



DATE: October 5, 2015

TO: Mayor Balducci and Councilmembers

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Department of Planning & Community Development

SUBJECT: Ratification of proposed amendment to the King County Countywide Planning Policies.

The purpose of this Management Brief is to summarize an amendment to the King County Countywide Planning Policies that was recommended for ratification by the Growth Management Planning Council. City Council typically considers these amendments and votes on whether or not to ratify within the required 90 day period.

BACKGROUND

The Growth Management Planning Council is responsible for reviewing and recommending policy and map amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies. The Growth Management Planning Council is composed of elected officials from the King County Council, Seattle, Sound Cities Association and Bellevue. Councilmember Robertson is Bellevue's representative.

The Growth Management Planning Council unanimously approved motion 15-1 (Attachment 1) at their April 22, 2015 meeting adding new text and a new Policy 19A calling for a cooperative process among school districts and jurisdictions (i.e. cities and King County) regarding growth, planning, school capacity and school facility siting issues.

Staff recommends that the City Council ratify the proposed Countywide Planning Policy amendment. If City Council concurs, staff will prepare a resolution for action on the consent agenda for the October 19, 2015 City Council meeting, in advance of the required 90 day period which ends October 31, 2015.

The King County Council approved and ratified the amendment on behalf of unincorporated King County on July 20, 2015. For the amendments to be adopted they must be ratified by at least 30% of city and county governments representing 70% of the population of King County within 90 days of approval by the King County Council.

For additional background on the proposed amendment, Attachment 1 includes a copy of the proposed amendment language in the Growth Management Planning Council motion and staff report. The attachment also includes the King County Council Ordinance. Following is a brief summary of the proposed amendment.

When the Countywide Planning Policies were updated in 2012, one of the outstanding issues was about siting schools in the rural area of the county even though the schools were primarily serving urban populations. A School Siting Task Force was established to work through the issue. One recommendation of the Task Force was to amend the Countywide Planning Policies to establish a cooperative relationship among all jurisdictions and school districts that serve them. This was a recognition that school siting is an issue for urban school districts as well as those serving both urban and rural areas.

Proposed Policy 19A describes a process for jurisdictions and school districts to share information on local growth forecasts, development activity, student enrollment and facility capacity. The intent is that by sharing information the need for and siting of school facilities can highlight where issues may exist and be addressed in collaboration. This policy is also intended to result in better coordination of school district planning to be more consistent with local growth forecasts and the city's Comprehensive Plan. The policy calls for bi-annual reports to the Growth Management Planning Council about how well the policy is working and identification of corrective actions as necessary to implement the policy.

Ratification of the amendment would be in keeping with the City's policies and practice of coordinating with school districts serving Bellevue students. The vast majority of the city is served by the Bellevue School District. Issaquah School District serves the southeast corner (e.g. Lakemont and portions of Eastgate). Small areas of the city in the southwest and the north are served by the Renton and Lake Washington School Districts, respectively. The proposed policy calls for coordination with all four school districts serving Bellevue; however, from a practical standpoint only Bellevue and Issaquah School Districts have facilities within city boundaries. There are not likely to be issues to address with the other two districts, though Bellevue will contact those districts and follow-up on any issues as called for in Policy 19A.

NEXT STEPS

Under the provisions of the Countywide Planning Policies, cities in King County have 90 days to take formal action to either ratify or disapprove the amendment. No action is deemed to be the same as ratification. The 90-day deadline for action on these amendments is October 31, 2015. Cities are not allowed to modify the proposals as part of the ratification process.

If Council has no objections, staff will prepare a Resolution for ratification of the proposed amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies for Council action on the October 19, 2015, Consent Calendar.

ATTACHMENT

1. August 2, 2015, correspondence from King County regarding ratification, including King County Council and Growth Management Planning Council motions and staff reports.