

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)102/06-07  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/CA

**Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

**Minutes of special meeting  
held on Saturday, 18 February 2006 at 9:00 am  
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** :

- Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP (Chairman)
- Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
- Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
- Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
- Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
- Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
- Hon Margaret NG
- Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
- Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
- Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP
- Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
- Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
- Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
- Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
- Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
- Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
- Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
- Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
- Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
- Hon LEE Wing-tat
- Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, BBS, JP
- Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
- Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
- Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
- Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
- Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
- Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
- Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
- Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP

**Members absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP  
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP  
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP  
Hon MA Lik, GBS, JP  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Hon KWONG Chi-kin  
Hon TAM Heung-man

**Public Officers attending** : Item I

The Administration

Mr Stephen LAM  
Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Ms May CHAN  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Mrs Pamela TAN  
Director of Home Affairs

Mr Richard LUK  
Assistant Director of Home Affairs

Ms Kitty CHOI  
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services

**Attendance by invitation** : Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong

Mr CHEUNG Shui-fung  
DAB Constitutional Affairs Deputy Spokesperson

Mr LAI Chi-lap, Albert  
Member, Yau Tsim Mong District Council

Power of Democracy

Mr Richard TSOI  
Convenor

Kowloon Chamber of Commerce

Dr Anthony C H WONG  
Chairman

Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association

Professor K B CHAN  
Chairman

Hong Kong Democratic Development Network

Professor LEE Wing-yee, Eliza  
Mr CHOY Chi-keung, Ivan  
Professor MA Ngok

Association of Engineering Professionals in Society

Mr YIM Kin-ping  
Senior Vice Chairman

Mr CHOW Wing-kan  
Member, Yuen Long District Council

Mr CHAN Yiu-fai, Steve  
Member, Wan Chai District Council

Hong Kong Institute of Planners

Ms PONG Yuen-yee  
Vice President

The Democratic Party of Hong Kong

Mr LAM Tse-kin  
DP's Deputy Spokesman for Constitutional Affairs

District Councils Review Concern Group

Mr CHAI Man-hon

Mr KWONG Kwok-chuen  
Member, Tsuen Wan District Council

Ms CHAN Shu-ying  
Member, Tuen Mun District Council

Mr WU Chi-wai  
Member, Wong Tai Sin District Council

Mr NG Wing-fai

Mr HO Man-kit  
Member, Sai Kung District Council

Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council

Mr SHI Kai-biu, Simon  
Executive Committee Member

Mr CHAN Chit-kwai, Stephen  
Member, Central & Western District Council

The Hong Kong Chinese Importers' & Exporters  
Association

Mr CHEN Chung-nin, Rock  
Standing Committee Member

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Mr Tony TANG  
Council Member

Mr CHAO Shing-kie  
Member, Eastern District Council

**Clerk in  
attendance** : Mrs Percy MA  
Chief Council Secretary (2)3

**Staff in  
attendance** : Mr Arthur CHEUNG  
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2

Mrs Eleanor CHOW  
Senior Council Secretary (2)4

Mrs Fanny TSANG  
Legislative Assistant (2)3

---

Action

**I. Review of District Councils**

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1116/05-06(01) – Background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat on "Review of the role, functions and composition of the District Councils"

LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1115/05-06(01)-(08), CB(2)1168/05-06(01)-(06) and CB(2)1192/05-06(01)-(07) – Submissions from deputations)

Meeting with deputations

The Chairman said that the purpose of this meeting was to receive views from the public on the review of the role, functions and composition of District Councils (DCs). The Administration had advised that formal consultation on the DC review would be conducted in the first half of 2006. In determining the scope of the review and the content of the consultation document, the Administration had been requested to take into account the views of members and the deputations expressed at this meeting.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, representatives of the deputations made oral presentation on their submissions on the review of DCs. A summary of the major views of the deputations is in the **Appendix**.

