



TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE SPATIAL DETERMINANTS OF WELLBEING IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

19 September 2017

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1 Introduction

The South African Cities Network (SACN) was established in 2002 by the Minister for Provincial and Local Government, in collaboration with the mayors of South Africa's largest cities and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), as an independent Section 21 company with the mandate to:

- Promote good governance and management in South African cities;
- Analyse strategic challenges facing South African cities, particularly in the context of global economic integration and national development challenges;
- Collect, collate, analyse, assess, disseminate and apply the experience of large city government in a South African context; and
- Promote shared-learning partnerships between different spheres of Government to support the management of South African cities.

In the Inclusive Cities chapter of SoCR IV (SACN, 2016), inclusive cities are framed as those where all can equitably reap the social and economic benefit of living in cities. The chapter places emphasis on the barriers or 'unfreedoms' preventing access for the marginalised, to spatial justice, civic participation and economic opportunities. The National Development Plan (NDP; The Presidency, 2011), Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF; COGTA, 2016) and New Urban Agenda (UNHabitat, 2016) also raise issues of spatial justice and transformation. Ongoing research by various institutions on issues of urban quality of life, well-being, deprivation and livability has also added empirical perspective on these issues.

SACN is currently in its fourth 5-year strategy for the 2016-2021 period. One of the key areas indicated in this strategy is a focus on creating livable South African cities which enable wellbeing and sustainable livelihoods. The SACN's Inclusive Cities programme for the period 2016 – 2021 aims to respond to some of the questions raised in the chapter and to unpack and contribute to building institutional capacity around some of the dimensions identified in SoCR IV viz-à-vis an inclusive city. These include the need:

- to realise social and spatial justice,
- to create equitable access and benefit from public investment, and
- to stimulate equal voice.

Overall, this is about removing the fundamental 'unfreedoms' or barriers to all urban dwellers reaping the urban dividend.

Within this programmatic frame and taken from the issues raised in SoCR IV, space is seen as a key determinant of urban wellbeing as well as a critical area of intervention. That is particularly in terms of inclusion and spatial transformation as developmental imperatives, both nationally and globally (IUDF, 2016; New Urban Agenda, 2016).

2 Objectives

The objective of this project is to demonstrate the ways in which space, at a sub-city level, can be a differentiating pre-determinant, or determinant, of urban well-being, and to provide a framework for assessing and monitoring change in these spatial determinants or effects. In effect, a broad monitor for spatial transformation towards "the inclusive city."

As such, the study is meant to explore the tension between past inequality and present cities, and to support a different order in future South African cities by identifying pathways for all urban residents - across city spaces - to be part of the new growth and opportunity agenda of cities. The rationale herein is that spatial transformation and the direction of change itself matter (is it static, better or worse?), and the spatial order (e.g. location, and the qualities of different city spaces) is a critical determining factor to whether one can live a fulfilling life.

Thus, the research is intended to help build up a supporting evidence base for:

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- i) Understanding and assessing how space is a key determinant for urban well-being, including access to the economic and work opportunities (livelihood), shelter, health, safety and education in cities?
- ii) More broadly, identifying the role that location and space play in whether society is transforming and if so, for whom and in what way?
- iii) Understanding how systems maintain or reproduce the existing order, and what the implications are for national and global development imperatives?

3 Tasks and scope of work

The successful bidder will carry out a sequence of tasks that together build upon existing frames, taking the understanding of space as a key determinant forward and contextual to South African cities. The final synthesis of all components should demonstrate the impact of space on inclusion and wellbeing in South African cities, identify the capacity building needs of cities (as the main drivers of the agenda) and the possible programmatic approaches SACN can support. The successful bidder will be expected to:

- 1) **Conduct a comprehensive local and international literature review of existing frameworks for understanding the main concepts – “spatial determinants” and “well-being”:** What is the available literature indicating? Is the available information helpful in assessing space as a determinant of wellbeing in SA cities specifically? This component of the research should also include an identification and annotated listing of any existing policies, plans, initiatives, mechanisms, good practices, programmes, etc. related to the Objectives of this study as an information base for this project.
- 2) **Develop a conceptual and analytical framework for assessing “spatial determinants of wellbeing”**, specifically applicable to assessing and benchmarking over time the plans and performance of South African cities. This framework or model should clearly outline how space determines life-chances of urban residents, particularly those who cannot “afford to buy their rights and freedom to the city” or are socially, spatially, culturally and economically excluded (SACN, 2016). This component must contribute uniquely to existing knowledge and be context-specific to South African cities. It can consider the following kinds of elements, while not being limited to them:
 - What is the current state of the relationship between where people live and the critical considerations about their quality of life and life chances (i.e., to remove unfreedoms)?
 - What is the historical and present role of spatial form in access to quality health, education, economy, shelter, recreation, and public life?
 - What is the interface between space and mobility (considering urban aspirations to walkable neighbourhoods, 24-hour cities, etc.)?
 - How can public open space act as a key prong of the global urban agenda vs perceptions of safety as a check to active citizenry and physical activity (civic freedoms and health outcomes)?
 - How can “informal” actors e.g. waste pickers/recyclers, be seen as legitimate actors (in this case in urban cleansing and greening)?

This stage will require consideration of the spatial transformation objectives indicated in existing South African urban frameworks (the IUDF, SACN, CSP, city strategies, etc.) and the New Urban Agenda. The identification of suitable criteria, indicators and metrics will also need to take into consideration local and global city data standards (including SCODA, WCCD and ISO city indicators, SDG indicators, emerging NUA indicators, etc.) as a guiding framework, though the study might also offer commentary upon any identified limitations in these (i.e. it could identify gaps, but must consider adequacy of what exists before amending).

