



Enhancing work in districts Strengthening District Councils

A dynamic society



Putting people first

The Chief Executive stated in his 2005-06 Policy Address that:

"It is essential that public policies are effectively implemented at the district level. To better respond to the demands of the people, the Government will strengthen the role of District Officers. We will enhance the co-ordination function of District Management Committees to better provide cross-departmental services in districts ... with a view to raising the capacity to resolve problems, deal with issues concerning people's livelihood ..."



Involving District Councils in management of district facilities

The 2005-06 Policy Address also states that:

"... the Government will allow each District Council to assume responsibility for the management of some district facilities, such as libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools ..."



DCs play a pivotal role in the District Administration Scheme. They monitor the provision and delivery of district services, and advise the Government on community-related issues. In recent years, DCs have played an enhanced role in the areas of leisure, cultural and community-building activities as well as improvement of the local environment. As DC members are in close contact with local residents, they are in the best position to offer useful advice to enhance the management of district sports and leisure facilities as well as programme planning and implementation.

- To enhance the role of DCs in district management, the Government proposes to involve DCs in the management of certain district facilities, including community halls, district libraries, leisure grounds, sports venues, swimming pools and beaches

- We propose setting up a Steering Committee on District Administration comprised of relevant heads of departments. The committee would resolve district management problems requiring inter-departmental collaboration and devise strategies and measures for furthering district administration
- Designated heads of departments will take turns attending District Council (DC) meetings to strengthen communication with DC members and discuss issues of mutual concern
- The Chief Executive will host an annual District Administration Summit to discuss the development of district administration from a "people-based" perspective



Proposal - To set up a District Facilities Management Committee under each DC to:

- Plan or review the daily operation and usage of district facilities (including community halls, district libraries, leisure grounds, sports venues, swimming pools and beaches)
- Formulate annual plans for district events, including extension activities of district libraries, district sports events and cultural and entertainment programmes
- Devise booking arrangements in light of the prevailing usage patterns and sports promotion policy
- Devise plans on library collections and mobile libraries' stops
- Implement district greening programmes
- Set priorities for improvement works
- Work out design and details for renovation and small improvement projects
- Enhance customer service
- Monitor service efficiency and quality



District facilities

Whether you are a parent, a health enthusiast, a nature lover, a retiree or a pet-lover, let your DC know what you need. Through its involvement in managing district facilities, arrangements can be made to cater for the specific needs of the local community in the use of parks and leisure facilities ...

A children's playground • plant nursery • cycling track • fields for ball games • foot massaging trails • jogging trails • a tai chi garden • fitness corner • park for dogs • amphitheatre • lawns and community gardens ...



District recreational and cultural programmes

Whether you enjoy sports or leisure activities, your DC will allocate resources for district recreational, cultural and entertainment programmes to better suit your needs ...

Badminton • ping pong • tai chi • Judo classes • swimming • greening • water sports • beach volleyball • sand sculpture • windsurfing • music • dance • Cantonese opera • puppet ...



DC involvement brings exciting developments

For library service

- Greater variety of extension activities to promote reading and life-long learning to meet the demographic needs of readers
- Enhanced library collection to meet the needs of district readers
- Better collaboration with local organisations and school liaison groups to promote reading and develop community-based library schemes
- Design and fit-outs of libraries to better suit the needs of the community

For district facilities and programmes

- Better design of parks, leisure grounds and sports facilities to meet local needs
- More innovative ideas to better harness local attractions and facilities as tourist attractions
- Better mix of sports development programmes to meet local demographic needs
- District cultural and entertainment programmes to better suit the tastes and characteristics of the local community in the context of the overall cultural policy



For community halls

- Enhance the services of the community halls and increase the utilisation rates by improving the booking arrangements and setting priorities for use of the facilities
- Turn community halls into focal points drawing local residents together and enhancing their sense of belonging

Enhancing district partnerships

- DCs are encouraged to enter into close partnerships with different sectors and voluntary organisations through more effective deployment of resources to further district development and better engage local residents in district affairs
- DCs' collaborative efforts may achieve a wide range of social objectives: opening up local business opportunities, creating jobs, achieving better integration of new arrivals into the local community, supporting the disadvantaged, promoting awareness of environmental hygiene and building a harmonious society



More resources for DCs

To support work in districts and enhanced role of DCs, the Government will make additional resources available:

- Creating a dedicated capital works fund with an annual provision of \$300 million for DCs to carry out minor work projects to meet district needs in a timely manner
- Consolidating current provisions and increasing DC funds to an annual provision of \$300 million to pay for the organisation of community involvement projects and district leisure, sports and cultural programmes

Pilot scheme

- The proposals to involve DCs in the management of district facilities will be piloted in selected districts as early as January 2007

Consultation document on DC review

The Government has released the consultation document "Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils".

We welcome views from the public on the following:

- To involve DCs in the management of some district facilities on a pilot basis
- To create a dedicated capital works fund with an annual provision of \$300 million for DCs to carry out minor works projects and to increase DC funds to \$300 million per annum for organising district sports, recreational and cultural activities and community involvement programmes
- To set up a Steering Committee on District Administration to resolve inter-departmental management issues, and to formulate strategies on enhancing district work
- To require heads of departments that have direct contact with the public to take turns to attend DC meetings to enhance communication with DC members
- To hold an annual District Administration Summit attended by the Chief Executive to further the development of "people-based" district administration
- To encourage DCs to collaborate with other sectors to achieve a wide spectrum of social objectives
- To raise DC members' honorarium and operating expenses allowance by 10% and introduce new allowances
- To introduce a financial assistance scheme for DC election candidates to encourage participation in public elections
- To consider the number of elected seats and the related question of the size of each DC constituency in the longer term; and review the future composition of DCs on the basis that there should continue to be appointed and ex-officio seats on DCs for the term commencing in 2008

Please send us your views by July 31, 2006. The full consultation document can be obtained from District Offices or the website, www.dc-review.gov.hk