Response of the Administration

3. Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) gave a preliminary response to the deputations' views as follows –

- (a) the Administration attached importance to the role played by DCs, as evidenced by the package of proposals put forth by the Constitutional Development Task Force to enhance the participation of DC members in the election of the Chief Executive (CE) and the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Although the package of proposals did not receive the two-thirds majority support of LegCo Members, the intention of the Administration to enhance the role and functions of DCs remained unchanged. He was of the view that the Administration and the deputations were in general agreement on the overall direction in strengthening the role and functions of DCs;

Action

- (b) some academics had proposed a major revamp on the DC structure by reducing the number of DCs and their membership, with a view to providing substantive powers to DCs in district administration. At this stage, the Administration had no intention to introduce drastic changes to the DC structure. Other than the increase of five elected DC seats in the Islands DC and Sai Kung DC, the number of DCs and DC members in other districts for the next term DCs would remain unchanged. The increase in the number of elected seats would provide more opportunities for aspiring persons to participate in public affairs. The number of elected seats and the related question of the size of each DC constituency in the longer term were issues which might be discussed in the context of this review;
- (c) the Administration would address various issues raised by the deputations regarding DC members' remuneration package, financial assistance to DC candidates, and the funding for DCs in the consultation document to be published. However, the Administration needed to consider any proposals having financial implications carefully as public funds were involved; and
- (d) in the past, the two municipal councils were empowered to manage matters relating to leisure and cultural services, as well as food safety and environmental hygiene. As announced by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address on 12 October 2005, matters relating to food safety and environmental hygiene would remain under the management of executive departments. The role of DCs in district administration would be expanded by assuming additional responsibilities for the management of some district facilities such as libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools. The executive departments would follow the decisions of DCs in managing these facilities within the limits of their existing statutory powers and resources available.

Discussion

*Financial and staffing matters*

4. Ms Emily LAU said that the Administration had imposed many constraints on the DC review. She asked the representative of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) whether DAB would support the proposals of giving DCs more autonomy in financial matters, and providing DCs with an independent secretariat.

Action

5. The representative of DAB said that consideration should be given to allowing DCs to approve projects each costing \$5 to \$10 million. DAB was open-minded about the issue of an independent DC secretariat.

6. Dr YEUNG Sum sought views from the deputations on whether the existing mode of operation of DCs could attract political talents, whether the DC secretariat should be independent, and whether the funding for DCs should be increased.

7. Mr CHAN Chit-kwai, member of Central & Western DC, held the view that the DC secretariat should be independent, and DCs should be given the powers and responsibilities previously entrusted to the two municipal councils. He also considered that the existing level of funding for DCs was insufficient.

8. Mr CHAO Shing-kie, member of Eastern DC, said that the two main considerations were DC members' remuneration package, and their role. He added that the remuneration package should enable a DC member to support his family and lead a decent life. DC members' responsibilities should be commensurate with their powers, as asking DC members to take up responsibilities without giving them powers would not be attractive. At present, DC funding was distributed evenly among the 18 DCs. He suggested that it should be allocated based on the size and the need of a district. He was open-minded about the proposal of an independent secretariat for DCs.

*Power to prioritise DC projects*

9. Mr Ronny TONG said that LegCo had received requests from DCs for assistance in the expeditious provision of certain facilities and services from time to time, because the Administration had treated their requests with apathy. He cited the example that a heated swimming pool in Tai Po would only be provided in 2013 after repeated requests from the Tai Po DC. He asked the Administration to explain its system of prioritising projects and consider setting up a joint committee on development of district facilities, which should comprise representatives from all DCs and executive departments, and be tasked with the responsibility to prioritise projects for the 18 DCs.

10. SCA responded that at present, DCs were consulted on the priorities of public works projects, as they were familiar with local needs and problems. As regards a minor works item with a capital cost not exceeding \$15 million, the Administration would consider DC's views on the priority, and an explanation would be given to the DC concerned in the event its request could not be acceded to.

11. Ms Emily LAU sought views from the deputations on how to prioritise the projects of the 18 DCs, if the power to make decision was vested with DCs instead of the executive departments.

Action

12. Mr WU Chi-wai, member of Wong Tai Sin DC, said that it was difficult for the 18 DCs to set priority on projects across all districts. It was proposed that an annual provision for projects should be allocated to each DC. This would facilitate each DC to resolve differences on priority-setting for projects under its own purview.

13. The representative of Power of Democracy said that under the existing arrangement, individual DCs were provided with funding for provision of district facilities through bids submitted by executive departments. He was of the view that in future, DC funding should be allocated to individual DCs, which could prioritise projects within the district. A joint committee of DCs could be set up for the purpose of deciding on allocation of funding to individual DCs, and executive departments should follow the decision of the joint committee.

14. Mr NG Wing-fai said that projects could be classified into district-based and territory-based. The priority of the former should be decided by individual DCs. For the latter category of projects, its priority and funding should follow the existing practice and take into account factors such as facilities currently available and territorial characteristics.

