Policy

Open Data

Cross-reference: GOV-002-013 Information Governance

Policy Statement

Strathcona County will be open by design, subject to financial, legal, legislative and privacy constraints.   Whenever possible, it will make data available to the public in a machine readable format which can be freely used, modified, and shared by anyone.
By making Strathcona County data open we will allow the public to access, interpret and create value from the data for the benefit of all members of the County. Data published to the Open Data catalog may be provided by Strathcona County itself or trusted partners.

Purpose

Strathcona County is committed to becoming more transparent, accountable, and responsive by sharing its public data as open data.

Definitions

Data - facts, figures and statistics objectively measured according to a standard or scale such as frequency or volumes or occurrences. The term "data" shall not include image files, such as designs, drawings, and photos or scanned copies of original documents; provided, however, that the term "data" shall include statistical or factual information about image files and geographic information system data.

Dataset - a collection of raw, non-manipulated data usually presented in tabular form with associated metadata and which is machine readable.

Machine readable data - data that, in order to be understood, must be translated by a computer or other type of equipment. Portable Document Format (PDF) is not machine readable.

Open data - data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike.

Metadata - contextual information that makes the public data sets easier to understand and use.

Trusted Partner – an external entity that contributes relevant and compliant data, that has been vetted and approved by the Open Data Governing Committee.

Guidelines

The open data policy will be implemented in accordance with the following principles:

Principle 1: Completeness
Datasets will be as complete as possible while complying with legislation regarding the release of personal information, proprietary information, or other confidential information.

Principle 2: Original Source
Datasets will be original source data with data collection methods documented. Necessary changes to datasets will be documented

Principle 3: Timeliness
Datasets will be published as soon as possible.

Principle 4: Accessibility
Datasets will be easily accessible online in an open data catalogue.

Principle 5: Machine Readable
Datasets will be machine readable so the public can create applications using the data for new services, research, or analysis.

Principle 6: Non-discrimination
Datasets will be available to everyone, with no requirement for registration.

Principle 7: Non-proprietary
No entity will have exclusive control over the datasets.

Principle 8: License-free (non-restrictive license)
Datasets will not be subject to any copyright, patent, trademark, or trade secret regulation.

Principle 9: Long-term Preservation of Datasets
Datasets will remain available online in accordance with the County's Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Principle 10: Usage Costs
Datasets in the Open Data catalogue will be provided free of charge.

Policy Record

Date of Approval by Council: Nov XX, 2016   **Resolution No:** 2016/XXX

Next Review Date: May XX, 2019   **Policy No:** GOV-002-034

Last Review Date: May XX, 2016   **Replaces:** N/A

Administrative Review: Information Technology Services