File Ref: CMAB C1/30/8

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Legislative Council Ordinance (Chapter 542)

DECLARATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL) ORDER 2019

INTRODUCTION

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At the meeting of the Executive Council on 8 October 2019, the Council **ADVISED** and the Chief Executive ("CE") **ORDERED** that—

- (a) the recommendations in the report submitted by the Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC") to the CE on the boundaries and the names of Geographical Constituencies ("GCs") and the allocation of seats to each GC for the seventh-term Legislative Council ("LegCo") general election in 2020 ("EAC Report"), the main text of which is at **Annex A**, should be accepted in their entirety; and
- (b) the Declaration of Geographical Constituencies (Legislative Council) Order 2019 ("the Order"), at <u>Annex B</u>, should be made under sections 18 and 19 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) ("LCO"), while the maps at <u>Annex C</u>, which are referred to in the Order, should be approved.
- 2. The EAC Report has been tabled at the LegCo on 16 October 2019.

JUSTIFICATIONS

The EAC Report

- (A) Statutory Requirements (paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 of the EAC Report)
- 3. Under section 4(a) of the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541) ("EACO"), one of the functions of the EAC is to consider or review the boundaries of GCs for the purpose of making recommendations on the boundaries and names of GCs for a LegCo general election. The EAC is required under section 18 of the EACO to submit a report to the CE

on its recommendations for the GCs within 36 months from the preceding LegCo general election. As the last LegCo general election was held on 4 September 2016, the EAC has already submitted its report for the seventh-term LegCo general election in 2020 to the CE by the statutory deadline on 3 September 2019.

- 4. In making recommendations on the delineation of GC boundaries, the EAC is bound by certain statutory provisions as set out in the LCO and the EACO. The combined effects of the relevant provisions under these two Ordinances are as follows—
 - (a) there are to be five GCs [section 18(1) of LCO];
 - (b) 35 LegCo Members are to be returned for all GCs, and the number of LegCo Members to be returned for each GC is not less than five nor greater than nine [section 19(1) and (2) of LCO];
 - (c) the EAC shall ensure that the population in each proposed GC is as near as practicable to the number which results (i.e. "the resulting number") when the population quota¹ is multiplied by the number of Members to be returned to the LegCo by that GC. Where it is not practicable to comply with this requirement, the EAC shall ensure that the population in that GC does not exceed or fall short of the resulting number applicable to that GC by more than 15% [section 20(1)(a) and (b) of EACO];
 - (d) the EAC shall ensure that each proposed GC is to be constituted by two or more contiguous whole District Council ("DC") constituencies [section 20(2) of EACO];
 - (e) the EAC shall have regard to community identities, preservation of local ties, and physical features such as size, shape, accessibility and development of the relevant area or any part thereof [section 20(3)(a) and (b) of EACO];

According to section 17(1) of the EACO, "population quota" means the total population of Hong Kong divided by the total number of Members to be returned for all GCs in the election. Based on the forecast population as at 30 June 2020, the population quota is: 7 558 100 ÷ 35 = 215 946.

- (f) the EAC shall have regard to the existing boundaries of administrative districts² and GCs [section 20(4)(a) and (b) of EACO]; and
- (g) the EAC may depart from the strict application of sub-paragraph (c) above only where it appears that a consideration in sub-paragraph (e) renders such a departure necessary or desirable [section 20(5) of EACO].

Extracts of the relevant provisions of the EACO and LCO are at **Annexes D**D and E respectively

(B) Working principles (paragraphs 2.5 to 2.6 of the EAC Report)

- 5. Apart from the statutory requirements set out above, the EAC also adopted a set of established working principles when arriving at its provisional recommendations (which now become its final recommendations after considering all the views received during public consultation), including the following—
 - (a) the existing boundaries of the five GCs should form the basis of consideration in the current delineation exercise;
 - (b) for those existing GCs where the population falls within the permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries would as far as possible be adopted to form new GCs;
 - (c) Hong Kong Island ("HKI"), Kowloon and the New Territories ("NT") are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO;
 - (d) when drawing up the boundaries of the GCs, splitting of DC constituencies in an administrative district should be avoided unless there are very strong reasons. Where splitting is necessary, it should affect the least number of administrative districts; and
 - (e) factors with political implications are not considered.
- 6. With the exception of sub-paragraph (c), the working principles are largely the same as those adopted in the past. For (c), taking into account

² "Administrative Districts" refers to the 18 Districts as set out in Part II of Schedule 1 to the District Councils Ordinance (Chapter 547).

the fact that on-going development in community infrastructure and transport network may increase connections of HKI, Kowloon and NT, in particular their bordering areas, the EAC had revised the working principle from "HKI, Kowloon, NT are to be treated separately, as these areas are traditionally regarded as distinct from one another" to the present form (details are elaborated in paragraph 16 below).

(C) Provisional Recommendations of EAC (paragraphs 2.11 to 2.17 of the EAC Report)

- 7. When the EAC drew up its provisional recommendations, a primary consideration was to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements and working principles as set out above. To this end, an inter-departmental working group led by the Planning Department provided population forecasts for the delineation of GCs for the seventh-term LegCo general election in 2020, with the total population of Hong Kong projected at 7 558 100 as at 30 June 2020. With 35 GC seats, the population quota (as elaborated in footnote 4) is therefore 215 946.
- 8. In respect of the delineation of GC boundaries, it is the EAC's established working principles that the existing boundaries of the five GCs should form the basis of consideration, and for those existing GCs where the population falls within the statutory permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries will as far as possible be adopted to form new GCs. According to the above working principles and based on the latest projected population figures, the EAC had allocated the 35 seats to the existing five GCs by using the established two-step calculation method as detailed below
 - (a) **Step One**: Seats were allocated among the five GCs by dividing the projected population of each GC by the population quota, i.e. 215 946, and thereafter, allocating the seats according to the integer of the calculated number subject to the statutory limits (i.e. not less than five seats nor greater than nine seats for each GC). Accordingly, 32 seats were first allocated to the five GCs.
 - (b) **Step Two**: There were three seats remaining after Step One. Since the number of seats allocated to the New Territories West ("NTW") GC had reached the upper limit for returning Members in each GC (i.e., nine) as permitted under the statutory requirement of the LCO in Step One, NTW GC would not be included in the allocation of seats in Step Two. In other words, the remaining three seats could only be allocated to three of the four GCs of which the allocated seats have not reached the statutory upper limit. Under such

circumstances, there were four options, as tabulated in Appendix I of the EAC Report. Having examined the four options, the EAC adopted the one with the smallest range of percentage deviation of the population from the resulting number in the individual GCs.

9. The detailed process is set out in paragraphs 2.11 to 2.17 of the EAC Report. A summary of the EAC's provisional recommendations is as follows—

Proposed Name of GC	Projected population as at 30.6.2020	Seats allocated in Step- One	Seats allocated in Step-	Proposed number of seats	Deviation from resulting number (see para. 4(c) above)
Hong Kong Island	1 232 700	5	1	6	-4.86%
Kowloon West	1 205 300	5	1	6	-6.98%
Kowloon East	1 120 800	5	0	5	+3.80%
New Territories West	2 174 700	9	0	9	+11.90%
New Territories East	1 824 600	8	1	9	-6.12%
Total	7 558 100	32	3	35	-

10. The projected populations of the five GCs are all within the statutory permissible range under the existing boundaries. All along, for those GCs or DC constituencies which do fall within the statutory permissible range, the EAC will not on its own initiative adjust their boundaries. In addition, according to the experience in past delineation exercises, especially the delineation of constituencies for the 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the public has prevalently advocated maintenance of the status quo of DC constituency boundaries as far as possible, and that the boundaries of the existing five GCs have been adopted since the first LegCo

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general election in 1998, the EAC proposed the adoption of the boundaries of the existing five GCs as the GC boundaries for the seven-term LegCo general election in 2020 under the provisional recommendations.

