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Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 4 January 2013**

Upgrading of Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the suggestion of upgrading Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district and summarizes the discussions of the Panel on Security ("the Panel") on the subject.

Background

2. There are five police land regions in Hong Kong, including the Hong Kong Island Region, Kowloon East Region, Kowloon West Region, New Territories North Region and New Territories South Region. The Kowloon East Region comprises the following police districts -

- (a) Kwun Tong Police District, which comprises the Tseung Kwan O Police Division and Kwun Tong Police Division;
- (b) Wong Tai Sin Police District, which comprises the Wong Tai Sin Police Division and Sai Kung Police Division; and
- (c) Sau Mau Ping Police District, which comprises the Sau Mau Ping Police Division and Ngau Tau Kok Police Division.

3. According to information provided by the Police, the police-to population ratio for Tseung Kwan O Police Division is one to 1 683, as compared to an

overall ratio of one to 250 for the entire territory of Hong Kong in 2006. The establishment regarding police officers for Tseung Kwan O Police Division for 2011-2012 is 255.

Deliberations on the upgrading of Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district and the merging of Tseung Kwan O Police Division and Sai Kung Police Division into a police district

4. The upgrading of Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district and the suggestion to merge Tseung Kwan O Police Division and Sai Kung Police Division into a police district were discussed by the Panel between 2004 and 2007. The deliberations of the Panel are summarized in the following paragraphs.

5. Concerns were raised over the police-to-population ratio for Tseung Kwan O Police Division, which was the lowest among the police divisions in the Kowloon East Region. There was a view that the Tseung Kwan O Police Division should be upgraded to a police district.

6. According to the Police, factors such as crime rate were also considered, besides the police-to-population ratio, in determining whether a police division should be upgraded to a police district. The crime rate in the Tseung Kwan O Police Division had remained the lowest among all divisions in the Kowloon East Region, and was also substantially lower than the territory-wide average.

7. Members noted that the proposal of upgrading the Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district and the merging of the Tseung Kwan O Police Division and Sai Kung Police Division into a police district had been discussed many times at meetings of the Sai Kung District Council and meetings between Legislative Council Members and Sai Kung District Council members. There was a view that the Police should consider upgrading the Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district.

8. There was, however, another view that as the law and order situation in Tseung Kwan O was generally stable, there was no pressing need or strong reason for a merging of the Tseung Kwan O Police Division with another Police Division into a police district. The Administration should rather focus on the formulation of crime prevention measures, having regard to the past trend in the development of new towns.

9. According to the Police, the population within the boundary of the Tseung Kwan O Police Division had increased from around 100 000 in 1992 to around 380 000 in 2007. However, the Planning Department projected that the increase in population in Tseung Kwan O would slow down. Nonetheless, in view of the relatively large and growing population in Tseung Kwan O in absolute terms, the Police saw a case for merging the Tseung Kwan O Police Division with an adjoining area in the long run, and upgrading the combined area into a single police district. The Police would need to take into account the future development of Kowloon East as a whole in planning and drawing up the implementation plan for adjusting the boundaries of the Kowloon East Region. The arrangement for upgrading the Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district was part and parcel of the overall plan, and hence ought to be implemented together with the re-alignment of the boundary of the Kowloon East Region.

10. According to the Police, it had closely monitored the policing needs in the Tseung Kwan O Police Division, and had taken appropriate measures accordingly. The Police had augmented the establishment of frontline police officers of that Police Division in view of the actual circumstances in recent years. Since 1999, the establishment of the Tseung Kwan O Police Division had been enhanced by an addition of some 120 frontline police officer posts. Since 2006, the actual manpower allocated by the Police to the Tseung Kwan O Police Division and the Sai Kung Police Division had been at a level higher than the number of posts on the establishment of the two Divisions.

11. The Police assured the Panel that it would, if necessary, further enhance the frontline policing capability of the Tseung Kwan O Police Division and the Sai Kung Police Division. The Police could from time to time deploy manpower from the Kwun Tong Police District Uniform Branch and Crime Branch, the Emergency Unit of the Kowloon East Region, the Police Tactical Unit and the Regional Crime Unit to assist the officers stationed in the Tseung Kwan O Police Division and the Sai Kung Police Division in their policing work.

12. Queries were raised as to why the delineation of police districts in the Kowloon East Region was different from the delineation of districts for District Councils within the region. There was a view that the delineation of police districts should be consistent with the delineation of administrative districts.

13. According to the Police, it had been keeping the boundary alignment of police districts and divisions under close review in order to ensure optimum response to changing policing needs. In the process, a number of factors

including demographic changes, main activities of the area (including commercial, industrial, residential and cultural activities), crime rates and trends, as well as planned developments were taken into account. The Police was looking at all possible alternatives for the future delineation of police districts in the Kowloon East Region, having regard to, inter alia, the possible alignment with boundaries of District Councils to achieve better synergy.

Relevant papers

14. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 December 2012

Relevant papers on
Upgrading of Tseung Kwan O Police Division to a police district

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Security	19.1.2004 (Item V)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Panel on Security	24.1.2005 (Item V)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Legislative Council	18.5.2005	<u>Official Record of Proceedings</u> <u>(Question 3)</u>
Panel on Security	5.6.2007 (Item V)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Legislative Council	30.3.2011	<u>Official Record of Proceedings</u> <u>(Question 1)</u>

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