



DATE: January 13, 2020

TO: City Councilmembers

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Community Development

SUBJECT: Information regarding ratification of a proposed amendment to the King County Countywide Planning Policies for best practices relating to collaboration in school siting within the Urban Growth Area

The purpose of this Management Brief is to summarize an amendment to the King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP) that was recommended for ratification by the Growth Management Planning Council and adopted by ordinance by the King County Council. The City Council traditionally considers these amendments and votes on whether or not to ratify within the required 90-day period, which ends January 23, 2020. If directed by Council, staff will prepare a resolution for ratification of the proposed amendments to the CPP for Council action on the January 21 consent agenda.

BACKGROUND

The Growth Management Planning Council unanimously approved Motion 18-1 at their May 30, 2018 meeting recommending an amendment outlining best practice guidelines that jurisdictions can take to facilitate the development and renovation of public schools by establishing these guidelines for city/county/school district collaboration in school siting within the Urban Growth Area (UGA). The King County Council subsequently adopted this amendment adding these guidelines to school siting policies PF-18, PF-19, and PF-19a in the CPP. See Attachment A.

The ordinance adopted by King County adds ten best practices for the county and cities to work together with school districts to build new schools and school facilities within the UGA. These best practices recommendations came about because of policies adopted in 2012 regarding school siting and development, following sustained levels of growth countywide in King County. These levels of growth necessitated addressing where schools were locating, and the provision of urban services to those location decisions.

This work has been accomplished through a planning process called for in PF-19a to cooperatively work with each school district to evaluate their ability to site school facilities necessary to meet identified school capacity needs. The involvement to date for Bellevue and the Bellevue School District has been through annual assessments (called "PF-19a meetings") between districts and jurisdictions in King County. Previous annual assessments were done in 2016 and 2018. The next will be presented in 2020.

It is noteworthy that including these best practices is a continuation of CPP work regarding school siting issues that started in 2011 with the county Schools Siting Task Force and culminated in the 2015 CPP amendment adding Policy PF-19a. The City Council ratified this 2015 CPP amendment, and the new ratification action being studied on Monday night is, using the CPPs for regional guidance, a continuation of that school siting work.

Much of what is recommended in these best practices is already done by Bellevue through its longstanding planning and project review partnerships with the Bellevue School District and with Issaquah, Renton, and Lake Washington school districts. Therefore, Bellevue staff recommends the City Council ratify the proposed CPP amendment, endorsing actions that King County and its cities can take to collaboratively facilitate the development and renovation of public schools within the UGA. See Attachment B.

The Growth Management Planning Council is responsible for reviewing and recommending policy and map amendments to the CPP and related map amendments. 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, and her 2018 GMPC vote was part of the unanimous voting recommendation.

NEXT STEPS

The King County Council approved and ratified the amendment on behalf of unincorporated King County on October 9, 2019. For the amendments to be adopted they must be ratified by at least 30 percent of city and county governments representing 70 percent of the population of King County within 90 days of the approval by the King County Council, or by January 23, 2020.

Under the provisions of the CPP, 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. Cities are not allowed to modify the proposals as part of the ratification process.

This amendment does not establish any mandates that flow from implementation. Bellevue does not need to take any actions in furtherance of this ratification action. As annotated in Attachment B, Bellevue already has effective relationships with school districts in the city, in furtherance of countywide planning policy. If directed by Council, staff will prepare a resolution for ratification of the proposed amendments to the CPP for Council action on the January 21 consent agenda.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Correspondence from King County regarding ratification, including King County Council and Growth Management Planning Council motions and staff reports.
- B. A short list of the ten best practices contained in the ordinance approval, annotated with an assessment of how they are or could be implemented by Bellevue.