(D) Public consultation (Chapters 3 and 4 of the EAC Report)

- 11. In accordance with section 19 of the EACO³, the EAC conducted a public consultation exercise on its provisional recommendations from 8 May to 6 June 2019. Members of the public could submit written representations to the EAC, or attend the public forum held on 16 May 2019 to express their views. The LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs also discussed the EAC's provisional recommendations at its meeting on 20 May 2019. The EAC received a total of 12 written representations, and nine persons attended the public forum. The original texts of the written representations are contained in Part II of Volume I of the EAC Report, and summaries of the written representations received and oral representations raised at the public forum are set out in Appendix III to the same volume.
- 12. The EAC continued to adopt the same set of statutory requirements and working principles in drawing up the provisional recommendations to examine the grounds put forward in the representations in a prudent manner. The EAC noted that the views are mainly related to the following issues –

(a) Number of GCs

- 13. Quite a number of representations proposed an increase in the number of GCs in view of the relatively large projected population in NTW GC. They opined that adding one more GC in NT can achieve a more even distribution of population among the GCs in NT, and resolve the problem of allocation of seats in NTW GC in the event that the statutory upper limit is exceeded because of its large population. In response, the EAC explained in its report that the number of GCs specified under section 18(1) of the LCO in a statutory pre-condition for the EAC as to which the EAC has no authority to make any variation. Therefore, the EAC could not accept such proposals and had referred the relevant views to the Government for consideration.
- 14. That being said, in view of the public's concerns over the growing projected population in NTW GC, the EAC, before reaching its provisional recommendations, had considered seven options of transferring one of the

³ Section 19 of the EACO requires the EAC to conduct a public consultation exercise on its provisional recommendations for a period of not less than 30 days.

administrative districts in NTW GC to another GC contiguous to that administrative district so as to reduce the projected population of NTW GC Although the options permissible (paragraph 4.8 of the EAC Report). under the law may yield a smaller percentage deviation of the projected population from the resulting number for individual GCs than that of the provisional recommendations, these options would either split Lantau Island into different GCs or involve the transfer of an administrative district in NT to HKI or Kowloon West GC, deviating from the EAC's working principle of treating HKI, Kowloon and NT separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory requirements under the EACO. As the boundaries of the existing five GCs have been adopted since the first LegCo general election in 1998, the EAC considered that adjusting the existing boundaries simply for the sake of reducing the percentage deviations of the population among the five GCs where the population do fall within the statutory permissible range does not accord with the EAC's working principle, and would alter the accustomed GC boundaries for members of the public.

(b) Number of seats

15. In view of the projected population growth in NTW GC, there were also representations seeking to have more seats allocated to NTW GC by revising the maximum number of Members to be returned for each GC to 10. Given that the number of seats for GCs and the upper and lower limits of number of seats for each GC are specified under the LCO, the EAC must strictly adhere to the requirements prescribed under the LCO as to which the EAC has no authority to make any variation. Therefore, the EAC could not accept such proposals and had referred the relevant views to the Government for consideration.

(c) Working Principles

16. There were representations about the EAC's working principle of treating HKI, Kowloon and NT separately. Among them, there was a comment that the principle is not in line with the changing need of the community because the boundaries of many areas are not as clear cut as in the past due to rapid urban development in Hong Kong. As explained in paragraph 6 above, prior to the commencement of the delineation exercise, the EAC had conducted a review on the working principles to be adopted. While the EAC agreed that the on-going development in community infrastructure and transport network may increase connections of HKI, Kowloon and NT, in particular the boundaries of their bordering areas, the EAC also noted that the boundaries and names of the existing GCs were drawn up according to this working principle in the first LegCo general election in 1998 and have been used since then. After cautious assessment,

the EAC had accordingly revised the working principle concerned from "HKI, Kowloon and NT are to be treated separately, as these areas are traditionally regarded as distinct from one another" to "HKI, Kowloon and NT are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO".

(d) Others

- 17. Moreover, some representations proposed to split one or more administrative districts and transfer certain areas to contiguous GCs, such as transferring islands other than Lantau Island of the Islands District from NTW GC to HKI GC, or transferring the area of Tseung Kwan O of the Sai Kung District from New Territories East GC to Kowloon East GC, etc. However, as the percentage deviations of the projected population from the resulting number of the existing five GCs are all within the 15% permissible range stipulated under section 20(1)(b) of the EACO, adjustment to the existing boundaries would not be necessary in principle. Furthermore, according to the established working principles, the EAC should avoid the splitting of DC constituencies in an administrative district when drawing up the boundaries of the GCs in order to maintain their local integrity.
- 18. There were also representations involving the adjustment of the boundaries of administrative districts, increase in the number of LegCo functional constituency seats, and amendment to the calculation method of the proportional representation system, etc. Since they were related to the primary legislation, the EAC had referred the relevant views to the Government for consideration.

(E) Final Recommendations of the EAC (paragraphs 4.16 to 4.18 of the EAC Report)

19. After examining all the representations, the EAC had decided to adopt its provisional recommendations in full (i.e., boundaries, names and codes of the existing five GCs, and the allocation of seats resulted from the calculation using the latest projected population figures) as its final recommendations. The EAC submitted its final recommendations to the CE on 3 September 2019. The CE in Council has accepted all the recommendations. The decision of the CE in Council will be effected by way of the Order.

THE ORDER

- 20. The Order has four sections and a schedule, as summarised as follows
 - (a) **Section 1** specifies 1 January 2020 as the commencement date of the Order, which is after the completion of the negative vetting of the Order.
 - (b) **Section 2** defines certain terms used in the Order.
 - (c) **Section 3** and **the Schedule** declare the delineated areas to be GCs for an election to elect Members for the seventh term of office of LegCo and give names to the GCs.
 - (d) **Section 4** specifies the number of Members to be returned at the general election for the seventh term of office of LegCo for each GC declared by the Order.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

21. The legislative timetable will be:

Publication in the Gazette 18 October 2019

Tabling the Order at LegCo for negative 23 October 2019 vetting

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

22. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It will not affect the current binding effect of the relevant Ordinances and existing Regulations. The proposal has no economic, financial, civil service, productivity, environmental, sustainability or family implications.

GENDER IMPLICATION

23. The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women's Article 7 requires that "State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in

the political and public life of the country and in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies..." In the electoral system of Hong Kong, as safeguarded by the Basic Law, women have equal rights as men to vote and to stand for election in accordance with law. In this context, this proposal does not have a gender implication.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

24. The EAC conducted a public consultation exercise from 8 May to 6 June 2019, as set out in paragraphs 11 to 18 above.

PUBLICITY

25. A press release has been issued to announce the decision of CE in Council to fully accept the recommendations of the EAC and the tabling of the EAC Report at LegCo. A spokesperson will be available for answering media enquiries, if any.

