

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 813/01-02

Ref: CB2/DC/G

Paper for House Committee Meeting on 11 January 2002

**Suggestion made by members of Sha Tin
District Council on enhancing communication
between the Legislative Council and District Councils**

Purpose

This paper seeks the views of the House Committee on a suggestion made by members of the Sha Tin District Council on how communication between the Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Councils (DCs) could be enhanced.

Background

2. At the meeting held between LegCo Members and members of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) on 29 November 2001, views were exchanged on how communication between LegCo and DCs could be enhanced. STDC members suggested, among other things, that LegCo Members should listen to the views of DC members on major policy issues. In this connection, the question of whether there should be a standing arrangement to inform DCs of the items of discussion of LegCo committees to facilitate consultation with DCs was also raised. LegCo Members attending the meeting with STDC members agreed that the matter should be referred to the House Committee for consideration. The extract from the draft minutes of the meeting on 29 November 2001 is at Appendix I for Members' reference.

Current arrangements and proposals

3. At present, LegCo committees mainly adopt the following approaches to seek views on major issues, policy initiatives, legislative proposals, etc. -

- a. If a subject matter concerned specific organisations or persons, the relevant committee would write to invite these organisations or persons to give their views on the subject matter; or

- b. If a subject matter concerned the public in general, the relevant committee would invite views by issuing press releases, or placing advertisements in newspapers, or announcing invitations for views on the LegCo website.

4. Regarding the approach referred to paragraph 3(a) above, it is the practice of LegCo committees to seek the views of organisations or persons concerned including those of DCs on major policies, issues and legislative proposals. For example, the Panel on Transport has received representations from the DCs concerned on Route 7 and Route 10. The Bills Committee studying the Fire Safety (Buildings) Bill has sought the views of the 18 DCs on the Bill. The subcommittee formed to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils has also invited the views of the 18 DCs on the relative priorities of those projects within their districts. Committees should continue to seek the views of organisations and persons concerned, including those of DCs, as and when necessary.

5. As regards the approach discussed in paragraph 3(b) above, it is proposed that committees concerned should also write to the 18 DCs to invite them to give views, in addition to issuing press releases, or placing advertisements in newspapers, or announcing invitations for views on the LegCo website.

6. At present, a list of weekly activities of LegCo (sample at Appendix II) is available on the LegCo website. The agendas, discussion papers and minutes of meetings of Panels, Bills Committees, subcommittees on subsidiary legislation, etc. are also available on the LegCo website. DC members and other persons can find out what have been or will be discussed by these committees by visiting the LegCo website.

7. To make it even more convenient for DC members to find out the forthcoming items of discussion of LegCo committees, it is proposed that arrangement be made by the LegCo Secretariat to send the list of weekly activities of LegCo to individual DC Secretariats vide e-mail.

Members' views

8. Members' views are sought on the proposals in paragraphs 5 and 7 above.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat

9 January 2002

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立法會
Legislative Council
(Draft)

LC Paper No. CB(1)/01-02

Ref : CB1/DC/ST/00

**Minutes of meeting between Legislative Council Members
and Sha Tin District Council members
on Thursday, 29 November 2001, at 10:45 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Convenor)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon HUI Cheung-ching, JP
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung, BBS
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP

By invitation : **Sha Tin District Council**

Mr WAI Kwok-hung (Chairman)
Mr Thomas PANG Cheung-wai (Vice Chairman)
Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Mr CHAN Kwok-tim
Mr CHENG Cho-kwong
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man
Mr CHOW Ka-kong, MH
Mr CHU Moon-shing
Mr Tony KAN Chung-nin, BBS
Mr LAM Hong-wah
Mr LAW Kwong-keung
Mr LEUNG Chi-kin, MH
Mr LEUNG Chi-wai
Mr Peter LEUNG Kwok-hin
Mr LEUNG Wing-hung
Ms Porinda LIU Huan-yee
Mr MOK Wai-hung
Mr NAM Yuk-tong
Mr TANG Wing-cheong

Mr TSOI Ah-chung
Mr WONG Kwok-hung
Mr YEUNG Cheung-li
Ms YEUNG Sin-hung

Clerk in Attendance : Mr Andy LAU
Chief Assistant Secretary (1)2

Staff in Attendance : Ms Alice AU
Senior Assistant Secretary (1)5

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F. Enhancing co-operation and liaison between the Legislative Council and District Councils

32. A STDC member raised the following specific proposals with a view to enhancing co-operation and liaison between LegCo and DCs:

- (a) LegCo Members returned by geographical constituencies should regularly (at least once a year) attend meetings of the DCs of the relevant constituencies for the purpose of understanding livelihood issues which were of concern to local residents. In order to enhance mutual communication, LegCo Members should also listen to the views of DC Members on major policy issues such as measures to boost the economy, the legalization of soccer betting, education and welfare, public expenditures on capital projects, various matters arising out of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344), etc.;
- (b) The committees of LegCo should consider inviting DC members to join consultation groups, taking into account the expertise of individual DC members; and

- (c) LegCo Members should consider the desirability of increasing an additional seat for the District Council functional constituency so as to enhance the liaison between LegCo and DCs. Relevant LegCo Members should regularly visit the 18 DCs (at least twice per DC within their term of office) to collect DCs' views. A mechanism for collecting views and seeking consultation should be established, for example, by making use of the Internet for opinion polling and collecting suggestions, and setting out the views expressed by LegCo Members.

