

NO: **R007**

COUNCIL DATE: **January 27, 2020**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 20, 2020**

FROM: **General Manager, Investment &
Intergovernmental Relations
General Manager, Corporate Services**

FILE: **0540-20**

SUBJECT: **Investment & Innovation Impact Committee**

RECOMMENDATION

The Investment & Intergovernmental Relations Department and the Corporate Services Department recommend that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the creation of the Investment & Innovation Impact Committee (the “I3C”), which the Mayor announced as a Standing Committee at the January 13, 2020 Regular Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

Over the next decade, Surrey is destined to become a regional nexus for commerce and a nationally recognized centre for innovation. The City launched a new Economic Strategy in 2017 which outlines Surrey’s objective to realize economic opportunities resulting from metropolitan transformation, technology development and the advancement of Surrey’s growing innovation ecosystem.

From an economic development and innovation perspective, Surrey continues to be a leader in the region and across the country. The City has been recognized as the second metropolitan centre of the region, attracting over 2,000 new businesses each year. This growth is spurred by its young and diverse population, culture of innovation, growing university district, and availability of well-connected employment lands including the majority of Metro Vancouver’s industrial land inventory. Companies in the digital and technology sectors are also locating to and expanding in Surrey due to talent and innovation emerging from the City’s local post-secondary institutions.

With many opportunities that exist for the City, defining a strategic path forward is essential and the establishment of the I3C will allow staff to receive direction and to respond according to Council priorities.

DISCUSSION

The I3C has been struck in order to build Surrey's economy and optimize the City's potential in terms of:

- Generating high value local jobs;
- Building Surrey City Centre;
- Building and optimizing the local innovation ecosystem; and
- Optimizing strategic investments and employment lands

The I3C will serve as a connector between the City of Surrey and business, industry, academia, the newly formed Metro Vancouver Regional District Economic Prosperity Service, and other entities related to economic development and innovation. On occasion, subject matter experts will be invited to present to the Committee, participate in discussions and provide insight and guidance.

The Mayor has appointed himself, Councillor Patton and Councillor Nagra to the Committee.

Next steps:

- The inaugural meeting for the I3C will be held in the first quarter of this year.
- The draft Terms of Reference for the I3C, attached as Appendix "I", will come forward for consideration by the Committee at its first meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The I3C will focus on developing and fostering economic opportunities for Surrey which support the objectives of the City of Surrey's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, the Committee will support the Sustainability Charter theme of Economic Prosperity and Livelihoods. Specifically, this supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO") and Strategic Direction ("SD")

- Economy DO4: Surrey's economy is diversified with a mix of service, industrial, agricultural and innovation-based businesses;
- Innovation DO14: Surrey is the region's innovation hub, focusing on health and clean technologies, and creating significant local and regional economic impacts; and
- Innovation SD10: Support the development and growth of key sectors including health technology, clean technology, advanced manufacturing, agri-innovation and the creative economy.

CONCLUSION

Surrey continues to be a leader in economic development and innovation not only in the region, but across the country. It is important that a strategic path forward be defined in order to optimize current and future opportunities. The I3C will be a table for sharing information and ideas and where staff can receive direction and respond according to Council priorities.

Donna Jones
General Manager,
Investment & Intergovernmental Relations

Rob Costanzo
General Manager,
Corporate Services

Appendix "I": Draft Terms of Reference for the Investment & Innovation Impact Committee

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INVESTMENT & INNOVATION IMPACT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Mandate

The primary function of the Investment & Innovation Impact Committee is to generate, incubate and accelerate ideas into action related to economic development, investment attraction and innovation in the City of Surrey. The Committee will be project based and impact focussed.

2. Role

The Committee will:

- (a) Focus on the following areas of impact:
 - a. Generating high value local jobs;
 - b. Building Surrey City Centre;
 - c. Building and optimizing the innovation ecosystem; and
 - d. Optimizing strategic investment and employment lands
- (b) Review, monitor and make recommendations to Council on programs and initiatives related to investment attraction, economic development and innovation;
- (c) Consider and make recommendations to Council on any other matters referred to the Committee by Council; and
- (d) Serve as a connector between the City of Surrey and business, industry and academia.

3. Membership

- (a) The Committee shall be comprised of three members of City Council. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor; and
- (b) The members of the Committee will be reviewed and appointed annually by the Mayor.

4. Meetings

- (a) Meetings will be at the call of the Chair;
- (b) The Committee shall meet at least 3 times a year;

- (c) Quorum shall be 2 members of the Committee.
- (d) Minutes of the meetings of the Committee shall be recorded by the Legislative Services Division and provided to Council for information; and
- (e) Staff assistance will be provided to the Committee as required by the City Manager, GM Investment & Intergovernmental Relations, Director of Information Technology, Manager of Economic Development, other staff as required, and the CEO of the Surrey Development Corporation.

5. Authority

Section 141 (1) of the Community Charter states that “The Mayor must establish standing committees for matters the Mayor considers would be better dealt with by a committee and must appoint persons to those committees.”

The Investment and Innovation Impact Committee is a standing committee appointed by the Mayor.

The proceedings of the Committee are to be conducted in public, unless the subject matter being considered falls within an applicable subsection of Section 90 of the Community Charter.