ENQUIRY

26. Any enquiry on this brief can be addressed to Ms Cherie Yeung, Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, at 2810 2908.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau 16 October 2019

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Section 1: The Electoral Affairs Commission

1.1 The Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC") is an independent and apolitical statutory body established under section 3 of the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Chapter 541) ("EACO"), with the primary objective of upholding openness, honesty and fairness in public elections.

Section 2 : Responsibility of the EAC

- 1.2 Under section 4(a) of the EACO, one of the functions of the EAC is to consider or review the boundaries of geographical constituencies ("GCs") for the purpose of making recommendations on the boundaries and names of GCs for a Legislative Council ("LegCo") general election.
- The EAC is required under section 18 of the EACO to submit a report to the Chief Executive ("CE") of its recommendations on the boundaries and names of each GC in relation to a LegCo general election within 36 months from the preceding LegCo general election. As the last LegCo general election was held on 4 September 2016, the EAC has to submit the report on the boundaries and names of the GCs for the 2020 LegCo General Election to the CE by 3 September 2019.

1.4 Under section 21 of the EACO, the CE-in-Council shall consider the EAC's report as soon as practicable after the receipt of it. Subject to the CE-in-Council's adoption of the boundaries and names as recommended by the EAC, the CE-in-Council, having regard to the EAC's final recommendations, will make and table at the LegCo the relevant Order according to sections 18(2) and 19(2) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Chapter 542) ("LCO"). After the completion of the negative vetting procedure of the LegCo, the boundaries and names of the GCs will come into effect for the seventh LegCo general election to be held in the third quarter of 2020.

Section 3 : Scope of the Report

The scope and content of this report are based on the requirements stipulated under section 18 of the EACO. The report is published in two volumes. **Volume 1** mainly describes how the proposed delineation of the boundaries of GCs was worked out and sets out the EAC's recommendations on the boundaries and names of the GCs with the reasons for those recommendations. It also contains a summary of all written and oral representations made to the EAC and reproduces all the written representations. **Volume 2** contains the descriptions of the recommended GC boundaries and maps showing the boundaries and names of the recommended GCs.

CHAPTER 2

DELINEATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES

Section 1: Statutory Requirements for Delineation

Provisions stipulated under the LCO

- 2.1 In making the recommendations in respect of the delineation of GC boundaries, the EAC is required to adhere to the following provisions stipulated under the LCO:
 - (a) there are to be **5** GCs for the purpose of returning Members at elections for those constituencies [section 18(1) of the LCO];
 - (b) at a general election, **35 Members** are to be returned for all GCs [section 19(1) of the LCO]; and
 - (c) the number of Members to be returned for each GC is to be a number **not less than 5 nor greater than 9** [section 19(2) of the LCO].

Criteria stipulated under the EACO

- 2.2 In accordance with the EACO, the EAC shall:
 - (a) ensure that the population in each proposed GC is as near as practicable to the number which results (i.e. "the resulting number") when the population quota is multiplied by the number of Members to be returned to the LegCo by that GC [section 20(1)(a) of the EACO];
 - (b) where it is not practicable to comply with (a) above in respect of a proposed GC, ensure that the population in that GC does not exceed or fall short of the resulting number applicable to that GC by more than 15% [section 20(1)(b) of the EACO]; and
 - (c) ensure that each proposed GC is to be constituted by 2 or more contiguous whole District Council ("DC") constituencies [section 20(2) of the EACO].
- 2.3 In making such recommendations, the EAC shall also have regard to:
 - (a) community identities and the preservation of local ties [section 20(3)(a) of the EACO];

- (b) physical features (such as size, shape, accessibility and development) of the relevant area or any part thereof [section 20(3)(b) of the EACO];
- (c) existing boundaries of administrative districts ¹ [section 20(4)(a) of the EACO]; and
- (d) existing boundaries of GCs [section 20(4)(b) of the EACO].
- 2.4 The EAC may depart from the strict application of the requirements set out in paragraph 2.2(a) and (b) above only where it appears that a consideration referred to in paragraph 2.3(a) and (b) above renders such a departure necessary or desirable [section 20(5) of the EACO].

Section 2 : Working Principles

- 2.5 Apart from the statutory provisions and criteria set out above, the EAC has also adopted the following established working principles for the delineation exercise:
 - (a) the existing boundaries of the 5 GCs should form the basis of consideration in the current delineation exercise;

¹ "Administrative districts" refers to the 18 Districts as set out in Part II of Schedule 1 to the District Councils Ordinance (Chapter 547).

- (b) for those existing GCs where the population falls within the permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries will as far as possible be adopted to form new GCs;
- (c) Hong Kong Island ("HKI"), Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO;
- (d) when drawing up the boundaries of the GCs, splitting of DC constituencies in an administrative district should be avoided unless there are very strong reasons. Where splitting is necessary, it should affect the least number of administrative districts; and
- (e) factors with political implications are not considered.
- 2.6 The above working principles are generally the same as those adopted in the past. For item 2.5(c), the EAC has slightly revised the working principle concerned after review (please see paragraph 4.12 below for details).

Section 3 : Name and Code of GCs

2.7 In determining the name and code reference for the GCs, the EAC considers that the name of GCs should comprise two easily distinguished components, namely the name of the area in which the GC is situated and a directional reference, same as those adopted for the existing GCs (i.e. HKI, Kowloon West ("KW"), Kowloon East ("KE"), New Territories West ("NTW") and New Territories East ("NTE")). The GCs are also distinguished by a code and numbering system starting from "LC 1" and ending at "LC 5", being arranged from south to north and from west to east. The EAC hopes that with the adoption of this naming and coding system, anyone who consults the maps would find it easier to understand and locate the GCs. These methods have been adopted by the EAC since the first LegCo general election in 1998.

Section 4 : Population Forecasts

- 2.8 Section 20(6) of the EACO stipulates that for the purpose of making recommendations on the delineation of GCs, the EAC shall endeavour to estimate the total population of Hong Kong or any proposed GC in the year in which LegCo general election is to be held.
- As in the past, the necessary projected population figures are provided by an Ad Hoc Subgroup ("AHSG") set up specially for the purpose of the delineation exercise under the Working Group on Population

Distribution Projections in the Planning Department ("PlanD"). These population projection figures are the information required for conducting the delineation exercise. The AHSG was chaired by an Assistant Director of the PlanD and comprised of representatives from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau ("CMAB"), the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD"), the Housing Department, the Lands Department ("LandsD") and the Registration and Electoral Office ("REO"). Most of them are professional departments which have all along been responsible for carrying out territory-wide population censuses and projections on population distribution. To ensure that the projections can cater for the 2020 LegCo General Election, the AHSG was requested by the EAC to project the population distribution figures as at a date as close to the election date as practicable. For this reason, the AHSG had followed the practice in past delineation exercises and provided the EAC with the projected population figures as at 30 June 2020, having considered that the 2020 LegCo General Election would be held in the third quarter of 2020.

On the basis of the latest statistics of population projections (2017-based) released by the C&SD, the AHSG provided the population forecasts for the delineation of GCs for the 2020 LegCo General Election. As at 30 June 2020, the total population of Hong Kong is projected at 7 558 100 and the population quota is therefore 215 946 for the purpose of this delineation exercise, which is the number resulted from Hong Kong's total population (i.e. 7 558 100) divided by the total number of Members to be returned for all GCs (i.e. 35) as defined in section 17(1) of the EACO.