15. Mr KWONG Kwok-chuen, member of Tsuen Wan DC, said that the Administration had not respected DCs' views. Unless there was a change in that attitude, DCs would have little say on the priority of projects.

*Devolution of power to DCs*

16. Members noted that Hong Kong Democratic Development Network (HKDDN), whose members were mainly academics, had proposed a major revamp on the DC structure with a view to grooming political talents, improving district governance, and enhancing the role and functions of DCs. HKDDN proposed that the number of DCs be reduced from 18 to five to seven and the number of DC members be reduced from 400 to 250. Each DC was to be led by a politically appointed or an elected District Commissioner (區政專員) (either directly or indirectly elected). The thrust of its proposal was to devolve substantive administrative and financial powers to DCs in managing the districts.

17. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that HKDDN had proposed to reduce the number of DC members and provide each DC with an elected District Commissioner, with a view to strengthening district governance. He asked about the correlation between the number of DC members and effective governance, if any. He also expressed concern that the proposal to reduce the size of DC membership would provide less opportunity for grooming political talents, and might not be welcomed by political parties.



Action

18. A representative of HKDDN responded that the proposal to provide a District Commissioner and three to five deputy district commissioners to govern a DC would in fact provide more room for grooming political talents. Regarding some members' concern about the reduction in the number of DC members, she said that this was really a question of quality versus quantity in terms of grooming of political talents. She pointed out that public spirited individuals with professional background would be more interested in positions with substantive powers in district administration, than becoming a DC member under the existing system. However, the proposed number of DCs and DC members could be adjusted following discussions by the community.

19. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung asked whether it was meaningful to proceed with the DC review when the Administration had imposed so many constraints on its scope.

20. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that the views of the deputations and the Administration on the DC review could be summarised as follows –

- (a) the Administration was inclined to maintain the present DC structure with limited power devolved to DCs;
- (b) the proposal of DAB was more progressive, as DAB had proposed DCs to take up more responsibilities on matters relating to culture, recreation and environmental sanitation;
- (c) those in the democratic camp had proposed giving DCs more powers in financial and staffing matters; and
- (d) the proposal of academics was probably considered by the Administration to be the most radical one, as DCs were proposed to be reduced to less than half of the present number, and a District Commissioner or a “mayor” was proposed to govern the district.

Mr LEE asked representatives of HKDDN to further elaborate its proposal. He also asked whether HKDDN would support other proposals such as those in paragraph 20 (b) or (c) with the number of DCs remaining unchanged.

21. The three representatives of HKDDN responded with the following points –

- (a) the Administration had seven years to review the role and functions of DCs after the abolition of the two municipal councils in 1999, but it had not done so. HKDDN was disappointed that the Administration had excluded certain issues from the scope of the DC review on the outset, such as changes to the number of DCs and DC members. HKDDN had carefully considered whether its

Action

proposal would contravene the Basic Law before putting it forward. Hence, the constraints imposed by the Administration on the scope of the review were not justified on constitutional grounds. HKDDN hoped that the Administration should have an open mind in conducting the review;

- (b) substantive power in district management was predicated on administrative and financial autonomy. Given that Hong Kong was a small place, it did not make sense to maintain as many as 18 DCs. To restrict the number of districts to five to seven would provide better economy of scale in district management. When the number of DCs was reduced, the number of DC members would likewise be reduced. An effective way to nurture political talents was to enhance the role and functions of DC members, and not to increase the number of DC seats;
- (c) many democratic countries believed that devolving power to the district level would help strengthen ties with the local community and result in better understanding on the community's needs. Take the example of Greater London, its area and population were similar to those of Hong Kong. It was divided into 33 districts, and each district had a population of 200 000 to 300 000 people and its own mayor and council. The mayor and the council were vested with substantive powers; and
- (d) even if the number of DCs remained at 18, more powers could still be devolved to DCs, such as sourcing and selecting contractors for works relating to food safety and environmental hygiene, and nominating members for appointment to the District Fight Crime Committees.

22. Mr CHOW Wing-kan, member of Yuen Long DC, said that while the proposal for having a District Commissioner would enhance governance, it should not have the effect of turning DCs into a political organ. In his view, DCs should be reformed by devolving more power to the chairmen of DCs in district administration, and involving DC members in the appraisal of performance of civil servants. With regard to grooming political talents, training courses could be designed by DCs to cater for the needs of DC members, and more opportunities should be provided for DC members to serve on statutory advisory bodies.

