

Town Planning Bill
Bills Committee Paper No. 4/00

**Composition of Town Planning Board,
Criteria for Appointment and Termination of Appointment**

Background

At the first meeting of the Bills Committee held on 1.3.2000, Members made enquiries related to the composition of Town Planning Board (TPB) and the criteria for appointment and termination of TPB members. This paper supplements the answers given orally at the second Bills Committee meeting held on 7.3.2000.

Administration's Responses :

- (a) The composition of the current term of TPB members (which will expire on 31 March) is as follows :

Official Members (including Secretary)	8
Non-official members :	
Engineering	4
Architecture	3
Surveying	3
Legal	3
Environment	4
Business / Commerce	2
Industry	4
Social Work	1
Transport	2
Total number of members	34

In order to widen the representation of the TPB members, the Administration has recommended to the Chief Executive (CE) to expand the TPB's membership. The CE's decision will be announced through the Gazette scheduled for 31 March.

(b) Criteria for Appointment

The TPB's main functions are to prepare town plans and consider planning applications for development in the territory. To discharge these functions effectively, the TPB needs to have among its members people who have a wide range of knowledge and expertise in matters related to planning and development as well as those who represent a broad spectrum of community interests. TPB members are therefore appointed on the basis of their individual expertise and involvement in the various related fields including engineering, architecture, surveying, legal, environment, business/commerce, industry, social work and transport. Nevertheless, they are also expected to take a broad view on overall planning for Hong Kong beyond their own professional horizons.

(c) Termination of Appointment

There is no express provision in the Town Planning Ordinance, Town Planning Bill nor the "TPB Procedures and Practice" on the termination of the appointment of TPB members. However, there is a general enabling provision under s.42 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap.1) to empower the Chief Executive to remove, suspend, dismiss or revoke the appointment of, and to re-appoint or reinstate, any person appointed. We have no record of any serving TPB members whose appointment has been so terminated.

**Planning and Lands Bureau
March 2000**