

The Local Service Initiative proposes a new Department that:

- Creates a new cabinet-level position
- Reorganizes service delivery
- Improves customer service and communication

County Services in Unincorporated King County (UKC)



Animal Services

2

Pet Adoption Centers in Kent and Kirkland, and 8 adoption partner locations.

Provides: neighborhood patrols, foster care placement, licenses

Share your thoughts

Email

asklocalservices@kingcounty.gov



Parks

28,000 Acres of open space

196 Parks

70 Miles of trails out of 117 in UKC

Provides: park facilities, trails, youth programs, community events

Permitting and Environmental Review



3,400 Building permits

18,000 Building inspections

67 Business Licenses

Provides: permit application processing and support, permit inspections, code enforcement, subarea planning, business licensing

On Site Sewage Systems

1,541



Applications and permits

Provides: design review, inspections, respond to complaints, professional certification, oversee marine recovery areas

Stormwater Management



Provides: stormwater treatment facilities, technical permit support and assistance, grant programs, regulation management and inspection, water quality compliance

Roads



1,500 Miles of roads

182 Bridges

Provides: plowing and sanding, sweeping, litter control, drainage management, and roadway and bridge maintenance and repair

Plumbing and Gas Piping

1,700 Processed applications

Provides: design review, inspections, and code compliance



Other services



- Support rural agriculture and forestry
- Provide emergency management plans and training
- Coordinate with other governments and service providers



King County

Local Services Initiative

Based on 2016 data.

General questions

Q: Why is a Department of Local Services (DLS) being proposed? What are the long term goals?

A: King County is the local service provider for the quarter-million people who live in the unincorporated areas outside cities. Creating a new department that is solely dedicated to improving the provision of local services and planning for the future will provide residents with a forum to elevate their ideas, needs and concerns to a Cabinet-level position within the County Executive's office.

This means residents will have a more focused point of accountability in the County to have their voices heard without having to navigate the existing web of departments and divisions. It will also bring them to the table with business, labor, elected officials, other service providers and stakeholder as we work together to improve service and set the foundation for a sustainable future in the UKC.

Q: What will be the immediate impact(s) to the customers of each of the affected agencies?

A: 2018 will be a transitional year in which customers should see little change to existing services, as the agencies affected solicit feedback from customers and establish baseline measures for current services and identify opportunities for improvement.

Keep in mind that the County Council must establish new County departments. The Executive expects to send a proposed ordinance to the Council this summer for creation of a Department of Local Services to begin operations in January 2019.

Q: What should UKC residents know about the changes?

A: That we are listening and want to hear more from residents as we plan a new department that can bring their voice to the table at the highest levels of County government. We are planning a series of forums, town meetings, and surveys. For now, as we set up meeting dates and social media channels, we welcome input and questions at our new email account, asklocalservices@kingcounty.gov



Have a question?

Email asklocalservices@kingcounty.gov

Q: Is there a problem we're trying to solve? Do we really need a new department to address the needs of rural and unincorporated King County?

A: Yes. Ask the residents of the UKC and they will tell you they often feel their voices go unheard and their needs go unmet, while residents of cities can turn to their city elected officials. Another concern has been the difficulty of knowing where to start or who to contact in County government to get anything done. Unincorporated King County is unique in its blend of urban and rural, with many hard-to-serve pockets of unincorporated urban areas.

The proposed DLS will provide a single, focused point of accountability that has not previously existed on the Executive side of County government. It will work closely with members of the County Council who represent these urban and rural unincorporated areas outside cities.

Q: The County already provides services to unincorporated King County. How will having a new Department of Local Services result in better or broader services?

A: The County and other local governments now provide services across a complex and sometimes confusing set of agencies, divisions and special purpose taxing districts. A proposed new department for local services can make possible the kind of collaboration, coordination, and communication that can break down unnecessary silos and result in timely, high-quality services for residents with one single, focused point of accountability.

Q: Will there be additional funding available to achieve the goal of providing better service to unincorporated King County?

A: There is no additional revenue for local services at this time, but that doesn't mean we can't provide better service to the UKC within existing funds. As we said above, through collaboration, coordination, and communication, a new department can help break down existing silos and fragmentation in the delivery of services, and provide a focused point of accountability that can greatly benefit our customers. On a monetary basis, King County now provides about 60 percent of the services in the UKC, and the proposed department can provide a central point of coordination with other local governments and service providers in the UKC.

One of the first tasks of the proposed DLS will be a comprehensive review of current UKC needs and funding resources, through a process that will involve UKC residents, elected officials, community organizations, businesses, labor, and other stakeholders in working together to set the foundation for a sustainable future in the UKC.