23. Ms Audrey EU requested the Administration to confirm whether the proposals put forth by the deputations at this meeting complied with the Basic Law.

Action

24. SCA said that Article 97 of the Basic Law provided that “[d]istrict organizations which are not organs of political power may be established in the Hong Kong Special Administration Region, to be consulted by the government of the Region on district administration and other affairs, or to be responsible for providing services in such fields as culture, recreation and environmental sanitation”. In considering the role, functions and composition of DCs, it was necessary to bear in mind the framework laid down in the Basic Law on the establishment and functions of district organisations. Any changes in the role, functions and composition of DCs following the DC review must be fully consistent with the Basic Law.

25. SCA reiterated that while the Administration respected the views of the deputations, it had no intention to conduct a major operation on the structure of DC. As the DC system had been operating for a number of years and people had already established a sense of belonging to their districts, it was desirable for the existing DC structure to maintain status quo. CE had already announced in his Policy Address on 12 October 2005 that the Government would allow DCs to participate in the management of some district facilities. This was an important step and concerted effort should be made to make this step successful.

26. Mr Howard YOUNG said that some deputations held the view that community and recreational facilities such as civic centres should be under the management of individual DCs. He expressed concern whether territory-wide demands would be overlooked if individual DCs assumed the management of such facilities.

27. The representative of Power of Democracy said that it was acceptable for district-based facilities to be managed by DCs, and territory-based facilities by executive departments. However, he stressed that when DCs were allowed to assume responsibility for the management of some district facilities, they should also be given autonomy in financial and staffing matters.

28. Ms CHAN Shu-ying, member of Tuen Mun DC, said that the former municipal councils had powers to map out development strategies for promoting leisure and cultural services. She wondered whether the future DCs would have similar powers after the review. She cautioned that the Administration should not conduct a bird-caged review on DCs and should take into account the views expressed at this meeting in conducting the review. In her view, DCs should be provided with an independent secretariat, as well as given powers to approve district projects costing more than \$600,000 and to administer the district.

29. The representative of Democratic Party expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration had conducted a major operation on district organisations a few years ago by abolishing the two municipal councils. He said that despite the Administration’s undertaking to transfer the functions and powers of the former municipal councils to DCs, it now refused to devolve more powers to them. He

Action

pointed out that as far as grooming political talents was concerned, the role and functions of existing DCs did not allow much room for DC members to develop their leadership and abilities in district administration. He criticised that the Administration was conducting sham consultation for the purpose of stalling constitutional development.

30. Mr WU Chi-wai, member of Wong Tai Sin DC, said that DCs wanted to have more powers because they wished to assist front-line staff of executive departments in district administration work. Due to the limited role and functions of DCs, some DC members had been criticised by the community as incapable. It would be meaningless if the DC review to be conducted was confined to a very narrow scope.

31. SCA reiterated that the Administration was serious about grooming political talents as evidenced by its intention to enhance participation of DC members in the CE and LegCo elections in 2007 and 2008 as proposed by the Constitutional Development Task Force. He also clarified that the purpose of the DC review was to enhance the role and functions of DCs in district management, without introducing drastic changes to the structure of DCs.

32. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that the Administration had made clear that if the 2007/08 electoral package was not endorsed by LegCo, it would not pursue the phased abolition of appointed DC membership. Mr LEUNG asked whether the consultation on the DC review would cover the abolition of appointed DC seats. SCA responded that the issue could be discussed by the public in the context of the review.

33. The meeting ended at 12:27 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
17 October 2006

**Review on the Role, Functions of District Councils**  
**Special meeting on 18 February 2006**  
**Summary of major views of deputations / individuals**

<b>Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)</b>	<b>Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)</b>	<b>Financial / staffing issues</b>	<b>Composition of DC / other issues raised</b>
<b>Oral Presentation</b>			
<p>1. Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong  [LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/05-06(01)]</p>	<p>To enhance the role and functions of DCs. DCs should be responsible for providing and managing services in such fields as culture, recreation and environmental sanitation.</p> <p>To enhance the power of DCs in respect of the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) management of public facilities, e.g. monitoring of outsourcing work;</li> <li>(b) staff establishment, e.g. creation of posts in the inspector grade to be approved by DC; and</li> <li>(c) approval of financial budget, e.g. DCs to approve projects each costing \$5 to \$10 million.</li> </ul> <p>To enhance DCs' accountability, e.g. to consult DCs on works projects.</p>		

