



## AGENDA ITEM

### Cyber Security Policy AD(44)

October 14, 2021

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#### **BACKGROUND**

The world continues to see a surge of attention regarding cyber activity, and it has not been in a positive light. Many organizations, both public and private, have experienced varying levels of attacks from cyber criminals and it is no longer something that only impacts multinational corporations with massive data centres. When they do happen, a cyber-attack not only causes business disruption, financial loss or breaches of data, they can also cause irreversible reputational damage to the organization involved.

While it is impossible to eliminate cyber risk entirely, and difficult to anticipate all the emerging cyber threats, it is important to reduce the vulnerability of an organization's technical environments and resources, as it certainly lies at the origin of many of the security problems.

One of the first steps is the development of a comprehensive policy which outlines responsibilities of users and the IT department.

Administration is seeking Council's consideration and approval of this proposed policy.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The purpose of Policy AD(44) is to formalize a multi-layer cyber security approach to protecting Lacombe County data, systems, and hardware from a cyber-attack. Traditionally, most people think cyber security is simply maintaining antivirus software on their computers.

To counter this, the proposed policy will provide County staff with a holistic understanding of best practices to follow in order to avoid a cyber-attack, user access management principles to manage who can access our systems, the technology used to protect our organization from external threats, how awareness and training can help reduce our cyber risk and finally how the County would respond to a cyber incident.

This policy will also improve the public image and credibility of our organization as it will provide evidence that Lacombe County has a plan in place to establish the best possible security position to safeguard our data, systems, and hardware assets from cyber criminals.



## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The policy as presented has no budget implications for Lacombe County. The County's existing IT budget includes a variety of cyber protections. This policy and future plans will identify what further protections may be required.

## **LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:
  - (a) to provide good government,
  - (b) to provide services, facilities, or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and
  - (c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.
  
2. Section 201(1) of the MGA states that a council is responsible for:
  - (a) developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality, and
  - (c) carrying out the powers, duties and functions expressly given to it under this or any other enactment.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis.

For this item, the following engagement will take place: Administration will inform the public of Council's decision through the meeting highlights that are delivered on the County's communication channels.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The following elements of the County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: "An attractive, balanced and progressive community".



Our Mission: "To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and the development of healthy relationships".

Information Resources Priority: "Capitalize on information assets": Key Action: Develop County-wide internal information management practices to mitigate risks associated with retention and access to information

Service Delivery Priority: "Provide appropriate service levels to our citizens"

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following resolution:

*That Policy AD(44) be approved as presented.*

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**PREPARED BY:** Michael Kartusch, Manager of I.T. Services

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**REVIEWED BY:** Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services

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**REVIEWED BY:** Tim Timmons, County Manager

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