



City Innovation Snapshot CAPE TOWN, South Africa

Overview

- ▶ **Mayor:** Dan Plato
- ▶ **Term:** 2017-2022
- ▶ **Innovation Lead:** Craig Kesson
- ▶ **Population size:** 4.49 million (2019)
- ▶ **Innovation / open data website:**
<http://odp.capetown.gov.za/>

What is the organisational structure?

As an independent department, Cape Town's dedicated innovation team consists of **12 staff**.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- Project Manager
- Strategic Communication / Marketing
- Sociologist
- Engineer
- Designer



Spotlight

As part of its Integrated Development Plan 2017-2022, the City of Cape Town has identified innovation and data as drivers for operational sustainability, which will help realise its strategic focus of building a well-run city. Besides a small team that coordinates all innovation activities, the city also created an innovation forum comprised of representatives from all directorates in the administration. Together with change agents, these representatives are responsible for driving innovation programmes within their specific areas. In 2019, Cape Town also launched their Data Strategy to drive evidence-based decision-making.

What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Cape Town has no **formal innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- **Experimentation, pilots and prototyping**
- **Human-centred design**

What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to more than half of cities surveyed, Cape Town approaches innovation capacity **both from a holistic / macro level and in specific policy areas**.

The top two priority policy areas for the city's innovation work are:

Culture

Environment /
Climate change

What innovation partnerships exist?

Cape Town has developed partnerships to **promote innovation capacity** with other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents/resident associations.

To **improve data use**, the city has also developed data partnerships with academia and think tanks to collect and analyse data, as well as with other cities.



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What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Cape Town has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following sources:

- **International/multilateral institution budget**
- **Municipal budget** (city council approved funds / operating budget)

Cape Town's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **training staff and building capacity, generating ideas and brainstorming, investing in digital systems and physical infrastructure, and paying for third-party services.**



How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ **Anticipating and managing future challenges**
- ✓ **Improving service delivery**
- ✓ **Improving resident outcomes**

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are **dedicated funding, a dedicated innovation team, a culture of innovation within the municipal administration, support from the broader community and leadership from the Mayor.**



How is data used?

Data has been identified as one of the key enablers to drive evidence-based decision-making in Cape Town. The recently launched Data Strategy will help Cape Town realise this vision. The city currently **uses data to align its budget process with its strategic priorities.**

Cape Town **maintains a comprehensive data inventory to make data more accessible, publishes open data online, and provides clear how-to guidance to help residents access and use city data.**



How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas **with sufficient data** or **without sufficient data** to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance

NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.