



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Committee of the Whole**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	6	<b>Name:</b>	Christine Jensen
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2016-B0062	<b>Date:</b>	April 6, 2016

**SUBJECT**

A briefing on the proposed 2016 update to the King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP).

**SUMMARY**

This year marks a four-year, “major” update to the KCCP, which allows for consideration of substantive policy changes to the Plan and potential revisions to the Urban Growth Area (UGA). The Executive transmitted the proposed 2016 KCCP to the Council on March 1 as Proposed Ordinance 2016-0155. The Council is in the process of reviewing and deliberating on the Executive’s proposal. The Council’s review will include briefings in the Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee over the next several months and possible final adoption in mid-to-late 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

The KCCP is the guiding policy document for land use and development regulations in unincorporated King County, as well as for regional services throughout the County, including transit, sewers, parks, trails, and open space. The King County Code dictates the allowed frequency for updates to the KCCP.

**Annual cycle.** On an annual basis, only technical changes and other limited amendments to the KCCP are allowed to be adopted.<sup>1</sup> This is known as the “annual cycle.” While the Code states that the KCCP “may be amended” annually,<sup>2</sup> it is not required to be reviewed or amended on an annual basis.

**Four-year cycle.** Substantive changes to policy language and amendments to the UGA boundary<sup>3</sup> are only allowed to be considered once every four years.<sup>4,5</sup> This is known as

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<sup>1</sup> K.C.C. 20.18.030

<sup>2</sup> K.C.C. 20.18.030(B)

<sup>3</sup> Note that Four-to-One UGA proposals may be considered during the annual cycle (see K.C.C. 20.18.030(B)(10), 20.18.040(B)(2), 20.18.170, and 20.18.180).

<sup>4</sup> From year 2000 and forward. Substantive updates to the KCCP can be considered on a two-year cycle, but only if: “the county determines that the purposes of the KCCP are not being achieved as evidenced by

the “four-year cycle.” The Code requires the County to complete a “comprehensive review” of the KCCP once every four years in order to “update it as appropriate” and ensure continued compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA).<sup>6</sup> The Code requires the Executive to transmit to the Council a proposed ordinance amending the KCCP once every four years.<sup>7</sup> However, the Code does not require the Council to adopt a KCCP update during the four-year cycle.<sup>8</sup> This year’s four-year review of the KCCP is the fifth major review since 2000.

**Actions to date for the 2016 KCCP.** In May 2015, the Council adopted the Scoping Motion<sup>9</sup> for the 2016 KCCP update. The Scoping Motion outlined the key issues the Council and Executive identified for specific consideration in the forthcoming KCCP update. While the scope of work approved through the Scoping Motion was intended to be as thorough as possible, it does not establish the absolute limit on the scope of issues that can be considered. Based on subsequent public testimony, new information, or Council initiatives, other issues may also be considered by the Executive or the Council – except for UGA expansion proposals, which must follow the limitations of KCCP policy RP-107<sup>10</sup> as discussed in the Area Zoning Studies and Land Use Map Amendments section of the March 15 Transportation, Economy and Environment staff report.<sup>11</sup>

King County Code (K.C.C.) 20.18.160 and RCW 36.70A.140 call for “early and continuous” public engagement in the development and amendment of the KCCP and any implementing development regulations. As part of that public engagement process, the Executive published a Public Review Draft (PRD) of the KCCP on November 6, 2015, which was open for public comment through January 2016.<sup>12</sup> During that time, the Executive hosted six PRD community meetings: one each in Fairwood, Skyway, Fall City, Issaquah, and two in Vashon. A summary of the Executive’s outreach efforts can be found in Appendix R “Public Outreach for Development of KCCP.” A detailed listing of all of the public comments received during development of the Plan can be found in the Public Participation Report that is located on the Council’s KCCP website.<sup>13</sup>

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official population growth forecasts, benchmarks, trends and other relevant data” (K.C.C. 20.18.030(C)). This determination must be authorized by a motion adopted by the Council. To date, this option has not been used by the County.

