



10 July 2006

Our Ref. : BLA/LCPCC/TT/cw/0706

Your Ref. : CB2/PL/CA

Hon LUI Ming Wah
Chairman of Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council
c/o Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

By Fax and By Post
Fax No. : 2509 9055

Dear Mr Lui

Consultation on Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils

Thank you for your letter dated 7 June 2006 inviting the Institute to deliver views on the review on the role, functions and composition of District Councils.

On 17 February 2006, we have made submission to Legislative Council expressing our views on:

- a) devolution of Executive Power to District Councils (DC);
 - b) district members Appointment System;
 - c) delegation of Authority to the Enhancement of the District Environment;
- and that is not repeated. A copy of the letter is enclosed herewith for reference.

Subsequently the Government issued the consultation document on April 2006, and we would like to express the following views:-

- 1.0 HKIA agrees that the current arrangement of various source of funding are not effective in meeting district need in a timely manner, and would be piecemeal in nature and do not cater for larger scale minor environmental improvement works.
- 2.0 HKIA supports the creation of a dedicated capital works block vote to implement the decisions of District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC).
- 3.0 HKIA further supports to explore ways and means to involve DCs in the design and execution of improvement works.
- 4.0 HKIA noted that there is a Urban Minor Works committee under DCs, and committee may be expanded or revamped for the desired role.

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- 5.0 To assist the DFMC ,the Urban Minor Works Committee, or other relevant committees, in the initial conception, planning and preparation of the works, and subsequent procurement and execution of works, professionals may be nominated nominate to join the committees to offer relevant professional input. At present, HKIA has members serving the Urban Minor Works committee in some districts, e.g. Wanchai and Kwun Tong.
- 6.0 The respective members nominated to the committee may declare his interest in such manner in order to prevent any conflict in subsequent procurement of consultancy and construction works.
- 7.0 Pioneer projects in some districts may be carried out on a pilot basis.

The Institute has been advocating that district environment shall be considered in a holistic way and a total solution for urban space, instead of piecemeal approach, is the key to a better and vibrant living environment.

Yours sincerely

Tony Tang
Chairman
District Works Committee

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Encl. : Letter of HKIA dated 17 Feb 2006 to Panel on Constitutional Affairs of LegCo

c.c. Prof Bernard Lim, President
Dr Wong Wah Sang, Chairman, Board of Local Affairs



The Hong Kong Institute of Architects **50th Anniversary** established since 1956
香港建築師學會五十周年紀念 一九五六年創會

17 February 2006

Our Ref. : BLA/LegCo/RC/cw/0206

Dr Hon Lui Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Chairman
Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council
c/o Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

By Fax and By Post
Fax No. : 2509 9055

Dear Sir

Special Meeting of Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 18 February 2006 on Review of District Councils

Thank you for your letter dated 26 January 2006 inviting the Institute to deliver views on review of District Councils at the special meeting of Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 18 February 2006.

We are pleased to deliver our views on the subject as follows :

1. Devolution of Executive Power to District Councils (DC)

Majority of the DC members are elected from respective districts and are accountable to their district. With their understanding to the district and their voters, the government shall actively consider to devolve more executive power to DCs, instead of keeping DCs as an advisory body forever. The former Urban Council and Regional Council would be a reference.

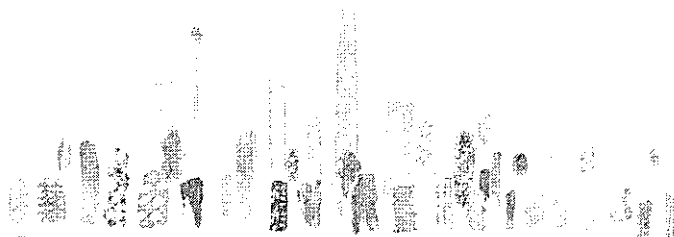
2. District Council Member Appointment System

The Institute has conducted a survey to seek members' views on whether the appointment system of the DC should be abolished. 20% of members responded to the survey, with 38% of the respondents agreed, 42% neutral, and 20% disagreed to abolish the DC appointment system.

3. Delegation of Authority to the Enhancement of the District Environment

The DCs shall be delegated with more authority on co-ordination and the enhancement of respective district environment.

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Dr Hon Lui Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Chairman, Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council

The Institute has nominated members to join the sub-committees of the District Council on urban minor improvement works. In some cases, with a proposal to enhance certain part of the district, and finding out that the pavement are responsible by the Landscape Section of Highways Department, lightings by Lighting Section of Highways Department, trees by LCSD, and rubbish bin by FEHD. Without proper authority on co-ordination and execution, the district enhancement work would only be piecemeal.

The Institute has been advocating that district environment shall be considered in a holistic way and a total solution for urban space, instead of piecemeal approach, is the key to a better and vibrant living environment.

Yours sincerely

Rita Cheung (Mrs)
Registrar

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c.c. Prof Bernard Lim, President
Dr Wong Wah Sang, Chairman, Board of Local Affairs
Mr Donald Choi, Taskforce on Constitutional Development Review