

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2) 3129/05-06

Ref : CB2/H/19

**Paper for the House Committee Meeting on 6 October 2006**

**Arrangements for House Committee meetings**

**Purpose**

This paper invites Members to consider the arrangements for House Committee (HC) meetings pursuant to the proposal to swap the meeting time of HC and the Finance Committee (FC).

**Background**

2. Rule 20(e) of the House Rules provides that “*When the Council is in session, the House Committee normally meets every Friday afternoon at 2:30 pm. When a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled to be held earlier in the same afternoon, the House Committee meeting will start at 4:30 pm.....*”

3. Members agreed at the HC meeting on 6 January 2006 that consideration should be given to swapping the meeting time of HC and FC so that HC meetings would start at 2:30 pm and FC meetings would follow immediately after the HC meetings.

4. After consultation with members and the Administration, FC decided at its meeting on 24 March 2006 that -

- (a) the meeting time of FC and HC should be swapped such that HC meetings will be held at 2:30 pm, while FC meetings will be held at 3:00 pm;
- (b) where there are no preceding HC meetings, FC meetings will be held at 2:30 pm;
- (c) the duration of FC meetings should be two hours, and any items not dealt with at the meeting should be carried over to the next meeting; and

- (d) the above arrangements will take place in the new legislative session starting October 2006.

### **New meeting arrangements**

5. In the light of the above decision of the FC, HC meetings may start at 2:30 pm with effect from the 2006-07 session. As FC meetings will be scheduled to start at 3:00 pm, it will be necessary to consider an arrangement to deal with the situation where HC is unable to finish all the business on the agenda before 3:00 pm. It is anticipated that such occasions will not be frequent, as explained in paragraph 6 below. When such a situation does arise, it is proposed that the HC meeting will be suspended at 3:00 pm and resumed after the FC meeting to deal with the unfinished business on the agenda.

6. Members may wish to note that 35 and 31 HC meetings were held in the last two sessions respectively. Of these, about one-third were held on the same day when there were FC meetings (34.29% in 2004-05 and 38.71% in 2005-06). The percentage of HC meetings concluded within half-an-hour was 51.4% in the 2004-05 session, increasing to 77.4% in the 2005-06 session; the relevant statistics are in **Appendix I**.

### **Amendment to House Rules**

7. Rule 20(e) of the House Rules will require amendment to reflect the new meeting arrangements. The proposed amendments are in **Appendix II**.

### **Review of meeting arrangements**

8. Members may wish to consider the need for reviewing the new meeting arrangements in the light of experience. If so, this could take place at the end of the 2006-07 session.

### **Advice sought**

9. Members are invited to -
  - (a) endorse the proposal that with effect from the 2006-07 session, HC meetings will start at 2:30 pm, and in the event that the meeting cannot end at 3:00 pm, the meeting will be suspended at 3:00 pm and resumed after the FC meeting to deal with all the unfinished business;

- (b) consider the proposed amendments to rule 20(e) of the House Rules in Appendix II; and
- (c) consider the need for a review of the new meeting arrangements, as proposed in paragraph 8.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
4 October 2006

**Summary of duration of House Committee meetings  
held in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 sessions**

Duration	2004-05		2005-06	
	No. of meetings	Percentage	No. of meetings	Percentage
<i>(a) 30 minutes and below</i>				
15 minutes or less	9	25.7 %	15	48.4 %
16 minutes to 30 minutes	9	25.7 %	9	29 %
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>51.4%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>77.4%</b>
<i>(b) above 30 minutes</i>				
31 minutes to 45 minutes	7	20 %	2	6.5 %
46 minutes to 60 minutes	1	2.9 %	3	9.7 %
61 minutes to 75 minutes	2	5.7 %	1	3.2 %
76 minutes to 90 minutes	5	14.2 %	1	3.2 %
91 minutes to 105 minutes	1	2.9 %	-	-
more than 105 minutes	1	2.9 %	-	-
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22.6%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Proposed amendment to rule 20(e) of the House Rules  
regarding arrangements for the House Committee meetings**

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**20. House Committee**

- (e) When the Council is in session, the House Committee normally meets every Friday afternoon at 2:30 pm. When a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled to be held ~~earlier~~ in the same afternoon, the House Committee meeting will be suspended start at 4:30 3:00 pm and resumed after the Finance Committee meeting to deal with the unfinished business on the agenda. Any other committees which need to meet on a Friday afternoon should schedule their meetings after the House Committee and Finance Committee meetings. The Secretariat shall issue written notice to members stating the date, time and place at which the House Committee meeting is to be held.

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