
Policy Title:	OPEN DATA POLICY
Approval Date:	2014 SEPTEMBER 8 (RES. R14-1600)
History:	
Department:	Engineering

1. Access to Data

In order to ensure a more transparent, effective and accountable government, the City of Surrey (City) shall take prompt steps to expand access to information by making its data freely available in the open data catalogue using open data standards while complying with applicable law and adhering to City policies and procedures.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the Open Data Policy is to remove barriers and set the rules by which City of Surrey data is made available to the public as valuable, machine readable datasets.

3. Governance

- i) An advisory group consisting of City staff will serve as a steering group for Open Data projects and related activity. Advisory group members will facilitate the review and approval of candidate datasets.
- ii) The candidate datasets will be vetted through an appropriate City Committee (Police, Finance, Legal, Social Policy, etc.)
- iii) Data updates will be determined by the type and frequency of reporting.

4. Dataset Release

Each City department shall, to the extent practicable, and in consultation with the Advisory Group, make available online, through the open data catalogue, at a level of acceptable detail, appropriate datasets and associated metadata under their control. No protected data will be released, and only those datasets that meet the criteria set out in the Open Data Assessment Checklist may be posted to the Open Data Catalogue

All departments shall make reasonable and appropriate efforts to update its public datasets on a regular basis.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Local Government Act, or other relevant legislation or Union agreement.

5. Legal Considerations

The release of datasets shall be balanced by the benefits of open data while protecting disclosure of information that is confidential, proprietary, or protected by law such as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA), by the laws of the province of British Columbia and the applicable laws of Canada. The City's open data shall be made freely available under the terms of Surrey's Open Government License.