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
2. Mr LAI Chi-lap, Albert, Member of Yau Tsim Mong District Council [LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/05-06(01)]	To consult DC members in the appraisal of civil servants serving DCs.  To transfer the functions and duties of District Management Committees (DMCs) to DCs.	To improve the remuneration package for DC members.  DC secretariat to become independent.	To abolish appointed membership.
3. Power for Democracy (PD) [LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/05-06(02)]	In order to expedite democratic development, facilitate decisions relating to district affairs to be made by democratic means, and groom political talents, PD proposes to devolve substantive power to DCs by the following means –  (a) first stage – the power of former municipal councils to provide leisure, cultural and recreational facilities be devolved to DCs, the number of DCs to be maintained at 18, all 400 DC members be returned by direct election, and each DC to be operated under a “mayor” system whereby a District Officer In-charge (區域行政主管) is responsible for governing the district and a council is responsible for approving budget and monitoring the work of DC; and  (b) second stage – the number of DCs be reduced to five, DC members to be reduced	To increase funding for DCs with reference to that of the former municipal councils.	To abolish appointed and ex-officio membership.  Number of DCs and DC members to be reduced in two stages.

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
	to about 230 and to be returned by direct election.		
4. Kowloon Chamber of Commerce [LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/05-06(02)]	To enhance the advisory role of DCs by setting up more committees with representatives coming from the commercial and business associations.  To enhance the power of DCs in financial and manpower management.		Appointed members should work on a full-time basis.  Appointed members to be progressively reduced.
5. Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association	To enhance the role and functions of DCs so as to attract more political talents to participate in public administration.		Appointed members, including those who are industrialists, have made a lot of contributions to the work of DCs. Appointed members to be progressively reduced.
6. Hong Kong Democratic Development Network (HKDDN) [LC Paper No. CB(2)1168/05-06(01)]	HKDDN proposes a major revamp on the DC structure with a view to grooming political talents, improving district governance, and enhancing the role and functions of DCs. Its proposed measures, among others, include the reduction in the number of DCs from 18 to five to seven and DC members from 400 to 250. Each DC is to be governed by a politically appointed or an elected District Commissioner	Reference could be made to the former municipal councils regarding the source of DC funding.  With the reduction in DC membership, the savings achieved	To abolish appointed membership as soon as practicable.  To develop grass root democracy by encouraging collaboration between DCs and

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
	<p>(區政專員) (either directly or indirectly elected) who will appoint three to five deputy district commissioners as his assistants. The thrust of its proposal is to devolve substantive administrative and financial powers to DCs in managing the districts.</p> <p>From now to 2010, to progressively devolve power to DCs so that DCs could be restructured in 2011 with a District Commissioner to be returned by election.</p>	<p>could be used to improve the remuneration package for DC members. This will also attract political talents.</p>	<p>neighborhood-based organizations.</p>
<p>7. Association of Engineering Professionals in Society [LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/05-06(03)]</p>	<p>The review should cover the role, functions and relationship of the different district committees in district organizations, e.g. DCs and DMCs.</p> <p>To increase the power of DCs.</p> <p>Upon the abolition of the appointment system, consideration could be given to establishing an “observer system” (觀察員制度) to allow political talents to participate in district affairs.</p>	<p>To increase funding for DCs.</p>	<p>To improve the existing DC appointment system. Appointed members to be phased out gradually until all members are returned by direct election.</p>
<p>8. Mr CHOW Wing-kan, Member of Yuen Long District Council</p>	<p>To enhance the participation of DC members in district administration, e.g.</p> <p>(a) to involve DC members in the planning of district facilities;</p>		



Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
	<p>(b) to devolve to them the power of financial and staffing management, allocation of resources and making decision on district matters;</p> <p>(c) to involve DC members in the appraisal of civil servants serving DCs; and</p> <p>(d) to allow DC members to act as the co-coordinator in district planning and redevelopment projects.</p> <p>To enhance the support provided to DCs and their members, e.g. to increase manpower resources for the secretariat, and set up their own reference libraries.</p> <p>To enhance the functions of DCs.</p>		
<p>9. Mr CHAN Yiu-fai, Steve, Member of Wan Chai District Council [LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/05-06(04)]</p>	<p>The Chief Executive is not sincere about devolving more power to DCs, as the initiatives set out in his Policy Address does not involve any changes to the existing mode of operation.</p> <p>The review should aim at deriving at a DC system which can reflect the aspirations of the community, whereby different sectors of the community can participate in the planning, monitoring, administration, implementation and management of district affairs.</p>		