Section 5: The Process of Delineation

- 2.11 According to the population forecasts mentioned in paragraph 2.10 above, and the statutory provisions and criteria as well as established working principles set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5 above, the EAC drew up its provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of GCs for the 2020 LegCo General Election.
- In accordance with the law, the number of GCs for the purpose of returning Members at the 2020 LegCo General Election is 5. In respect of the delineation of GC boundaries, it is the EAC's established working principles that the existing boundaries of the 5 GCs should form the basis of consideration, and for those existing GCs where the projected population falls within the statutory permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries will as far as possible be adopted to form new GCs. According to the above working principles and based on the latest projected population figures, the EAC has allocated the 35 seats to the existing 5 GCs by using the established two-step calculation method.
- 2.13 The two-step calculation method for allocating the seats is detailed below:
 - (a) Step One: Seats were allocated among the 5 GCs by dividing the projected population of each GC by the population quota, i.e. 215 946 and thereafter, allocating the seats according to the integer of the calculated number subject to the statutory limits (i.e. not less than 5 seats nor

greater than 9 seats for each GC). Accordingly, 32 seats were first allocated to the 5 GCs.

Step Two: There were 3 seats remaining after Step One. (b) Since the number of seats allocated to NTW GC has reached the upper limit for returning Members in each GC (i.e. 9) as permitted under the statutory requirement of the LCO in Step One, NTW GC would not be included in the allocation of seats in Step Two. In other words, the remaining 3 seats could only be allocated to 3 of the 4 GCs of which the allocated seats have not yet reached the statutory upper limit. Under such circumstances, there were 4 options for allocation, as shown in the "Descriptions of the Proposed GC Boundaries" contained in the consultation document prepared by the EAC, and the options are tabulated in **Appendix I** of this report. Having examined the 4 options, the EAC adopted the one with the smallest range of percentage deviation of the population from the resulting number in the individual GCs (i.e. Option C).

2.14 The number of seats proposed to be allocated to each GC in accordance with the aforesaid method is as follows:

_	sed Name C (Code)	Projected Population	Seats Allocated in Step One	Seats Allocated in Step Two	Proposed Number of Seats
HKI	(LC 1)	1 232 700	5	1	6
KW	(LC 2)	1 205 300	5	1	6
KE	(LC 3)	1 120 800	5	-	5
NTW	(LC 4)	2 174 700	9	-	9
NTE	(LC 5)	1 824 600	8	1	9
T	otal:	7 558 100	32	3	35

Details of the calculation are shown in Appendix I.

Under the existing boundaries, the projected populations of the 5 GCs are all within the statutory permissible range. All along, for those GCs or DC constituencies which do fall within the statutory permissible range, the EAC will not on its own initiative adjust their boundaries. In addition, according to the experience in past delineation exercises, especially the delineation of constituencies for the 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the public has prevalently advocated maintenance of the status quo of DC constituency boundaries as far as possible, and that the boundaries of the existing 5 GCs have been adopted since the first LegCo general election in 1998, hence, the EAC proposed the adoption of the boundaries of the existing 5 GCs as the GC boundaries for the 2020 LegCo General Election under the

provisional recommendations.

2.16 The provisional recommendations of the EAC satisfied all the statutory provisions and criteria as well as established working principles set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5 above. As the adoption of the boundaries of the existing 5 GCs is proposed, the EAC also proposes the adoption of the names and codes of the existing 5 GCs.

Section 6: Provisional Recommendations

2.17 After the EAC has drawn up the provisional recommendations on the GC boundaries, the EAC Secretariat has prepared for the public consultation exercise. The public consultation period ran from 8 May 2019 to 6 June 2019. Details of the EAC's provisional recommendations, including the projected population and component District Council Constituency Areas ("DCCAs") of each GC, are set out in **Appendix II**.

CHAPTER 3

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Section 1: Consultation Period and Public Forum

- Pursuant to the provision of section 19 of the EACO, the EAC conducted a public consultation exercise on its provisional recommendations from 8 May 2019 to 6 June 2019 (a period of 30 days). During this period, members of the public could send in their written representations to the EAC to express their views on the EAC's provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of the GCs.
- 3.2 Throughout the public consultation period, descriptions of the proposed GC boundaries, together with the method for the allocation of seats, component administrative districts and DCCAs, and maps showing the proposed boundaries of the GCs were available for public inspection at the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of all District Offices, the REO, Philatelic Offices of Hongkong Post, management offices of all public housing estates, and all major and district public libraries. The information was also uploaded onto the EAC's website for public viewing.
- 3.3 The consultation document has contained the Message from the EAC Chairman, explaining to the public the statutory provisions and criteria as well as working principles adopted by the EAC in delineating the GC

boundaries, and also the justifications for the provisional recommendations.

- 3.4 The public consultation exercise was widely publicised by the EAC through Announcements in the Public Interest on radio and TV, press releases, newspaper advertisements, posters, the EAC's website and Government Gazette.
- On the first day of the consultation period (i.e. 8 May 2019), the EAC held a press conference to launch the exercise, and invited the public to give their views on the EAC's provisional recommendations. To ensure that its final recommendations can fully take into account the public opinions, the EAC appealed to the public to actively participate in the consultation and express their views for or against the provisional recommendations.
- A public forum was conducted from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on 16 May 2019 at the Lai Chi Kok Community Hall, 863 Lai Chi Kok Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, where members of the public could express their oral representations to the EAC directly. Audio-visual aids showing the maps and other relevant information were used to facilitate the participants to better understand the content of the provisional recommendations.
- 3.7 The REO attended a meeting of the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 20 May 2019 to brief LegCo Members on the delineation exercise and listen to their views on the EAC's provisional recommendations.

Section 2 : Number of Representations Received

- During the consultation period, the EAC has received a total of 12 written representations. Besides, nine persons attended the public forum held on 16 May 2019. Four oral representations were received at the forum.
- Among the representations received by the EAC, some of the views were not related to the boundaries or names of the GCs but concerned other matters such as boundaries of the administrative districts, the number of GCs and the upper or lower limit of seats permitted for each GC. The EAC has referred the relevant representations to the Government for reference.
- 3.10 All the written representations are recorded in Part II of this volume. A summary of all written and oral representations is also provided in **Appendix III** of this volume.

CHAPTER 4

CONSIDERATION OF REPRESENTATIONS

Section 1: Deliberations and Observations

- 4.1 After the public consultation period has ended, the EAC has looked into each of the written and oral representations (including the views expressed by LegCo Members at the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs held on 20 May 2019) to consider whether they should be accepted.
- As with past delineation exercises, when deliberating on the representations received, the EAC has adopted the same set of statutory provisions and criteria as well as working principles adopted in drawing up the provisional recommendations (see Chapter 2) to examine the grounds put forward in the representations in a prudent manner.
- 4.3 In drawing up the provisional recommendations and deliberating on the representations, the EAC has adopted basically the same approach as in previous delineation exercises. Regarding the views expressed in the representations, the EAC has noted the following matters, and set out its observations, so that the public may fully understand the factors that have been taken into consideration by the EAC.