33. Regarding the suggestion on whether LegCo Members should consider the desirability of increasing an additional seat for the District Council functional constituency to enhance the liaison between LegCo and DCs, the Convenor stated that she was personally against the returning of LegCo Members through functional constituencies. She would only support the election of LegCo Members by direct election.

34. The Convenor said that an existing mechanism was already in place for LegCo Members and DC Members to communicate and exchange views on various subjects. One such arrangement was the regular meetings-cum-luncheons held between LegCo Members and DC Members. In addition, LegCo Members returned by geographical constituencies would also try their best to attend the meetings of the DCs of the relevant constituencies. She stressed that LegCo would welcome all views from the public and interested parties. Any DCs or individual DC Members could always raise their concerns with LegCo Members.

35. Acknowledging the interest of individual DC Members might have on the work of various LegCo committees, Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung expressed support for LegCo committees to proactively solicit the views of DCs when

considering matters of wide public concern. Regarding the formation of consultation groups under LegCo committees, he opined that the matter might have to be considered against the rules and regulations of LegCo.

Clerk

36. In response to the request raised by STDC Members, LegCo Members agreed that a list of existing Panels and Bills Committees of LegCo should be provided to STDC Members for information. On the use of the Internet to obtain information about LegCo businesses and to submit views to LegCo, STDC Members noted that information such as notices for inviting public views on specific matters posted by various LegCo committees, meeting dates, agendas, relevant papers and the minutes of meetings of LegCo committees, topical issues, etc. could be readily accessed through the LegCo website. STDC Members could also submit their views to LegCo electronically via an e-mail sent through the “Enquiries” button on LegCo’s homepage.

Clerk

37. Regarding the existing arrangement for public consultation adopted by LegCo committees, the Clerk reported that when individual committees decided to invite public views on specific issues, a list of individuals/organizations to be consulted would be drawn up by the respective committees. For example, views from relevant DCs had been invited by the Transport Panel on a number of major transport infrastructure projects. As regards the question of whether a standing practice should be adopted to inform all DCs of forthcoming agenda items to be discussed by LegCo committees so as to facilitate consultation, LegCo Members agreed that the views of STDC Members should be referred to the House Committee for consideration.

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Appendix II

Meetings of the Legislative Council and its Committees

(7 January 2002 to 12 January 2002)

The Legislative Council will hold 14 open meetings and five closed meetings during the week from 7 January 2002 to 12 January 2002 in the Legislative Council Building. You are welcome to observe the proceedings of the meetings. Please call 2869 9399 during office hours to reserve a seat.

Details of the meetings are as follows (subject to change):

Date	Time	Meeting
7 January 2002 (Monday)	9:00 am	Meeting of Public Accounts Committee — Conference Room C (closed meeting)
	10:45 am	Meeting of Financial Affairs Panel — Conference Room A (to discuss submission of tax returns by electronic means and by telephone with the use of a password; Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes - minimum and maximum levels of relevant income for contribution purposes and situation of default contributions; and development of the retail debt market in Hong Kong)
	2:30 pm	Meeting of Bills Committee on Road Traffic Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2001 — Conference Room B (to meet with the Administration)
	2:30 pm	Meeting of Housing Panel — Conference Room A (to discuss the relief measures provided by the Housing Authority and the Housing Society for owners whose properties have become negative equity; and review of income and asset limits for public housing applicants)
	4:30 pm	Meeting of Committee on Rules of Procedures — Conference Room C (closed meeting)

Date	Time	Meeting
	4:30 pm	Meeting of Bills Committee on Travel Agents (Amendment) Bill 2001 — Chamber (to meet with deputations and the Administration)
8 January 2002 (Tuesday)	2:15 pm	Hearing of Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units — Conference Room A (closed hearing) (witness: former Registered Structural Engineer of the Contractor for the Tin Shui Wai foundation contract)
9 January 2002 (Wednesday)	9:00 am	Meeting of Public Accounts Committee — Conference Room C (closed meeting)
	10:45 am	Meeting of Public Works Subcommittee — Chamber
	2:30 pm	Legislative Council meeting — Chamber
10 January 2002 (Thursday)	8:30 am	Meeting of Subcommittee to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils — Conference Room A (to discuss the Administration's response to concerns raised by members at the meeting on 15 November 2001)
	2:30 pm	Meeting of Bills Committee on Karaoke Establishments Bill — Conference Room A (to meet with the Administration)
	2:30 pm	Special meeting of Commerce and Industry Panel — Chamber (to meet with deputations and the Administration)
11 January 2002 (Friday)	8:30 am	Special meeting of Transport Panel — Chamber (to discuss Shenzhen Western Corridor, Deep Bay Link and Route 10)
	9:00 am	Meeting of Public Accounts Committee — Conference Room C (closed meeting)
	10:45 am	Meeting of Home Affairs Panel — Chamber (to discuss the provision of community facilities; and scheme for contracting out cultural, arts, recreational and sports services and venue management)

Date	Time	Meeting
	2:30 pm	Finance Committee meeting — Chamber
	4:30 pm (immediately after Finance Committee meeting)	House Committee meeting — Chamber
12 January 2002 (Saturday)	9:15 am	Public hearing of Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units — Chamber (witnesses: Mr YUEN Tze-chu, Business Director/Commercial and Business Development of the Housing Department; and Mr LEE Sai-cheung, former Project Director/Works of the Housing Department)

End/Friday, January 4, 2002