

(Summary Translation)

(Letterhead of Secretariat of Legislative Councillors of the Democratic Party)

**The Democratic Party's proposed amendments to the District Councils Bill
regarding the functions and procedure of District Councils**

The main function of District Councils (DCs) is to advise the Government on a wide range of matters affecting the District concerned and this function has been performed effectively by the previous District Boards (DBs). The Democratic Party (DP) considers it unnecessary to rigidly set out in law the specific subject matters on which DCs are required to provide advice. For this reason, the DP proposes to amend the Bill in order to bring the functions of DCs in line with those of the previous DBs to cover a wide spectrum of areas.

Besides, the DP proposes that the previous provisions on the appointment of members to committees of DBs should be followed so that any person who is not a DC member may be appointed as a member to a committee of a DC without having to satisfy the requirements for candidature, thereby providing DCs with greater flexibility and enabling the appointment of a greater diversity of professionals to the committees.

Regarding the procedure of DCs, the DP proposes that the quorum of DC meetings should be determined by each DC on its own and stated in its rules of procedure but it should be one-third of the members of a DC at the minimum so that each DC can make the decision having regard for the number of its members and other individual factors, thus providing each DC with flexibility in its procedure of meetings.

District Council Bill

COMMITTEE STAGE

Amendments to be moved by

Clause

Amendment Proposed

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| 59 (a) (i) | Delete "including matters relating to food and environmental hygiene services". |
| 68 | Delete "half" and substitute by "one third of". |
| 69 (2) | Delete the subsection and substitute by —
"(2) A District Council may appoint to a committee any person who is not a member." |