

14.8 Recommendation from the Future Planning Committee - Review of Local Planning 6 ‘Child Care Facilities in Residential Areas’

File Reference:	PLA/9/0001
Appendices:	1. Current version of Local Planning Policy 6 ‘Child Care Facilities in Residential Areas’ 2. Draft revised Local Planning Policy 6 ‘Family Day Care and Child Care Premises’
Attachments	No

Date:	12 July 2018
Reporting Officer:	L. Parker
Responsible Officer:	R. Cruickshank
Voting Requirement:	Simple Majority

Executive Summary:
Recommendation - That Council advertise the draft revised Local Planning Policies 6 ‘Family Day Care and Child Care Premises’ as contained within the Appendices, for public comment for a minimum period of 21 days in accordance with *Schedule 2 clause 4 of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015.*

- Council’s Urban Planning Business Unit have undertaken a review of all 37 Local Planning Policies (LPPs). It is intended to progressively amend and advertise a number of LPPs.
- This report deals with a review of LPP6 ‘Child Care Facilities in Residential Areas’.
- In reviewing the Policy, consideration has been given to a number of matters including: the effectiveness of the current Policy including any issues of interpretation, application and gaps or deficiencies; like Policies of other Local Governments; alignment with relevant State legislation, policy and/or guidelines (where applicable); greater clarity in the objectives of the Policy; improving the presentation of the Policy.
- It is recommended that LPP6 be amended as detailed within the Officer’s Report and the Apendice.
- It is recommended that the draft revised LPP6 be advertised for public comments.

TABLED ITEMS:
 Nil

BACKGROUND:
 The subject Policies were previously Policies forming part of the Town Planning Scheme No. 1 (TPS 1) Policy Manual.

Amendment 69 to TPS 1, which was gazetted on 2 December 2016, removed the Policies as forming part of the Town Planning Scheme.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 9 February 2016, Council resolved to adopt a number of planning policies as Local Planning Policies, including the Policies the subject of this review.

(To be confirmed 11 September 2018)

DETAILS:

A review of LPP6 'Child Care Facilities in Residential Areas' has been undertaken by Council Officers including considering:

- the effectiveness of the current Policy including any issues of interpretation, application and gaps or deficiencies;
- like Policies of other Local Governments;
- alignment with relevant State legislation, policy and/or guidelines (where applicable);
- greater clarity in the objectives of the Policy; and
- improving the presentation of the Policy.

The existing Policy provides limited guidance on the location of child care premises within residential areas, and emphasises consideration of external amenity impact on surrounding residential properties when considering development applications for such proposals.

Review of this Policy has identified the following issues and shortcomings:

- Has very few provisions and deals only with child care centres within residential areas, to the exclusion of child care premises elsewhere within the Town;
- The Scheme Text definitions for "child care premises", "day care centre" and "family day care" refer to out-dated, superseded Acts or Regulations that are no longer in force;
- The use class of "Day Care Centre" which refers to out-dated State Government childcare services legislation is no longer a term used in current childcare legislation in the State or Nationally;
- There is a need to align the policy with proposed Amendment 80 to TPS1, which seeks to update the definitions in line with the Model Scheme Text and current childcare legislation, namely the Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012;
- The Policy does not currently cover the range of matters outline in WAPC Planning Bulletin 72/2009 'Child Care Centres', which seeks to guide local governments in the preparation of scheme provisions and local planning policies dealing which such uses;
- Provides very little guidance with respect to the location or design of child care premises;
- Does not outline the requirements in relation to previous potentially contaminating land uses, which must be considered when considering proposals for a sensitive land use such as a child care premises; and
- Does not capture or provide any requirements for family day care services, where they are not exempt from the requirement for development approval from the Town.