(a) Number of GCs

- The "principle of equal representation" is an important consideration in the delineation of GC boundaries. The underlying concept is that similar numbers of people should have equal numbers of representatives. In this regard, the EACO has set out the statutory criteria (see paragraph 2.2 above) for delineating GC boundaries and the EAC shall ensure that the population in each proposed GC is as near its resulting number as practicable. However, owing to the situation of population distribution in Hong Kong, it is not practicable for the population of each GC to strictly adhere to its resulting number. Hence, the statutory criteria also allow the population of a GC to exceed or fall short of its resulting number by not more than 15%, i.e. the statutory permissible range of deviation.
- 4.5 During the present consultation period, the EAC has received quite a number of representations proposing an increase in the number of GCs. The majority of the representations pointed out that NTW GC has a relatively large projected population, and when dividing the projected population of that GC by the population quota in accordance with the EAC's established method for the allocation of seats, the result is that its entitled number of seats should be 10. However, as the statutory upper limit of seats for each GC is capped at 9 under the LCO, only 9 seats could be allocated to NTW GC. As a result, its percentage deviation of the population from the resulting number reached +11.90%. The representations pointed out that under such circumstance, NTW GC could not be allocated with the number

of seats it should have, and therefore it was proposed that one more GC should be added in the New Territories so as to achieve a more even distribution of population among the GCs in the New Territories, and to resolve the problem of allocation of seats in NTW GC in the event that the statutory upper limit be exceeded because of its large population. These proposals made in the representations included combining the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long Districts of NTW GC and the North and Tai Po Districts of NTE GC into a new GC named "New Territories North", or making the Islands District an additional individual GC, etc.

- 4.6 In delineating the LegCo GC boundaries, the EAC must strictly adhere to the requirements prescribed in the LCO, whereby section 18 stipulates that there are 5 LegCo GCs at present. This requirement is a statutory pre-condition for the EAC, as to which the EAC has no authority to make any variation. Therefore, under the circumstance that there is no increase in the number of GCs under the law, the EAC cannot add new GCs to the New Territories, which will make the total number of GCs in Hong Kong exceed the statutory number of 5. As the representations regarding the number of GCs involve amendment to the LCO, which does not fall under the purview of the EAC, the EAC has referred the relevant views to the CMAB for consideration.
- 4.7 The EAC also noted the point in the representations that the number of seats of NTW GC should have been 10 but only 9 seats could be allocated to it due to the statutory upper limit of seats. However, as a matter

of fact, in strictly adhering to the statutory requirement on the number of Members to be returned for each GC (i.e. a number not less than 5 nor greater than 9), after applying the calculation method mentioned in paragraph 2.13 above, the percentage deviation of the population from the resulting number for NTW GC under the provisional recommendations was still within the statutory permissible range. The existing boundary of NTW GC therefore has complied with the statutory requirements (including the 15% statutory permissible range of deviation), and adjustment will not be necessary.

As such, the EAC did re-examine the situation of NTW GC before reaching the present provisional recommendations, and to see if one of the administrative districts in NTW GC could be transferred to another GC contiguous to the administrative district concerned so as to reduce the projected population of NTW GC. There were 7 options as listed below. However, they were either considered not feasible under the law or not recommended by the EAC. Details are as follows:

2 options infeasible under the law

Option	Administrative	Reasons for being infeasible
	district involved in	
	the adjustment	
1	Transferring the Kwai Tsing District from NTW GC to NTE GC	• Under this option, the percentage deviation of NTE GC (+20.12%) will exceed the statutory permissible upper limit.

Option	Administrative district involved in the adjustment	Reasons for being infeasible
2	Transferring the Yuen Long District from NTW GC to NTE GC	• Under this option, the percentage deviation of NTE GC (+27.36%) will exceed the statutory permissible upper limit.

5 options possible under the law but not recommended by the EAC

Option	Administrative district involved in the adjustment	If the option is adopted, the GCs having the highest/lowest percentage deviation of population		Reasons for not being recommended by the EAC
		Lowest	Highest	
1	Transferring the Islands District from NTW GC to NTE GC	-6.98% (KW)	+3.80% (KE)	• The existing NTE GC has a very wide expanse. After the adjustment under Option 1, the newly delineated area of the GC will be further enlarged; and
				• Lantau Island spans over two administrative districts, namely Tsuen Wan and Islands. The north-eastern part of Lantau Island (e.g. Sunny Bay, etc.) belongs to the Tsuen Wan District while the rest (e.g. Tung Chung, Mui Wo, etc.) belongs to the Islands District. Currently, both the Tsuen

Option	Administrative district involved in the adjustment	If the option is adopted, the GCs having the highest/lowest percentage deviation of population Lowest Highest		Reasons for not being recommended by the EAC Wan and Islands Districts are within NTW GC. Therefore, Option 1 will split Lantau Island into
2	Transferring the Tsuen Wan District from NTW GC to NTE GC	-6.98% (KW)	+10.18% (NTE)	two different GCs, i.e. the area other than the northeastern part of Lantau Island will be transferred to NTE GC while the north-eastern part will remain in NTW GC. • The Tsuen Wan District covers the north-eastern part of Lantau Island (e.g. Sunny Bay, etc.), and both the Tsuen Wan and Islands Districts are currently within NTW GC. • By transferring the Tsuen Wan District to NTE GC, Option 2 will split Lantau Island into two different GCs, i.e. the north-eastern part of Lantau Island (the Tsuen Wan District) will be transferred to NTE GC while the rest (the Islands District) will remain in NTW GC.

Option	Administrative district involved in the adjustment	If the option is adopted, the GCs having the highest/lowest percentage deviation of population		Reasons for not being recommended by the EAC
3	Transferring the Kwai Tsing District from NTW GC to KW GC	-4.86% (HKI)	+5.62% (NTE)	 Based on the existing boundaries of the 5 GCs, the percentage deviations of the projected population from the resulting number for the 5 GCs are all within the statutory permissible range; and Transferring an administrative district from the New Territories to Kowloon does not accord with the working principle for delineation (i.e. HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria).

Option	Administrative district involved in the adjustment	If the option is adopted, the GCs having the highest/lowest percentage deviation of population		Reasons for not being recommended by the EAC
4	Transferring the Kwai Tsing District from NTW GC to HKI GC	-6.98% (KW)	Highest +5.62% (NTE)	 Based on the existing boundaries of the 5 GCs, the percentage deviations of the projected population from the resulting number for the 5 GCs are all within the statutory permissible range; Transferring an administrative district from the New Territories to HKI does not accord with the working principle for delineation (i.e. HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria); and Traditionally, HKI is self-contained.
5	Transferring the Islands District from NTW GC to HKI GC	-6.98% (KW)	+5.62% (NTE)	• Lantau Island spans over two administrative districts, namely Tsuen Wan and Islands. Similar to the reasons for not adopting Options 1 and 2, Option 5 will split Lantau Island into two different GCs, i.e. the area

Option	Administrative district involved in the adjustment	If the option is adopted, the GCs having the highest/lowest percentage deviation of population		Reasons for not being recommended by the EAC
		Lowest	Highest	other than the northeastern part of Lantau Island will be transferred to HKI GC while the north-eastern part will remain in NTW GC; • Based on the existing boundaries of the 5 GCs, the percentage deviations of the projected population from the resulting number for the 5 GCs are all within the statutory permissible range; • Transferring an administrative district from the New Territories to HKI does not accord with the working principle for delineation (i.e. HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately as far as
				 possible having regard to the statutory criteria); and Traditionally, HKI is self-contained.

