



## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

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**TO:** Council  
**DATE:** December 22, 2020  
**FILE:** N/A  
**SUBJECT:** High-Speed Internet Services Delivery Policy

**DIVISION:** All  
**APPLICATION:** N/A

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### **POLICY DIRECTION:**

Council regularly develops and reviews its policies, such as the proposed High-Speed Internet Services Delivery Policy, to ensure Council's objectives are represented and the needs of the County are addressed, in accordance with Council's responsibilities in the *Municipal Government Act*.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

As a result of resolutions from May and June of 2020, Council directed that Administration consider how the County could address the issue of expanding internet infrastructure within the County. One of the motions specifically directed that Administration seek Council input through a workshop to determine if there was a shared vision on Council.

Administration did seek Council input, and consideration was given to a spectrum of involvement ranging from doing nothing to full-scale investment by the County into internet infrastructure. It was clear from the input provided by Council that most shared a common vision that enhancing the availability of service in the County was important. Where there was a difference of opinion related to the County's investment into infrastructure.

Administration took this input along with information from other jurisdictions and developed a draft policy for Council's consideration (Attachment 'A'). Falling mid-range in the above-noted spectrum of involvement, this policy, as drafted, would establish the County's position as a facilitator that would work with existing internet service providers, both large and small, and communities within the County to encourage investment into enhanced service provision. The draft policy provides the following direction:

- States the County's recognition of the importance of internet service;
- Sets out how the County will act as a liaison between internet service providers and communities in the County;
- States that the County will consider installation of internet infrastructure when planning capital construction;
- Directs that internet servicing be considered when new and existing planning policy is reviewed and when communities are being developed;
- Sets out some financing options that could be considered, including local improvements where applicable and appropriate.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

Administration recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no budget implications associated with this report.

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#### **Administration Resources**

Kent Robinson, Corporate Services



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

Development and approval of this policy would support Council's strategic objective of 'Expanding Community Service Delivery'.

**OPTIONS:**

Option #1: THAT the High Speed Internet Service Delivery Policy be approved as per Attachment 'A'.

Option #2: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

"Kent Robinson"

"Al Hoggan"

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Executive Director  
Corporate Services

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Chief Administrative Officer

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT 'A': Proposed High-Speed Internet Service Delivery Policy