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
10. Hong Kong Institute of Planners [LC Paper No. CB(2)1168/05-06(02)]	<p>To upgrade DCs' consultative role in district affairs to one of decision making.</p> <p>To enhance the functions of DCs. DCs should be directly involved in formulating policies for district development, and should participate in the discussion on district projects by the Town Planning Board.</p>	To increase funding for DCs.	DC committees to be consisted of DC members, representatives of the Government, as well as consultants who represent different professional bodies.
11. The Democratic Party of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)1168/05-06(03)]	<p>To transfer the functions and power of the two municipal councils to DCs in areas relating to culture, recreation and environmental sanitation. Territory-wide issues relating to leisure, recreation, environmental protection, food hygiene and control to be managed by the executive departments.</p> <p>Proposal of the academics for each DC to have an elected District Commissioner or a "mayor" who is responsible for planning and coordinating the work of district administration, and all DC members to be returned by universal suffrage is supported.</p>	<p>To increase funding for DCs.</p> <p>DC secretariat to become independent.</p>	<p>To abolish appointed and ex-officio membership. All DC members to be returned by universal suffrage.</p> <p>Financial assistance scheme for LegCo election (i.e. \$10/vote) be extended to DC candidates.</p> <p>Policy secretaries and heads of departments to take part in the annual debate to be held in districts.</p>

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
12. District Councils Review Concern Group [LC Paper No. CB(2)1168/05-06(04)]	<p>To transfer the functions and power of the two municipal councils to DCs in areas relating to culture, recreation and environmental sanitation.</p> <p>Proposal of the academics for each DC to have a District Commissioner or a “mayor” who is responsible for planning and coordinating the work of district administration is supported.</p>	<p>DC secretariat to become independent.</p> <p>DCs to have financial autonomy over minor projects.</p>	<p>To abolish appointed and ex-officio membership.</p> <p>All DC members to be returned by universal suffrage.</p>
<p>13. Mr KWONG Kwok-chuen, Member of Tsuen Wan District Council</p> <p>14. Ms CHAN Shu-ying, Member of Tuen Mun District Council</p> <p>15. Mr WU Chi-wai, Member of Wong Tai Sin District Council [Joint submission – LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/05-06(05)]</p>	<p>To enhance the role and functions of DCs by the following measures –</p> <p>(a) financial autonomy – DCs be given the power to approve works projects each costing less than \$10 million. To increase the annual budget for community involvement and environmental improvement projects for each district to \$100 million;</p> <p>(b) administrative power – DCs be given the power to manage and develop strategies for district facilities and services; and</p> <p>(c) statutory power – relevant ordinances to be amended to reflect the enhanced role and functions of DCs.</p> <p>Each DC to elect its own “district officer” (區長).</p>	<p>To increase funding for DCs.</p> <p>DC secretariat to become independent.</p>	<p>To abolish appointed and ex-officio membership.</p>

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
16. Mr NG Wing-fai [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1192/05-06(05) and (06)]	<p>To transfer the functions and power of the two municipal councils to DCs in areas relating to culture, recreation and environmental sanitation. Territory-wide issues relating to leisure, recreation, environmental protection, food hygiene and control to be managed by the executive departments.</p> <p>DCs should have decision-making, financial and administrative powers.</p> <p>Proposal of the academics for each DC to have an elected District Commissioner or a “mayor” who is responsible for planning and coordinating the work of district administration, and all DC members to be returned by universal suffrage is supported.</p>		To abolish appointed and ex-officio membership as soon as practicable.
17. Mr HO Man-kit, Member of Sai Kung District Council [LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/05-06(05)]	<p>To revamp the structure of DCs with a view to devolving more power to DCs and changing the existing DC culture.</p> <p>Each DC should have a politically appointed or an elected District Commissioner who will govern the district.</p> <p>Opportunity to be given to political parties to be the ruling party in a district. Competition among districts should be encouraged.</p>	To improve the remuneration package for DC members.	<p>To abolish appointed membership, and to reduce the number of DCs and their members.</p> <p>Some observations on DC culture –</p> <p>(a) DC members are providing lip service to the</p>

