

立法會

Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee Meeting on 15 October 2004

Meetings-cum-luncheons with District Council members

Purpose

This paper invites Members' views on the arrangements for holding regular meetings-cum-luncheons with members of District Councils.

Background

2. Meetings-cum-luncheons have been organised since mid 1980s for Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to meet members of District Boards/District Councils from time to time. These meetings-cum-luncheons aim to enable LegCo Members to discuss and exchange views with District Council members on matters of mutual interest and concern as well as to enhance communication between the legislature and District Councils.

3. During the second term of LegCo, one to two meetings with each District Council were held within a legislative session, as agreed to by the House Committee. Under this arrangement, almost four complete rounds of meetings were held with the 18 District Councils. Members may wish to note that it was suggested by the Chairman of a District Council that to allow more topics to be discussed, either more time be allowed for discussion at the meetings between LegCo Members and District Council members, or such meetings be held more frequently. Other District Councils, however, did not make similar suggestions.

Proposed arrangements

4. For the third LegCo term, it is proposed that Members continue to hold one to two meetings with each District Council within a legislative session. Under this arrangement, meetings-cum-luncheons with District Council members will be held every three to four weeks when the Council is in session,

and at least three complete rounds of meetings with members of the 18 District Councils will be held before their term ends on 31 December 2007. In addition, meetings-cum-luncheons with members of about 10 District Councils can be arranged upon the commencement of the third term of District Councils on 1 January 2008 and before the end of the third LegCo term.

5. In accordance with rule 32 of the House Rules (the Appendix refers) and in line with past practice, it is also proposed that on each occasion, two meetings will take place concurrently on a Thursday morning from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm in different conference rooms. The meetings will be followed by a joint luncheon for members of the two District Councils. Members, except the President, will be divided into groups each comprising nine or 10 Members to attend meetings with members of District Councils on a roster basis. Meetings with those District Councils which belong to the same geographical constituency in the LegCo elections will be arranged to be held on different dates to enable the Members elected from geographical constituencies to meet as many District Council members of their respective constituencies as possible.

Consultation with the District Councils

6. Subject to Members' views on the proposed arrangements set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Secretariat will contact the 18 District Councils through the Home Affairs Department to make arrangements for the meetings-cum-luncheons.

Members' advice

7. Members' views are sought on the proposed arrangements set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

Extract from the House Rules

32. Meetings with District Councils

- (a) Meeting-cum-luncheons are held in camera with District Council (DC) members from time to time to discuss and exchange views on matters of mutual interest.
- (b) Tentative dates of the meetings can be drawn up in advance, but the exact dates can be fixed mutually between the respective DCs and the Secretariat, subject to sufficient notice being given to members on both sides.
- (c) The meeting time is normally from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm, followed by lunch up to 2:00 pm.
- (d) Members are divided into groups to meet with DC members on a roster system.
- (e) Members convene meetings by turn.
- (f) Upon the request of DCs, individual Members may be invited to attend a particular meeting.
- (g) Each meeting should be attended by a minimum of five Members. Members scheduled on the roster should make themselves available to attend these meetings/luncheons.
- (h) If the number of Members who have signed up for a meeting is less than five, other Members approached by the Secretariat should make an effort to attend the meeting to ensure that the minimum attendance is met.
- (i) A formal agenda for the meeting should be prepared in consultation with the DC concerned prior to the meeting.
- (j) Minutes of meetings are to be issued to the DCs after the meetings.
- (k) Matters discussed at the meetings are followed up by the relevant policy Panels or the Complaints Division as appropriate.
- (l) While the Secretariat will liaise with the Administration on the issues raised and the follow-up action to be taken, the convenor of the meeting/luncheon will report back to the DC personally, on behalf of Members present.