costs, invest with confidence, and grow sustainably.</p>	Institutionalised as annual Cabinet-endorsed product; sustained through internal PT capability and permanent datasets; 10+ year lifespan.

4. Declaration of Evidence to verify results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify the results stated above are as stated?

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<p>What evidence can be provided? e.g. Records, reports, peer reviews, and so forth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full 2025 Local Government Budget Performance Overview (Provincial Treasury). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution via municipal engagements and Treasury platforms. ▪ Cabinet approval as annual accountability tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Created a more predictable, reliable, and business-friendly environment, helping companies reduce costs, invest with confidence, and grow sustainably. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cabinet endorsement and inclusion in PT APP as annual publication.
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5. Select the best category of award for this innovation

Sector	Award	Mark with "X"
Public Sector	6 x Catalytic innovations that contribute to growth.	X
Public Sector	1 x Provincial- or National-government systemic innovation most impactful on economic growth	
Public Sector	1 x Municipal (LM+DM) innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	
Public Sector	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance.	x
Safety & Security	1 x Innovation enhancing precinct safety & security.	
Labour Market	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment.	
Academia	1 x Research most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
Academia	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
Academia	1 x Most successful start-up / spin out	
Academia	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	
Industry Sector Bodies	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry.	
Organised Business	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts.	

6. Check that you completed all that is necessary.

7. Submit this documented and/or video recorded to innovation@capechamber.co.za.

Thank you for helping us discover and celebrate the champions shaping a better WC economy!