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
			<p>community;</p> <p>(b) DC members “giving face” (給面子) to each other by taking turn to support each other’s motions; and</p> <p>(c) DC members do not attach much importance to the rules of procedures of the council.</p>
<p>18. Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council [LC Paper No. CB(2)1168/05-06(05)]</p>	<p>To enhance the role and functions of DC by directly involving DC members in managing and making decisions on district matters.</p> <p>To enhance the accountability of DC members.</p>	<p>To increase funding for DCs.</p> <p>To increase the remuneration package for DC members.</p>	<p>Appointed members have made a lot of contributions to the work of DCs.</p>
<p>19. Mr CHAN Chit-kwai, Stephen, Member of Central &amp; Western District Council [LC Paper No. CB(2)1168/05-06(06)]</p>	<p>To devolve more power to DCs.</p> <p>DCs to monitor the work of executive departments. DCs to be consulted at the early stage when district policies are to be formulated.</p>	<p>To have an independent secretariat.</p> <p>To increase the</p>	<p>To reduce appointed membership gradually until all members are returned by direct election.</p>

<b>Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)</b>	<b>Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)</b>	<b>Financial / staffing issues</b>	<b>Composition of DC / other issues raised</b>
	<p>Special committees to be set up to monitor the progress of large development projects.</p> <p>Representatives of the Administration attending DC meetings should be of higher rank.</p>	remuneration package for DC members and their assistants.	To appoint more DC members to serve on statutory advisory bodies.
<p>20. The Hong Kong Chinese Importers' &amp; Exporters Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/05-06(06)]</p>	<p>To enhance the role and functions of DCs. DCs to be given decision-making and financial powers in certain areas. DCs to be consulted on major policy issues affecting districts.</p> <p>To design a new code of practice to prevent abuse of power and conflict of interest as a result of the enhanced power conferred to DC members.</p> <p>To enhance the role and status of a District Officer. Reports on districts affairs made by a District Officer should be directly submitted to policy secretaries and permanent secretaries.</p>	To increase funding for DCs.	To retain appointed membership to ensure balanced participation.
<p>21. The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) [LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/05-06(07)]</p>	<p>To devolve more executive power to DCs instead of keeping them as an advisory body.</p> <p>To enhance the role of DCs in co-coordinating and improving district environment. District environment should be handled in a holistic instead of a piecemeal manner.</p>		Members of HKIA hold divergent views on the DC appointment system.

Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)	Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)	Financial / staffing issues	Composition of DC / other issues raised
22. Mr CHAO Shing-kie, Member of Eastern District Council	<p>To devolve more power to DCs.</p> <p>The Administration should attach importance to the views of DCs.</p> <p>To improve co-ordination between District Officers and staff of executive departments. To enhance the role and functions of a District Officer.</p>		
<b>Written Submission Only</b>			
23. Federation of Hong Kong Industries [LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/05-06(07)]	To enhance the functions of DCs in district administration.		To retain appointed membership.
24. Business and Professionals Federation of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/05-06(08)]	<p>To delegate management responsibility to DCs.</p> <p>DCs to give direction and guidance on community-based services, such as street sweeping.</p> <p>DCs to manage district-based facilities such as sports grounds and to decide on priorities of their usage by the community. Territory-based facilities should be managed by executive departments.</p> <p>District Officers to be renamed as District Managers who will lead the DCs.</p>		To replace appointed members by ex-officio members who are chairpersons of local chamber of commerce, industrial association, sports association, etc., and who have no voting right in DCs.

<b>Deputations / Individuals (Legislative Council Paper Nos.)</b>	<b>Role, functions and power of District Councils (DCs)</b>	<b>Financial / staffing issues</b>	<b>Composition of DC / other issues raised</b>
<p>25. Dr K L CHAN, Associate Professor of Department of Government &amp; International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University [LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/05-06(03)]</p>	<p>To develop DCs into a hub of a new model of local democratic governance. Each DC is to be self-governed and vested with the power to manage and control environmental improvement projects, as well as recreational, cultural and community matters.</p> <p>To strengthen the role of DCs. DCs should be encouraged to participate in the policy-making process.</p> <p>To enhance cooperation between DCs and LegCo on a wide range of policy issues.</p>	<p>DCs to have their own secretariat.</p>	<p>To abolish appointed membership in the next DC term.</p>