4.9 To sum up, although the options above permissible under the law may yield a smaller percentage deviation of the projected population from the resulting number for individual GCs than that of the provisional recommendations [-6.98% (lowest) to +11.90% (highest)], these options will either split Lantau Island into different GCs or involve the transfer of an administrative district in the New Territories to HKI or KW GC, deviating from the EAC's working principle of treating HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO. Furthermore, as mentioned in paragraph 2.15 above, all along, the EAC will not on its own initiative adjust the boundaries of those GCs or DC constituencies which do fall within the statutory permissible According to the experience in past delineation exercises, especially the delineation of constituencies for the 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the public has prevalently advocated maintenance of the status quo of DC constituency boundaries as far as possible. As the boundaries of the existing 5 GCs have been adopted since the first LegCo general election in 1998, the EAC considers that adjusting the existing boundaries simply for the sake of reducing the percentage deviations of the population among the 5 GCs where the population do fall within the statutory permissible range does not accord with the EAC's working principle, and would alter the accustomed GC boundaries for members of the public.

(b) Number of Seats

In view of the projected population growth in NTW GC, apart from the above representations asking for an increase in the number of GCs, there were also representations seeking to have more seats allocated to NTW GC by revising the maximum number of Members to be returned for each GC to 10. As explained above, the EAC must strictly adhere to the requirements prescribed under the LCO in drawing up the delineation proposals. At present, section 19 of the LCO stipulates that the number of Members to be returned for each GC is to be a number not less than 5 nor greater than 9. As the representations regarding the number of seats involve amendment to the LCO, which does not fall under the purview of the EAC, the relevant views have been referred to the CMAB for consideration.

(c) Working Principles

- 4.11 Besides, there were representations questioning the EAC's working principle of treating HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories separately. Amongst them, there was a comment that the principle is not in line with the changing needs of the community because the boundaries of many areas are not as clear cut as in the past due to rapid urban development in Hong Kong.
- 4.12 As a matter of fact, prior to the commencement of the present delineation exercise, the EAC did review the working principles to be adopted

in the delineation exercise, including the one mentioned in the above representations. While the EAC agrees that on-going development in community infrastructure and transport network may increase connections of HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories, in particular their bordering areas, the EAC also notes that the boundaries and names of the existing GCs were drawn up according to this working principle in the first LegCo general election in 1998 and have been used since then. Members of the public are already used to the conventional division of HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories as three distinct components. In this connection, the EAC considers that HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories should be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO (in particular the percentage deviations of the projected population from the resulting number of the GCs are all within the 15% statutory permissible range). After cautious assessment of the above considerations, when drawing up the provisional recommendations, the EAC has accordingly revised the working principle concerned from the original working principle of "HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately, as these areas are traditionally regarded as distinct from one another" to read as "HKI, Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO".

(d) Others

4.13 The EAC has also received other views apart from the major representations above. Some of the representations proposed to split one or

more administrative districts and transfer certain areas to contiguous GCs, such as transferring islands other than Lantau Island of the Islands District from NTW GC to HKI GC, or transferring the area of Tseung Kwan O of the Sai Kung District from NTE GC to KE GC, etc. Furthermore, there were also representations involving the adjustment of the boundaries of administrative districts, increase in the number of LegCo functional constituency seats, and amendment to the calculation method of the proportional representation system, etc.

In respect of the above proposals of adjusting the GC boundaries, for the delineation of GC boundaries for the 2020 LegCo General Election, the percentage deviations of the projected population from the resulting number of the existing 5 GCs are all within the 15% permissible range stipulated under section 20(1)(b) of the EACO as calculated with the latest projected population figures. Adjustment to their existing boundaries will not be necessary in principle. Furthermore, according to the established working principles, the EAC should avoid the splitting of DC constituencies in an administrative district when drawing up the boundaries of the GCs in order to maintain their local integrity. As for the other proposals which involve the adjustment of the boundaries of administrative districts and amendment to the existing electoral system, since they are related to the primary legislation, which do not fall under the purview of the EAC, the EAC has referred the relevant views to the Government for consideration.

(e) Conclusion

In conclusion, the EAC must strictly adhere to the requirements prescribed in the LCO on the number of GCs and seats, and has no authority to make any variation. As for the proposals of adjusting the existing GC boundaries, the EAC would like to reiterate that, with the projected populations of the existing 5 GCs all fall within the statutory permissible range, adjustment to their boundaries is not necessary in principle. To avoid altering unnecessarily the GC boundaries accustomed to by members of the public, the EAC does not recommend changing the existing boundaries unless the projected populations of the GCs no longer meet the statutory criteria or there are overwhelming reasons to support the re-delineation of GCs.

Section 2 : The Recommendations

- 4.16 Having considered the representations received, the EAC examined and made its final recommendations at its meeting held on 25 July 2019. The EAC's views on the representations are set out in the last column of **Appendix III**.
- 4.17 As explained in Section 5 of Chapter 2 above, the EAC's provisional recommendations has satisfied all the statutory provisions and criteria as well as established working principles. All public representations received during the consultation period (including supporting and opposing views as well as specific proposals given in the representations) have been

taken into account by the EAC. After weighing and balancing all relevant considerations, the EAC has decided to adopt its provisional recommendations as the final recommendations (i.e. adopting the boundaries, names and codes of the existing 5 GCs, and the allocation of seats resulted from the calculation using the latest projected population figures).

4.18 The final recommendations in respect of the 5 GCs, including the number of seats, names, codes, component DCCAs and projected population details for each recommended GC, and the maps showing the boundaries and names of the recommended GCs are contained in **Volume 2** of this report.

CHAPTER 5

A CONCLUDING NOTE

Section 1 : Acknowledgements

- 5.1 With the completion of this delineation exercise, the EAC would like to express its gratitude towards the following government departments for their contributions: the AHSG for its provision of the projected population figures; the LandsD for its production of maps for the production of the consultation materials and the report; the Information Services Department for its contribution to the publicity programme relating to the consultation exercise; the Government Logistics Department for the printing of the consultation materials and this report; and the Home Affairs Department for the provision of venue for holding the public forum and its assistance to distribute the consultation documents and publicity posters.
- The EAC is particularly thankful to the EAC Secretariat for their dedicated and concerted efforts in the preparation and support for the delineation exercise.
- 5.3 The EAC is most grateful to those members of the public for their representations, put forth in writing or orally at the public forum.

Section 2 : Conclusion

- As in previous delineation exercises, the EAC has adhered to the statutory provisions and criteria as well as its working principles in this delineation exercise. As always, the EAC has paid no regard to any suggestions with political implications or those which are not relevant to the statutory requirements.
- 5.5 Delineation of GC boundaries is an integral part of a LegCo general election. The EAC is committed to conducting each and every election under its supervision in an open, fair and honest manner. The EAC has all the time held on to this important principle in this delineation exercise.

Declaration of Geographical Constituencies (Legislative Council) Order 2019

Section 1

Declaration of Geographical Constituencies (Legislative Council) Order 2019

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under sections 18 and 19 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542))

1. Commencement

This Order comes into operation on 1 January 2020.

