

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL (GMPC)**

At its June 6, 2012 meeting the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) took action to adopt changes to the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), including a revised Housing chapter and policies related to school siting in rural areas.

GMPC updated the Housing chapter of the CPPs to recognize varying local conditions. Some cities have existing stock of affordable housing and may focus on preservation, while other cities may need to find ways to support construction of new affordable units. After a series of meetings with jurisdictions and housing stakeholders, a revised Housing chapter was drafted that removes the old affordable housing targets, which were seen as ineffective, and replaces them with increased emphasis on cities taking action. The revised chapter establishes four steps for addressing housing affordability:

- 1) Conducting an inventory and analysis of housing needs
- 2) Implementing policies and strategies to address the unmet housing needs
- 3) Measuring results
- 4) Responding to measurements and adjusting strategies when needed

Adoption of the revised Housing chapter was approved by unanimous vote.

GMPC also took action on policies related to schools in the rural area and the provision of sewers to those sites. Under GMA, sewers are generally limited to urban areas. This limitation threatened the ability of school districts to develop rural sites that they have owned for years. King County initiated a 30-member task force representing a broad coalition of stakeholders that reviewed each of 18 undeveloped rural school sites. The revised set of CPPs reiterates the GMA direction of locating urban services in urban areas and provides for exceptions limited to those specifically identified by the School Siting Task Force. Adoption of the school siting related policies passed with a unanimous vote.

The adopted CPP changes will now be considered by the King County Council, after which they will be reviewed by individual cities through the ratification process. Staff will brief Council on the CPPs again at the time of ratification.