



The Unseen Engine: Why Economic Development is Crucial for Local Economies



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In an increasingly globalized world, the role of economic development in local economies is often overlooked, underestimated, or misunderstood. Yet, at the core of every thriving community lies a robust economic framework fueled by a variety of businesses, community initiatives, and public infrastructure. Let's delve into why economic development isn't just an abstract concept but a necessity for local communities.

Diversifying the Local Tax/Rates Base: More than Just Numbers

Fostering a diverse range of businesses isn't just about increased tax revenue; it's about building a resilient local economy. Different types of businesses keep the local tax/rates base diversified, allowing regions and municipalities to weather economic downturns more effectively. This approach not only keeps our local economy robust but also accentuates the unique fabric of our community.

The Relevance in Times of Economic Downturn

During periods of economic retraction, economic development becomes even more crucial. Communities must adopt robust strategies to ensure growth and resilience. Here, economic developers play an essential role. These professionals serve as catalysts for community vitality, empowering local businesses that contribute to both the workforce and the municipality's financial health.

The Toolbox of Economic Developers

Connection to Resources & Capital

One of the first steps towards fostering a robust business ecosystem is creating an accessible pathway to essential resources and capital.

Problem-Solving

Economic developers are often troubleshooters who come up with creative solutions to logistical or operational hurdles that businesses may face.

Marketing the Community

Promoting the community as a lucrative location for business investment is another significant aspect of economic development.

Navigating the System

Understanding regulatory frameworks and aiding businesses through them can be invaluable.

Community & Economic Revitalization

The long-term aim of economic development often includes the revival and transformation of communities and their economic landscapes.

Site Development & Business Strategies

Strategic planning for both physical sites and long-term business growth falls under the purview of economic development.

The Ripple Effects: What Successful Businesses Give Back

- **Local Tax/Rates Revenue:** Directly finances public amenities and services.
- **Employees in the Community:** Boosts local employment rates.
- **Stronger Social Fabric:** Businesses often engage in community-building efforts.
- **Growth Potential for Residents:** Higher employment and business diversity allow for more opportunities.

Community Assets Fueled by Business Tax/Rates Revenue

- Public Employees
- Quality of Life Enhancements
- Public Amenities/Event Spaces
- Roads & Infrastructure
- Accommodation

The Extended Benefits

- **Economic Vitality:** Increases local spending and prevents economic leakage.
- **Business Retention:** Enhances economic stability.
- **Job Creation and Retention:** Increases per capita income.
- **Self-Sufficiency:** Communities become less reliant on state and federal budgets.
- **Recognition of Local Products:** Elevates the status and reach of local businesses.
- **Partnerships:** Promotes synergies between governments, businesses, and communities.

In conclusion, economic development is not a mere checkbox to be ticked off but an ongoing commitment to the future well-being of a community. It serves as a foundational pillar for local economies, ensuring resilience, diversity, and long-term success.

