To support and encourage the growth of a highly competitive local economy where there is opportunity for everyone to contribute and succeed.

How we accomplished this…
In 2020, we supported and promoted a strong, dynamic, and innovative local economy.
In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that all hands were on deck to support local businesses and residents as they navigated uncertainly. The City approved an Economic Response Plan, launched a business support resource page investcambridge.ca/covid19 and had ongoing direct business outreach and dialogue with the three Business Area Associations through the INVEST Cambridge team. Digital campaigns and supports, including: #Orderfromhome, #Dinefromhome and #Shopfromhome (investcambridge.ca/OrderFromHome). An expedited process for local businesses to expand patios and create more outdoor space was also put in place.

The City also worked with partners across the region as part of the Business and Economic Support Team of Waterloo Region (BESTWR).

We also assisted through:

- Ongoing communication via social media and newsletters about Provincial and Federal programs including calls for supplies and retooling
- Providing the Provincial Government with an updated list of Cambridge businesses that manufacture or supply products that may be required to assist with COVID-19 and their #OntarioTogether initiative

The City also continued to support growth and development throughout the City. Highlights include provincial approval of a proposed redevelopment of the SmartCentres site at the northeast corner of Hespeler and Pinebush Roads which is planned to be a 73 acre mixed-use community. In addition, the Galt Core Heritage Conservation District Study was initiated and financial analysis of inclusionary zoning was completed, as was the planning study for land use for Consumption Treatment Services (CTS).
PROSPERITY

Asset Management continued to be a focus in 2020. This included the approval of a new Asset Management Plan by Council, an asset management policy review and program roadmap. The City also completed the Mobile Work Management Platform for Public Works as well as a Fleet Sustainability Review. Implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure is ongoing and more than 17,690 meter are now transmitting on the network.

Other infrastructure improvements include:

- Sanitary Flow Monitoring and Rain Gauge Program at various manholes across the City
- Pumping station security access control - implementation of security upgrades at all stations
- McGovern Pump Station upgrade completed
- White Oak Pump Station and Eagle St Pump Station renewal work
- Increased investment in asphalt management
- Implementing the Transportation Master Plan to improve transportation options and traffic flow
- New electric vehicle charging stations
- North Cambridge Business Park

Enabling the public to continue to be engaged in key projects during the pandemic was a unique consideration. Staff developed a variety of virtual and online options for feedback, questions and dialogue.

Public feedback opportunities included:

- Stormwater Management Funding Review
- River Road Neighbourhood Plan and Service Study
- Proposed reconstruction and streetscaping of Dickson Street from Water Street to Ainslie Street
- Dunbar Road Multi-Use Trail
- Blair-Preston Pedestrian Trail Bridge and Trail: environmental assessment
- Beverly Street reconstruction and CP underpass construction
- Richardson Street, Kay Street and Byng Avenue reconstruction
- Todd Street and Haddington Street reconstruction
- Residential on-street parking
The City was honoured to receive the 2020 CATT Award of Excellence. The Centre for Advancement of Trenchless Technologies (CATT) is the leading organization for the trenchless industry in Canada and the CATT Award of Excellence recognizes those organizations that have been instrumental in advancing the trenchless industry both locally and internationally.

The City of Cambridge is a champion of trenchless technologies in Ontario. To date, we’ve undertaken a variety of trenchless projects with significant environmental, cost, and schedule benefits, and staff have shared our learnings with many other municipalities.

Overall, the City’s innovative approach to proactive infrastructure management has resulted in a significant reduction of water loss in City watermains which represents annual savings of $8 million.