



Report to Council

Department: Development Services
Division: Development Services
Date: April 20, 2026
Prepared by: Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
Nelson Silveira, Manager, Economic Development
Report Number: Development Services-2026-06
Subject: 2025 Economic Development Year in Review
Number of Pages: 6 plus attachment

Recommendation(s)

That Development Services Report 2025-06 entitled “2025 Economic Development Year in Review” prepared by Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services and Nelson Silveira, Manager, Economic Development dated April 20, 2026 be received.

Purpose

To introduce Council to the inaugural “Economic Development Year in Review”, to provide Council with a comprehensive summary and infographic of the Economic Development Division’s activities, achievements, and key outcomes for 2025, to highlight progress made in advancing various Strategic Initiatives, and to introduce future Quarterly Newsletters and consolidation of reporting.

Background and Discussion

The 2025 year marked strong progress in advancing the Town of Essex's Economic Development priorities. Through targeted business support, strategic partnerships, tourism promotion, and forward-looking planning initiatives, the Town continued to foster economic growth, enhance community vitality, and position Essex as an attractive place to live, work, and invest.

The 2025 Economic Development Year in Review, **attached** to this report, is intended to enhance transparency and awareness of Economic Development initiatives by consolidating key performance metrics, project updates, and community impacts into a single, accessible, and graphical document. As this is the first time Council is receiving a report in this format, it establishes a new approach to communicating annual achievements and aligning departmental efforts with various cross-functional corporate strategic initiatives.

Key areas of focus in the Year in Review include:

- Supporting local business growth and retention
- Strengthening community partnerships
- Advancing tourism development
- Driving strategic initiatives

This report also introduces the opportunity to implement a Quarterly Economic Development reporting framework moving forward. These quarterly reports would follow a similar format as the attached Year in Review, and will provide

more frequent updates to Council, while also consolidating multiple reporting streams into one cohesive document, and may include:

- Tourism Events Fund reporting
- Community Improvement Plan (CIP) reporting
- Building Activity and Development Overview
- Other relevant economic development and growth-related updates

The proposed Quarterly approach is intended to improve efficiency, reduce reporting duplication, and provide Council with timely, streamlined insights to support informed decision-making throughout the year.

Administration would like to thank Council for its continued openness, support, and commitment to advancing Economic Development initiatives. Council's leadership and willingness to embrace new approaches to communication have been instrumental in enabling the Department to evolve its practices and improve how information is shared.

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial impacts associated with the preparation of the Year in Review and the proposed Quarterly reporting framework, as these initiatives can be accommodated within current staff resources.

Overall, the activities demonstrate a strong return on investment through external funding leverage, support for local economic growth, and the identification of new revenue opportunities.

Consultations

RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Annual Economic Development Report - Development Services-2026-06.docx
Attachments:	- Final EcDev Infographic - Town of Essex.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 13, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Giurissevich". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Apr 13, 2026 - 9:27 PM