

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for House Committee meeting on
6 January 2017**

**Arrangements for meeting-cum-luncheons between
Legislative Council Members and District Council members**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on the arrangements for holding meeting-cum-luncheons with members of District Councils ("DCs"), and annual luncheons with the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of DCs in the current legislative term.

Meeting-cum-luncheons with members of District Councils

Background

2. Since mid 1980s, meeting-cum-luncheons have been organized for Members of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") to meet with members of DCs from time to time. These corporate liaison activities aim to enable LegCo Members to discuss and exchange views with DC members on matters of mutual interest.

3. Rule 32 of the House Rules ("HR") (**Appendix**) sets out the general arrangements for the meeting-cum-luncheons with DCs. In the past LegCo terms, the normal arrangement was to hold meetings with two DCs concurrently in different conference rooms on Thursday mornings, at about three-week intervals, from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm, followed by a joint luncheon with members of the two DCs at the Dining Hall. LegCo Members, except the President, were divided into groups to attend the

meetings with DCs on a roster basis¹. Members convened the meetings with DCs by turn. Matters raised at the meetings were also referred to the relevant Panels or the Public Complaints Office for follow-up as appropriate.

4. To enhance public awareness of this area of liaison work of LegCo, a photo press release with a list of the topics discussed and a list of the attending LegCo Members would be issued after each meeting with a DC since the Fifth LegCo.

Meeting-cum-luncheons with DC members held in the Fifth LegCo

5. During the Fifth LegCo, meeting-cum-luncheons with 10 DCs were held in the first legislative session. One complete round of meeting-cum-luncheons with the 18 DCs were held in the second and third legislative sessions respectively. However, as Members were busily engaged in the business of LegCo before prorogation and in order to avoid clashing with LegCo meetings, no meeting with DCs could be scheduled in the last legislative session.

Proposed arrangements for the current term

6. Having regard to the practical difficulties in arranging meetings with DCs during the last legislative session of the Fifth LegCo and the need to allow sufficient lead time for preparing and taking follow-up actions after the meetings, it is proposed that two complete rounds of meeting-cum-luncheons with 18 DCs are to be scheduled within the first to third legislative sessions of the current term, and no meeting-cum-luncheon will be arranged in the last legislative session.

7. Since the commencement of the Sixth LegCo, it is observed that there is a need to resume Council meetings on Thursday at 9am for the continuation of unfinished business. If the current arrangement of holding the meeting-cum-luncheons on Thursday mornings is maintained, it will clash with Council meetings. Hence, it is proposed to hold the

¹ Around 16 Members will be on roster to attend each meeting-cum-luncheon. Among the roster Members, those returned from geographical constituencies will be designated as "Core Roster Members" in recognition of their close connection with the relevant districts. In addition, Members returned from the District Council (first) functional constituency and District Council (second) functional constituency will be consulted as to which DC meetings they would like to attend and they will then be included in the group of "Core Roster Members" for those meetings.

meeting-cum-luncheons on Friday mornings, or on Monday or Tuesday mornings if some DCs are not available on Friday.

Luncheon between LegCo Members and the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of District Councils

8. To facilitate exchange of views and better coordination on some cross-district or territory-wide issues raised by DCs, and following consultation with all LegCo Members, the House Committee agreed at its meeting on 7 January 2011 that in addition to the scheduled meeting-cum-luncheons with DC members, a luncheon with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the 18 DCs should be organized each year to further enhance the communication between LegCo Members and DC members. These luncheons were well received by both LegCo Members and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of DCs. It is proposed that such luncheon be continued to be organized each year in the Sixth LegCo.

Advice sought

9. Members' views are sought on the proposed arrangements set out in paragraphs 6 to 8 above. Subject to Members' views, the Secretariat will contact the 18 DCs through the Home Affairs Department to make arrangements for the meeting-cum-luncheons as well as the luncheon with the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the 18 DCs.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 January 2017

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.