

# Background and Previous Council Direction

## Background – Downtown Strategy

The Downtown Calgary Development Incentive Program (the Program) was established in 2021 April by Council in report C2021-0524 *Realizing Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan: Initial Investments and Incentives* - with an initial investment of \$45 million to fund the Program. The approved report was presented in conjunction with report PUD2021-0220 *Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan: Roadmap to Reinvention* - that detailed the 10-year implementation plan.

The Program's purpose is to provide financial incentives to assist with the removal of approximately six million square feet of office space in the Greater Downtown Plan Area over the next 10 years (2021 to 2031). The removal of vacant office space can be achieved through conversion to residential or other adaptive uses, or through potential demolition and rebuild of non-office space.

The overall goals of the Program are to increase overall economic activity in the Greater Downtown Plan Area by:

- Removing office space from the Greater Downtown Plan Area – with a priority area of the Downtown Core;
- Increasing downtown residential dwelling units to improve vibrancy; and,
- Reducing the downtown office vacancy rate and supporting property values and the non-residential property tax assessment base.

## Previous Council Direction – Downtown Strategy

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2022 November 8	C2022-1051	<p><b>2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets</b> That with respect to Report C2022-1051, the following be adopted, as amended: That Council:</p> <p>1. Approve and adopt the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets, including the community indicators, service performance measures, and associated operating and capital budgets as identified in Revised Attachment 4, and further, that Council direct Administration to take critical, responsive measures as follows to provide support and investment for residents and businesses;</p> <p>III. Draw \$40 million from the Real Estate Services Reserve as an investment for the Downtown Strategy work presently underway, with funds to be allocated as follows:</p> <p>a. \$31 million to the Phase 1: office to residential conversion program, and</p>

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		<p>b. \$9 million to the Phase 2: office to post-secondary institution conversion program for which the proposed terms of reference will be delivered to Council in 2023 Q1, while reaffirming that all future proceeds related to industrial and business park development in Program # 696 – Commercial Development, will be directed into the Real Estate Services Reserve.</p> <p>That with respect to Report C2022-1051, the following Motion Arising be adopted:</p> <p>That Council direct Administration to explore a funding source in the amount of \$20 million and engage with the Government of Alberta to request matching funds for post-secondary conversion of office to institutional space as part of the Downtown Strategy, and in accordance with the provincial government's Calgary Office and Revitalization &amp; Expansion (CORE) Working Group recommendations.</p>
2021 November 8	C2021- 1436	<p><b>Adjustments to the One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budget</b></p> <p>During the November 2021 Budget Adjustments , Council approved an additional \$55 million towards the Downtown Calgary Development Incentive Program to support the implementation of all Phase 1 eligible applications, amounting to a total Program fund of \$100 million.</p>
2022 September 29	EC2022- 0935	Deferral request for delivery of Downtown Calgary Development Incentive Program Phase 2 (PFC2021-0779) Terms of Reference due Q3 2022, to return no later than Q1 2023
2021 December 14	EC2021- 1691	Deferral request for Downtown Incentive Program Phase 2 (PFC2021-0779) due Q4 2021, to return by Q3 2022
2021 July 26	PFC2021- 0779	<p><b>Downtown Strategy Implementation and 2020 Annual Report</b></p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive the State of Downtown Calgary 2020 (Attachment 2) for the corporate record;</li> <li>2. Approve the Downtown Calgary Development Incentive Program Terms of Reference (Attachment 3);</li> <li>3. Direct Administration to bring the Downtown Calgary Development Incentive Program Phase 2 -Terms of Reference to Council no later than 2021 Q4;</li> <li>4. Direct Administration to report on the implementation of the Downtown Calgary Development Incentive Program, the financial status, and recommendations on future program terms of reference to Council no later than 2022 Q4; and</li> <li>5. Approve Redirection &amp; Reprioritization of Cultural Municipal Sustainability Initiative Budget Funds (Attachment 5), including</li> </ol>

		allocations of previously approved budgets totaling \$15.5M as outlined in Table 1 - Redirection of Cultural Municipal Sustainability Initiative (CMSI) Funds
2021 April 26	C2021- 0524	<p><b>Realizing Calgary’s Greater Downtown Plan – Initial Investments and Incentives</b></p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve <b>revised</b> Attachment 3, “Greater Downtown Plan – Initial Investment and Approvals”, including investment categories and allocations, and with the \$200 million initial investment funded by \$60 million from the Budget Savings Account, \$63 million from the Fiscal Stability Reserve and \$77 million from the Canada Community Building Fund subject to receipt of the 2021 increase;</li> <li>2. Request the Mayor write letters to the provincial and federal governments, advocating for funding and other support for Calgary’s Greater Downtown Plan, and direct Administration to pursue the same support by contacting provincial and federal government officials and departments;</li> <li>3. Authorize entering into a Housing Agreement on Sierra Place at 706 7 Avenue SW and authorize the Community Services General Manager to develop, approve, and execute the agreements identified in Attachment 7 and necessary to implement the HomeSpace project; and,</li> <li>4. Direct Administration to report back to Council no later than 2022 Q2.</li> </ol>
2020 December 14	C2020- 1439	<p><b>Notice of Motion: Providing Incentive to Residential Development in the Downtown Core</b></p> <p>Council approved <i>Notice of Motion C2020-1439 Providing Incentive to Residential Development in the Downtown Core</i>. That with respect to Notice of Motion C2020-1439, the following be adopted, as amended: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct City Administration to explore the potential creation of regulatory and financial investment incentives for the development of new high-density residential complexes and the conversion of office buildings to various forms of residential occupancy or other uses within the downtown generally, but with a focus on the Downtown Core, to coordinate with the work of the Real Estate Working Group and Urban Initiatives Downtown Strategy team. AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration report to the Priorities and Finance Committee with its findings no later than the end of 2021 April</p>