

**Extract of minutes of meeting on Constitutional Affairs Panel
held on 17 July 2001**

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IV. Any Other Business

Roles and functions of the District Councils

34. Ms Emily LAU said that she and the Chairman had attended a special meeting of the Home Affairs Panel on 16 July 2001 to discuss the review of the roles and functions of the District Councils (DCs). In their view, it was inappropriate for the Administration to consult the public on the basis of the Report of the Working Group on District Councils Review released in July 2001. They were dissatisfied that LegCo had not been consulted before the Administration released the Report. The Chairman had proposed to form a select committee to review the roles and functions of the DCs under the present constitutional system and she expressed support to the proposal.

35. Ms Emily LAU added that at the special meeting on 16 July 2001, the Administration had agreed to extend the consultation period which would end on 10 September 2001. While some members had proposed to discuss the matter by holding a number of joint Panel meetings, she considered that the Chairman's proposal a better arrangement to deal with this important issue. Ms LAU suggested and members agreed that the proposal of establishing a select committee to review the roles and functions of DCs be discussed at the next Panel meeting on 27 August 2001. Subject to the agreement of the Panel, a recommendation could be made to the House Committee. The Administration should also be invited to give its view on the proposal.

36. Mr SZETO Wah supplemented that an opportunity should be given to DC members for them to express their views on the matter.

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