

ITEM FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEMBERS TO INDICATE THEIR INTENTION TO SPEAK AT MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE AND PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE

Members are invited to consider the proposed amendments to the procedures of the Finance Committee, the Establishment Subcommittee and the Public Works Subcommittee regarding the arrangements for members to indicate their intention to speak at meetings.

PURPOSE

This paper invites members to consider the proposed amendments to the procedures of the Finance Committee (FC) and its two subcommittees, i.e. the Establishment Subcommittee (ESC) and the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) regarding the arrangements for members to indicate their intention to speak at meetings.

BACKGROUND

2. Currently, paragraph 36 of the FC Procedure stipulates that members should raise their hands if they wish to speak. Paragraph 31 of the ESC Procedure and paragraph 32 of the PWSC Procedure also have similar provisions.

3. With the relocation of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to the new LegCo Complex, proceedings of FC, ESC and PWSC are all held in Conference Room 1. Similar to that provided in the Chamber for the Council meetings, the electronic voting system (EVS) and information technology equipment installed in Conference Room 1 are capable of registering the names of Members who press the "Request to speak" button, and displaying the number of Members who have registered to speak. There have been

suggestions that the "Request to speak" system should be activated for use during meetings of FC, ESC and PWSC.

4. Following trial operation of the "Request to speak" system at the FC meetings held on 16 December 2011 and 6 January 2012, it is now suggested that the "Request to speak" arrangements should also apply to all meetings of FC, ESC and PWSC.

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

5. Rule 71(13) of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) provides that, subject to RoP, the practice and procedure of FC and its subcommittees shall be determined by FC. It is suggested that when a meeting of FC, ESC or PWSC is held in a conference room which is installed with the "Request to speak" system, members may indicate their intention to speak by one of the two options: pressing the "Request to speak" button or raising their hands. If members opt for the latter, the Clerk will register the names of these members in the queue of members waiting to speak. The number of members in that queue will be displayed on the information display panels in the conference room and on the computer screens on members' desks. The first three members in the queue will be notified through their pagers, and their names will also be displayed on the computer screens on members' desks.

6. To give effect to the arrangements for using the "Request to speak" system, the following amendments are proposed to be made to the procedures of FC, ESC and PWSC: -

- (a) Paragraph 36 of the FC Procedure will be amended to read "Members should raise their hands or press the "Request to speak" button (where one is installed at their seats) to indicate their intention to speak."; and
- (b) Paragraph 31 of the ESC Procedure and paragraph 32 of the PWSC Procedure will be amended to read "Members should raise their hands or press the "Request to speak" button (where one is installed at their seats) to indicate their intention to speak."

Extract of paragraph 36 of the FC Procedure, paragraph 31 of the ESC Procedure and paragraph 32 of the PWSC Procedure are in **Enclosure** for members' reference.

7. It is proposed that the above arrangements and amendments to procedures should take immediate effect.

APPROVAL SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to approve the proposed arrangements and amendments to procedures stated in paragraphs 5 to 7 above.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
9 January 2012

**Proposed amendments to the
Finance Committee Procedure, Establishment Subcommittee
Procedure and Public Works Subcommittee Procedure**

Paragraph 36 of the Finance Committee Procedure

36. ~~Members should raise their hands to signify that they wish to speak.~~
Members should raise their hands or press the "Request to speak" button (where one is installed at their seats) to indicate their intention to speak.

Paragraph 31 of the Establishment Subcommittee Procedure

31. ~~Members should raise their hands to signify that they wish to speak.~~
Members should raise their hands or press the "Request to speak" button (where one is installed at their seats) to indicate their intention to speak.

Paragraph 32 of the Public Works Subcommittee Procedure

32. ~~Members should raise their hands to signify that they wish to speak.~~
Members should raise their hands or press the "Request to speak" button (where one is installed at their seats) to indicate their intention to speak.