The changes proposed to LPP6 following its review include the following:

1. Incorporate standardised formatting changes, and correction of minor grammar and formatting errors, consistent with all other reviewed policies;
2. Incorporate revised scheme definitions for 'child care premises' and 'family day care' to reflect Amendment 80 to TPS1 and make reference to the relevant childcare legislation currently in force;
3. Expand the policy scope to capture all education and care services (family day care and child care premises) throughout the Town (not just within residential areas);

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4. Retitle policy to 'Family Day Care and Child Care Premises' accordingly;
5. Expand the policy Introduction and Objectives to more comprehensively explain and justify the basis of the Policy;
6. Incorporate the majority of content contained in WAPC's Planning Bulletin 72/2009 'Child Care Premises', including provisions related to:
 - a. suitable and unsuitable locations;
 - b. site characteristics (lot size/shape, topography, site contamination);
 - c. design (building appearance, street walls and fencing, boundary fencing, landscaping and signage);
 - d. car parking, vehicular access and traffic; and
 - e. noise impacts
7. Align the policy provisions with revised LPP3 'Non-residential Uses In or Adjacent to Residential Areas' and minimise excessive overlap or duplication of provisions for childcare premises proposed in residential areas;
8. Insert provisions applying to Family Day Care acknowledging that these are typically of a small scale and provided from dwellings within residential areas/settings, to:
 - a. Clarify the circumstances in which development approval is required; and
 - b. Outline requirements for the location, design and operation of family day care, where development approval is required;
9. State that Family Day Care from a Multiple Dwelling will not be permitted (where development approval is required), due to significant risk of adverse amenity impacts on adjoining residents; and
10. Insert provisions related to application submission requirements, community consultation, conditions of approval and disabled access requirements when proposing the conversion of an existing building to a child care premises.

A copy of the draft revised Policy is contained in the Appendices to this report. For comparison, the currently operative version of the Policy is also contained in the Appendices.

Legal Compliance:

Local Planning Policies

The amendment of a Local Planning Policy is to be undertaken in accordance with deemed clauses 4 and 5 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015*, including:

- Community consultation for a period of not less than 21 days; and
- Consideration of public submissions and a Council resolution to proceed with the policy with or without modifications, or not proceed.

Policy Implications:

The proposed draft revised Policy provides greater clarity in the objectives, application and applicable requirements, and forms part of a review of all of the Town's LPPs.

It also aligns LPP6 with current State Government planning legislation and Federal legislation related to education and care services.

Risk Management Considerations:

Risk & Consequence	Consequence + Rating	Likelihood = Rating	Overall Risk Analysis	Mitigation/ Actions
LPP6 contains outdated and obsolete provisions that do not align with the currently applicable State and Federal legislative framework. It is also limited in scope, applying only to child care centres in residential areas. Delaying its amendment will exacerbate its already restricted scope and applicability, and leave the Town with deficient policy guidance to consider proposals for family day care and child care premises.	High	Likely	Moderate – Applications for child care premises are infrequent/ rarely received by the Town however it is considered essential to have a relevant and effective policy to adequately consider these proposals.	Support the proposed draft revised Policy for the purposes of community consultation.

Strategic Plan Implications:

Environment

EN1 – Land use planning that puts people first in urban design, allows for different housing options for people with different housing needs and enhances the Town’s character.

Economic

EC1 – A desirable place for commerce and tourism that supports equity, diverse local employment and entrepreneurship.

Financial Implications:

There will be a cost for advertising of the proposal in the Southern Gazette newspaper, with their being funds available to cover this cost.

Sustainability Assessment:

External Economic Implications:

Nil

Cultural Issues:

Nil

Environmental Issues:

Nil

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COMMENT:

The review of LPP6 has identified that it is in need of significant revision to reflect proposed changes to TPS1, current legislative requirements, State (WAPC) level guidance on relevant policy considerations and the need to include provisions related to family day care services, where development approval is required from the Town.

It is recommended that the Future Planning Committee recommend to Council that draft revised Local Planning Policy 6 as contained in the Appendices to this report, be advertised for public comment. A further report will be presented to Council in the future following the conclusion of the advertising period, reporting on any submissions received, and seeking a final decision from Council as to whether or not to adopt the draft Policy (in its current revised form or in a further modified form).

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION RESOLUTION:**Moved: Cr V Potter****Seconded: Cr Vernon**

That Council advertise the draft revised Local Planning Policy 6 'Family Day Care and Child Care Premises' as contained within the Appendices, for public comment for a minimum period of 21 days in accordance with Schedule 2 Clauses 4 and 5 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*.

The Motion was Put and**CARRIED (8-0)**