<sup>5</sup> The annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Transportation Needs Report (TNR), and school capital facilities plans are elements of the KCCP but are adopted in conjunction with the County budget, and thus follows separate timeline, process, and update requirements (see K.C.C. 20.18.060 and 20.18.070).

<sup>6</sup> K.C.C. 20.18.030(C)

<sup>7</sup> K.C.C. 20.18.060

<sup>8</sup> If the Council decides not to adopt a four-year update, the County may still need to formally announce that it has completed the required review; the mechanism to do that, whether legislatively or not, would need to be discussed with legal counsel.

<sup>9</sup> Motion 14351, which was required to be transmitted by the Executive by K.C.C. 20.18.060. The Council approved the 2016 KCCP scoping motion after the April 30 deadline for Council action. However, as noted in the adopted Motion, the Executive agreed to treat the scope as timely and would proceed with the work program as established in the Council-approved version of the motion.

<sup>10</sup> This policy is currently RP-203 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-107 as part of the 2016 KCCP. Does not apply to Four-to-One proposals.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan/materials.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> General public comment was open through January 6, 2016. Additional comments on the late addition of the East Cougar Mountain Potential Annexation Area to the Public Review Draft were allowed from January 27 to February 3.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan.aspx>

Council review of the transmitted 2016 KCCP began with a briefing of the Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee on March 15, 2016. Council review will continue with briefings on selected sections of the transmitted 2016 KCCP, as well as opportunities for public comment and engagement, as noted in the schedule in Attachment 1 to this staff report.<sup>14</sup>

## **ANALYSIS**

The transmitted 2016 KCCP is proposed as a four-year, “major” update to the KCCP, which includes significant policy changes throughout the plan, as well as evaluation of several proposals to revise the UGA boundary. The following is a summary of the overarching changes proposed in the 2016 KCCP:

- **Several restructures of the KCCP.** A welcome letter from the Executive and an Executive Summary are both proposed to be included in the beginning of the Plan to frame the document and the issues addressed in the Plan. The Introduction is proposed to be removed and integrated into Chapter 1 Regional Growth Management Planning. A new Housing and Human Services chapter is proposed to be created, Chapter 4, which both consolidates existing policies into one place and adds more robust policies in each of these policy areas.
- **Readability improvements and technical updates.**
- **Elimination of the Guiding Principles** structure that was created in 2012 as part of the Introduction section to the KCCP to set the tone. The transmitted 2016 KCCP proposes to retain most of the concepts as planning objectives located in Chapter 1 Regional Growth Management Planning, however several substantive amendments to the principles are proposed.
- Increased **Equity and Social Justice (ESJ)** integration throughout the Plan, with prominent changes found in Chapter 2 Urban Communities; Chapter 4 Housing and Human Services; and Chapter 9 Facilities, Services and Utilities.
- **Climate change and the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP)** goals and targets incorporated throughout the Plan. While the most significant changes can be found in the Climate Change section in Chapter 5 Environment and the Energy and Telecommunications section in Chapter 9 Facilities, Services and Utilities, policy updates can be found in most chapters of the Plan.
- The new **Housing and Human Services** chapter includes significant increased attention to affordable and healthy housing issues.
- New policies in directing **urban facilities** that serve urban development to be sited in the UGA.

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<sup>14</sup> Subject to change.