- 3) **Test the framework of sample case(s) from SACN's member cities** to assess its efficacy as an applicable tool or framework for assessment and monitoring. This should include an assessment of the application and make revisions and recommendations for how the framework could be extended to the rest of the cities (metros, or even top 30 cities depending on extensibility) over the coming 3 years towards city use, and the 2021 State of South African Cities reporting.
- 4) **Synthesise** all the above components into a comprehensive report (and supporting directory of documents and data), also raising additional research questions, identifying pathways for further research, and beginning to model what institutional change and capacity enhancement actions are needed. That is, formulate a set of practice-based recommendations focusing on what is in the sphere of control of cities; the necessary shifts at systems level across government and how those can be taken forward.

Though data analysis, participant engagement (narrative), visualisation and mapping, the overall research should allow SACN to show at city and sub-city level the relativity of space and progress over time (i.e. how space pre-determines life chances, whether cities are improving or stagnant on the imperatives of spatial transformation and inclusion).

4 Methodology

The service provider must apply a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods i.e. (desktop research, extended participant interviews, narratives/experiences, focus group surveys etc.).

The service provider should have a strong understanding and ability to generate and use GIS and visualisation tools that tell and break down the story in a richer, spatialised way.

Examples of literature sources:

SACN: Youth/Urban Vulnerabilities Study, State of Urban Safety Reports, Crime Hotspots Research, Transport User Experiences, Urban Land Papers, Spatial Alignment work

EXTERNAL: NUA, IUDF, StepSA, ACMS, UCT, HSRC, researchers own, SA Multiple deprivation index, actuarial studies, etc.

5 Time scale

The project will kick off in October 2017, ending in March 2018 (est. 6 months). The successful bidder should be prepared to present preliminary input from the first component (diagnostic/review) towards the SACN's Urban Conference to be held in Durban on 30 October 2017. This forms part of testing the direction the work is taking with the conference audience/envisioned end users of the overall output.

6 Deliverables

Table A: summary of key deliverables

Task/work stream	Deliverables
a. Literature Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report - Presentation of draft for the Urban Conference 2017
b. Conceptual and analytical framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Framework presented as a designed, visualized and print ready stand-alone product - Workshopping with stakeholders
c. Testing of framework on case(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot application(s) designed and implemented - Findings workshopped with selected cities / stakeholders - Final framework developed into usable tool or framework - Report / guideline for 3 year implementation
d. Synthesis report and supporting documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visualized and complete stand-alone research product synthesizing all components of the study - Directory of data and documents

7 Management

In addition, the service provider will be expected to produce – in consultation with the Project Manager - an Inception Report within 2 weeks of confirmation of contract. This should include a detailed project plan, indicating delivery timeframes, intermediate milestones (linked to payment schedule), communication protocols, etc. Indications of any identified Risks and potential for additional resources or requirements should be indicated as far as possible at this stage.

Within a month of the end of the period, a concise Close-Out Report should be submitted commenting on the process, achievements or gaps, lessons, and any recommendations. This should be focused on performance improvement all around (i.e., on learning), and be submitted along with the final completion invoice.

8 Expertise required

Strong understanding of current local, national and global urban processes, debates and contexts around inclusive cities, built environment integration and transformation, urban governance and the emerging agenda on urban wellbeing.

Social science / anthropological studies, including social systems, public services, development studies

Strong analytical and complex systems thinking skills

GIS Mapping, geo-spatial analysis, and visualization skills

Scholarly [primary and secondary] research, research methods, analysis and writing

A track-record of good, accessible communication and writing

The successful bidder would also be expected to work to timeframes and specified outputs, and to have the capacity to work interactively and consultatively with the SACN and its city stakeholders where required. The

bidder must demonstrate the capacity to use networks and relationships to efficiently carry out tasks while achieving complementary objectives (e.g. laying the groundwork for future capacity building/facilitated dialogue with end users) would be an important advantage.

9 Assessment of quotations

Bids will be adjudicated on relative value for money gauged against the following criteria:

- Proposal and methodology quality; 30%
- Project costing / professional fee structure; 30%
- Qualification, track record & references of personnel that will work on the project; 30%
- Diversity & level of ownership and project involvement of Previously Disadvantaged Individuals; 10%

Bidders are encouraged to be competitive in their pricing, and take note of the *Resources & Costing* guide below.

10 Resources and costing

The estimated effort is 30 - 60 person days, depending on pre-existing knowledge-bases and capabilities.

Time and effort estimates should be indicated and broken down in bid proposals. Consideration should be given to the scope & methodological notes provided. Given the nature of the project, besides an overall estimate it will be important that bidders detail their costing approach to give a clear sense of pricing and assumptions for comparability.

Bidders should note that project meetings would be based in Johannesburg or conducted virtually, via Skype/teleconferencing. Any disbursements such as travel and subsistence related to project meetings, if motivated and required, must be indicated separately. Such disbursements will be budgeted and paid separately by SACN (where these are incurred by service provider for reimbursement, they must be approved in writing by the project manager prior to expenditure).

11 Applicable terms and conditions

SACN reserves the right not to award this contract, or to renegotiate its terms, subject to circumstances and adequacy of submissions.

12 Submissions & Enquiries

The award of this project will be based on quality and interpretation of the proposal. Interested service providers should provide the SACN with:

- A brief proposal indicating description of proposed approach and project plan (specify any particular capabilities, innovations, or limitations). Proposals reflecting creative and innovative approaches are welcomed;
- An all-inclusive time-based quote for the activities as outlined above (applicable rates must be clearly specified); and
- Copies of corporate profiles, personnel CVs, and any other information to support the evaluation against indicated Assessment criteria.

E-mail your proposals and quotes to sadhna@sacities.net by close of business on Sunday, 01 October 2017