

Legislature - City of Tshwane  
Presentation

Look at the background  
Item 5



## PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### NUMBER 2 STRUBEN SHELTER

15 NOVEMBER 2023

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE



# Presentation outline

- Background
- State of inhabitation
- CoT Interventions
- Challenges in the shelter
- Plan of action
- Recommendations





# Background

- ❑ Number 2 Struben shelter city owned temporary shelter for the homeless in the inner city in Pretoria.
- ❑ Establishment dates back to 2004 to accommodate the homeless
- ❑ The shelter belonged to Human Settlement before transferred to CSDS in 2013 by Council.
- ❑ Shelter designed to accommodate 200 residents both men, women and children.
- ❑ The shelter designed as a temporary transit to accommodate people for not more than 6 months





# State of inhabitation

- ❑ In Human Settlement, the shelter had staff (two managers) for day and night, funds for maintenance and security.
- ❑ The transfer to CSDS did not have funds and staff.
- ❑ Due to high demand for shelters, placement in the shelter increased and worsened by placement of people by Police caused overcrowding in the shelter
- ❑ Bt 2014, the facility was overcrowded by 150% (600 people)
- ❑ The place became difficult to know how many people staying there
- ❑ The capacity compromised the quality of the infrastructure. Blocked drainage, disfunctional ablusion facilities, leaking roofs and tripping electricity..
- ❑ Security of two security personnel became insufficient. The place became security hazard that people would steal and run into the shelter





# CoT interventions

- ❑ In 2013/14, R10 million allocated for renovation of the shelter. R5 million for upgrade and R5 million for design of the new shelter.
- ❑ Renovation approved for ablusion facilities, roofing, paint work, drainage and electricity.
- ❑ Residents refused to be relocated. As a result, renovations took place with residents on site which compromised the work.
- ❑ There was even a notice drafted to inform of the shut down but the notice was later rescinded.
- ❑ Due to overcrowding and vandalism, renovations done on the property were reversed.
- ❑ City signed MOU with an NPO in 2015 to manage on its behalf. Management was unsuccessful due to the state of facility which the City could not attend.
- ❑ In 2015 already, City had already to resolved to shut the place down. Social workers, Municipal Health and Fire services recommended in their report for the closure of the facility.
- ❑ Number of meetings with stakeholders held throughout the years but no results due to unavailability of alternative accommodation.





# CoT interventions cont.

- ❑ The process of shutting down resumed in 2019 but was later called off due to COVID 19 National Shutdown.
- ❑ The shelter was instead adopted as one of the shelter for the COVID 19 although there were no admission taking place.
- ❑ The City provided food provision, cleaning materials, chemical toilets and psychosocial support.
- ❑ When Gauteng DSD adopted the shelters, they also included Number 2 Struben shelter through recommended NPO.
- ❑ The City recommended funding of the shelter as the impression created was that funding included maintenance work.
- ❑ Instead funding only included the food provision and social work services.



# Challenges in the shelter

- ❑ Overcrowding. Compromising infrastructure. People stay longer and never exit.
- ❑ Accommodating people not in need. Some are employed
- ❑ Criminal elements
- ❑ Funding issues for major upgrade
- ❑ No alternative accommodation. Current shelters were full and not sufficient.
- ❑ Location of the shelter. Next to Home Affairs. Security risks.
- ❑ Number of other properties with similar challenges
- ❑ Unprotected strike



# Plan of action

- To shut down the facility and relocate residents to alternative accommodation more especially women and children.
- The shutdown scheduled for Sunday 19 November 2023.
- Notice has already been issued.
- Residents will be relocated to available space in shelters
- Security cluster is on board.
- Stakeholders have been informed of the decisions.
- The facility will be sealed to avoid invasion.
- Busses have been arranged to ferry people to various shelters
- MMC & MEC to address the residents today



# Recommendations

- Plan of action be approved and supported