- Updates to **stormwater policies** to address the new requirements in the County's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, including increased attention to **Low Impact Development (LID)**.
- Increased attention on support for and access to **local, healthy, and affordable food** options.
- Stronger connections and references to the **Regional Growth Strategy and GMA**.
- Creation of a new **subarea planning process** with an eight-year planning schedule using the Community Service Area (CSA) geographies.
- Inclusion of proposed land use and zoning map changes for **eight land use proposals** – none of which would expand of the UGA, aside from two minor technical corrections.<sup>15</sup>

The Council will be taking public comment on the proposed 2016 KCCP update throughout its review process. Opportunities for in-person public comment are noted in the schedule in Attachment 1. Additionally, comments can be submitted online via the Council's 2016 KCCP website at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan.aspx>.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2016 KCCP Schedule

## **LINKS**

All components of the proposed 2016 KCCP can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan/transmittal.aspx>

These components include:

- Proposed Ordinance 2016-0155
- 2016 KCCP
- Land Use and Zoning Changes
- Appendix A: Capital Facilities
- Appendix B: Housing
- Appendix C: Transportation

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<sup>15</sup> Twenty land use proposals were ultimately reviewed as part of the Public Review Draft, which were included as an attachment to the 2016 KCCP transmittal package and were discussed in the Area Zoning Studies and Land Use Map Amendments section of the March 15 Transportation, Economy and Environment staff report, which can be found here:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan/materials.aspx>

- Appendix C1: Transportation Needs Report
- Appendix C2: Regional Trails Needs Report
- Appendix D: Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area
- Appendix R: Public Outreach for Development of KCCP
- Attachment: Skyway-West Hill Action Plan
- Attachment: Area Zoning Studies
- Attachment: Development Code Studies
- Attachment: Policy Amendment Analysis Matrix
- Attachment: Public Participation Report

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**King County Council**  
**Schedule for 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan**  
*(As of 3/29/16, Subject to change)*

<b>March 1</b>	Transmittal of King County Executive's proposed 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan.
<b>March 15</b> 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee.</b> Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Committee review process overview</i></li> <li>• <i>Land use proposals/Area Zoning Studies</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 11 Community Service Area Planning</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 12 Implementation, Appendix D Growth Targets</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunity for public comment, following the briefing</b></p>
<b>April 5</b> 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee.</b> Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 1 Regional Planning</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 3 Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 8 Transportation, Appendix C Transportation, C1 Transportation Needs Report</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 10 Economic Development</i></li> <li>• <i>Development code updates (Proposed Ordinance 2016-0155)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunity for public comment, following the briefing</b></p>
<b>April 6</b> 6:30 p.m.	<p><b>Committee of the Whole Town Hall - Special Evening Meeting</b>  <b>Location: Gracie Hansen Community Center at Ravensdale Park (Rock Creek Sports) - 27132 SE Ravensdale Way, Ravensdale WA</b>  <b>Opportunity for public comment on proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan</b></p>
<b>May 3</b> 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee.</b> Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 2 Urban Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 4 Housing and Human Services, Appendix B Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Equity and Social Justice (all chapters)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunity for public comment, following the briefing</b></p>
<b>May 17</b> 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee.</b> Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Climate Change (all chapters)</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 5 Environment</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 6 Shoreline Master Program</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 7 Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources, Appendix C2 – Regional Trail Needs Report</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 9 Services, Facilities and Utilities, Appendix A – Capital Facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Real Property Asset Management Plan (Proposed Ordinance 2016-0159)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunity for public comment, following the briefing</b></p>
<b>June 7</b> 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee.</b> Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Follow up on identified issues</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunity for public comment, following the briefing</b></p>
<b>July 5</b> 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Possible briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee (due to the July 4 holiday, this meeting may be cancelled).</b> Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Follow up on identified issues</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Potential opportunity for public comment, following the briefing</b></p>
<b>July 19</b> 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Possible vote in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Includes consideration of possible amendments</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunity for public comment</b></p>
<b>September 6</b> Time TBD	<p><b>Anticipated public hearing at full Council</b>  <b>Opportunity for public comment</b></p>
<b>September 12</b> Time TBD	<p><b>Possible vote at full Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Includes consideration of possible amendments</i></li> </ul>

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in the Council Chambers on the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor of the King County Courthouse, at 516 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Seattle WA.