



## Terms of Reference Economic Development Task Group

### 1.0 Background:

Langley City has often been described as the Hub of the Fraser Valley, not only geographically but also economically. From a historical perspective and into the future, Langley City is the nexus and vital link between Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Langley City has articulated our vision in the document entitled Langley City: Nexus of Community.

We have a unique opportunity to capitalize on the new fixed rail rapid transit line that is coming to Langley City in the next eight to ten years. The train is the catalyst but it is not the reason. The reason is people—the ones who are already here and deserve an improved quality of life and better services, and the ones yet to come, who will bring new vitality to our city. The families that will grow and stay, building on our rich history and sustaining our community from a position of strength.

Imagine a future Langley City with a variety of new mixed-use developments that offer a diversity of housing, community services and business opportunities for residents— all in one place. Imagine a thriving downtown core that provides meeting places for our residents young and old. Daytime and evening activities, shops, restaurants and events drawing locals and visitors into the city centre. Imagine walkable neighbourhoods, with an emphasis on greenspace and sustainable living, connected by efficient public transit. At the nexus of these dreams and aspirations is our future city. We can attain this and more and our collective vision will help us get there.

One of the recommendations from the visioning document is to strengthen the role of promoting economic development through a concerted and concentrated effort by creating an Economic Development Office. There are two separate but interrelated functions of the Economic Development Office. One is an economic promotion and advocacy role. The second is an advisory role that uses the expertise of outside advisors with the best interests of the City in mind.

### 2.0 Mandate:

The mandate of the group includes:

- To develop strategies to advance partnership opportunities that connect the City to economic opportunities by working closely with the Urban Development



Institute (UDI), the Downtown Langley Business Improvement Association and the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce.

- To develop a work plan to promote, advocate and provide advice on economic development strategies and opportunities by working closely with business stakeholders to advance the City's Vision.
- To promote and develop strategies and initiatives to bring in new businesses; strengthen the businesses already located in the city; persuade businesses to remain where they are and expand operations when appropriate; expand and diversify city's tax bases.
- To develop strategies to leverage relationships to establish economic partnerships with other government agencies, communities or entrepreneurs that are mutually beneficial.
- To provide advice and implement strategies on how to grow and attract job creation in the education, health care, technology, and entertainment sectors.
- To develop strategies to support start-ups, 'scale-ups', and business relocations to Langley City.

### **3.0 Composition:**

#### **3.1 Membership:**

- Two members of City Council to be appointed by the Mayor
- One member from the Nexus Blue Ribbon Panel
- One member from a Post-Secondary Education institution
- One member from the Downtown Langley Business Association
- One member from the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
- One member from the development industry
- One member from a mid-size business with regional, national or international reach
- One member who is an investor, venture capital or financial sector senior manager or owner
- Two members of the community on the basis of their knowledge or an interest and C Suite, experience in business, innovation or economic development

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected from amongst the members.

#### **3.2 Staff Liaison**

- One City of Langley staff to be appointed by the CAO



- Additional staff and/or consultants may be invited to provide technical advice and assistance

### 3.3 Affiliated Agencies:

Representative(s) from the Affiliated Agencies will be requested to provide expert advice when deemed appropriate to assist the Task Group to fulfill its mandate.

### 4.0 Reporting Relationship:

The Group will report to City Council through its meeting notes and by making recommendations to City Council.

### 5.0 Accountability:

The Group is accountable to City Council. The Group will not have the authority to give direction to staff or to commit to expenditures of funds.

### 6.0 Administration:

The City of Langley will provide administrative support to the Membership to carry out the mandates of the group.

### 7.0 Meetings:

The Group will meet on a regular basis at the call of the Chair but not less than (4) times per year, in a facility provided by the participating partners.

A quorum shall be a majority of the total voting membership.

### 8.0 Terms:

The terms of the group shall cease on December 31, 2019. The terms may be extended to allow the group to fulfill its mandate.