2. Interpretation

In this Order-

- approved map (獲批准地圖) means a map approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 8 October 2019:
- constituency boundary (選區分界), in relation to a geographical constituency declared by this Order, means the boundary delineating the constituency represented on the relevant approved map by a red line described in the map legend as "2020 Legislative Council Geographical Constituency Boundary (coincides with District Boundary)";
- constituency code (選區代號), in relation to a geographical constituency declared by this Order, means the code specified in brackets below the name of the constituency in column 3 of the Schedule.

3. Declaration of Legislative Council geographical constituencies

(1) Each area delineated and marked on an approved map as described in column 2 of the Schedule is declared to be a geographical constituency for an election to elect Members for the seventh term of office of the Legislative Council.

Annex B

2

Declaration of Geographical Constituencies (Legislative Council) Order 2019

Section 4

The name of a geographical constituency declared under subsection (1) is specified in column 3 of the Schedule opposite the relevant area.

4. Number of Members to be returned for each geographical constituency

For each geographical constituency declared by this Order, the number of Members to be returned at the general election for the seventh term of office of the Legislative Council is specified in column 4 of the Schedule opposite the name of the constituency.

Schedule

[ss. 2, 3 & 4]

Geographical Constituencies

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
		Name of Geographical Constituency	
Item	Delineation of Area	(Constituency Code)	Number of Members
1.	The area delineated by the constituency boundary on the approved map identified as Plan No. LCCA/R/2020/HK and marked with the names	Hong Kong Island (LC1)	. 6
	Central & Western District, Wan Chai District, Eastern District and Southern District.		
2.	The area delineated by the constituency boundary on the	Kowloon West	6
	approved map identified as Plan No.	(LC2)	
	LCCA/R/2020/KLN-W & KLN-E and marked with the		
	names Yau Tsim Mong District, Sham Shui Po		
	District, Shall Shul Po		
	District.		

Declaration of Geographical Cor	nstituencies (Legislative	Council) Order 2019
Schedule		

Column 1 Item	Column 2 Delineation of Area	Column 3 Name of Geographical Constituency (Constituency Code)	Column 4 Number of Members
3.	The area delineated by the constituency boundary on the approved map identified as Plan No. LCCA/R/2020/KLN-W & KLN-E and marked with the names Wong Tai Sin District and Kwun Tong District.	Kowloon East (LC3)	5
4.	The area delineated by the constituency boundary on the approved map identified as Plan No. LCCA/R/2020/NT-W and marked with the names Tsuen Wan District, Tuen Mun District, Yuen Long District, Kwai Tsing District and Islands District.	New Territories West (LC4)	9
5.	The area delineated by the constituency boundary on the approved map identified as Plan No. LCCA/R/2020/NT-E and marked with the names North District, Tai Po District, Sha Tin District and Sai Kung District.	New Territories East (LC5)	9

Declaration of Geogra	phical Constituer	ncies (Legislativ	e Council) Orde	er 201

Clerk to the Executive Council

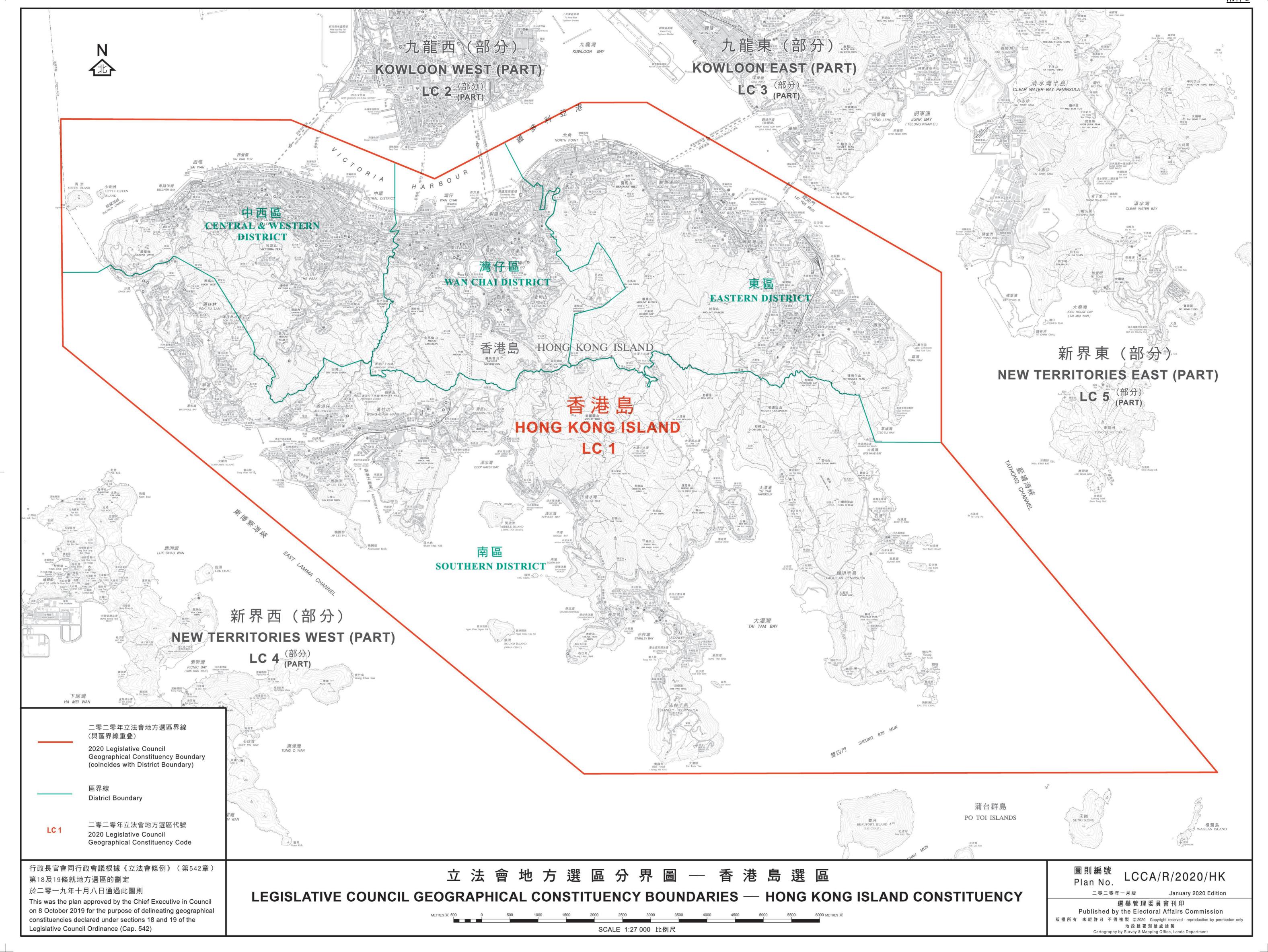
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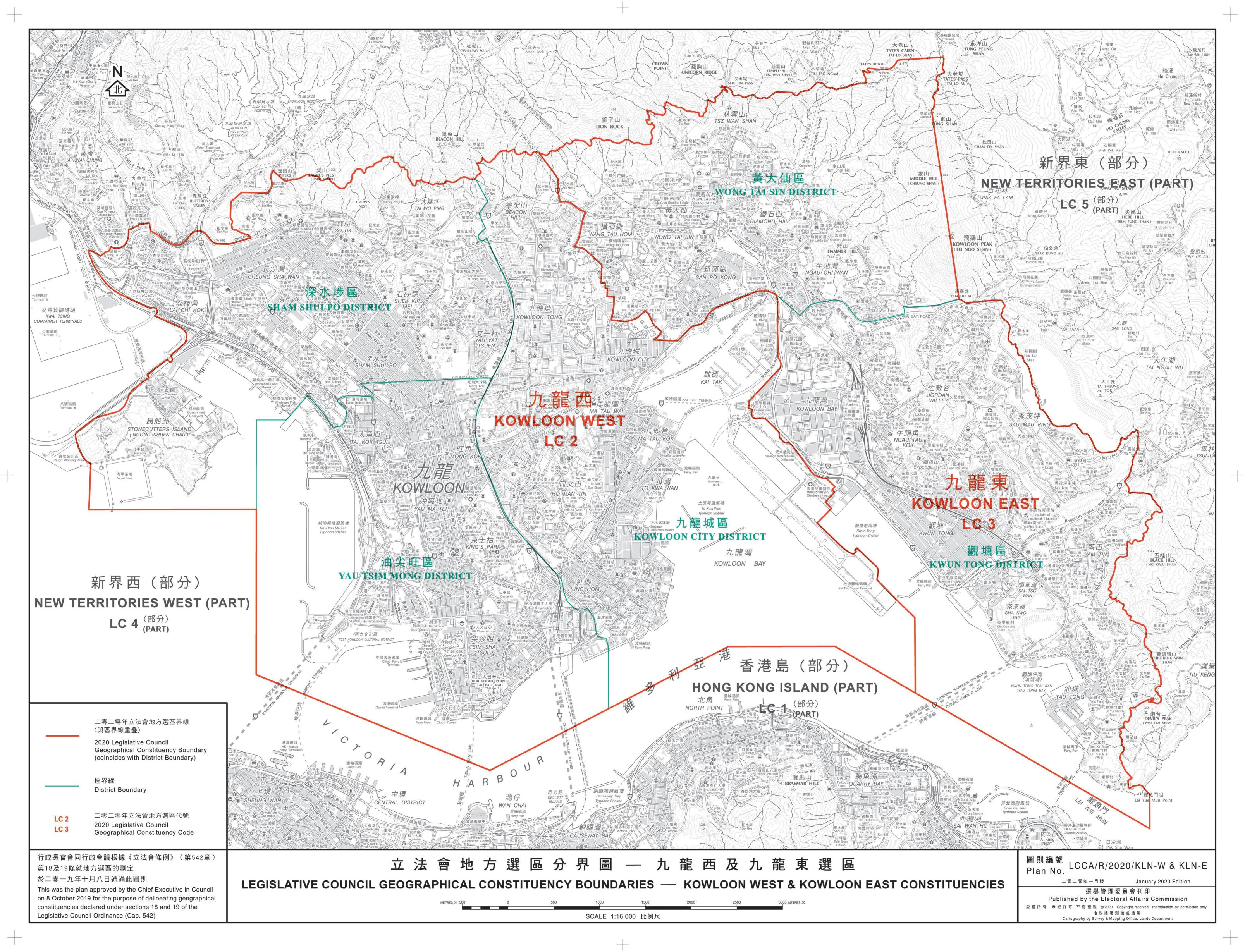
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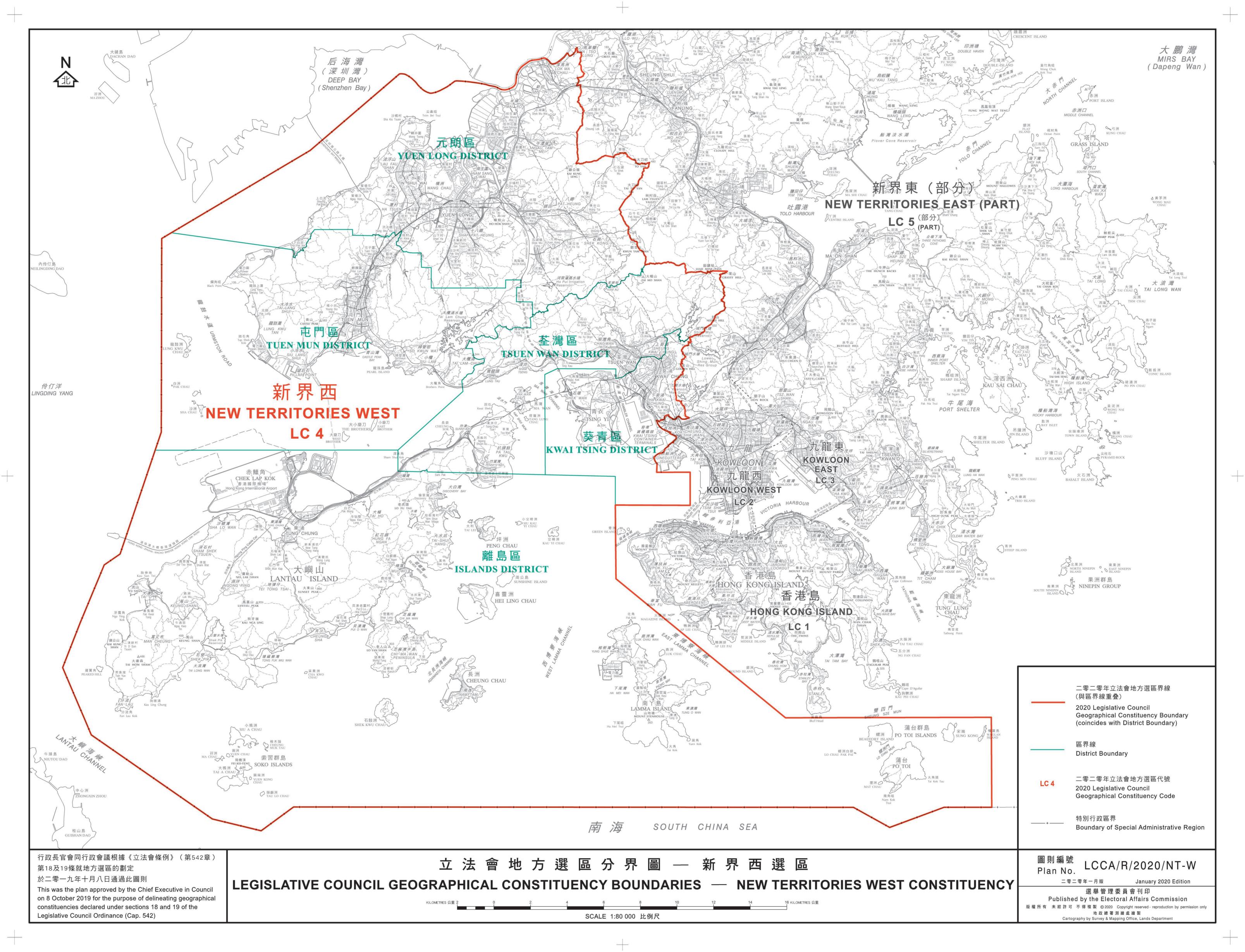
Declaration of Geographical Constituencies (Legislative Council) Order 2019 Explanatory Note Paragraph 1

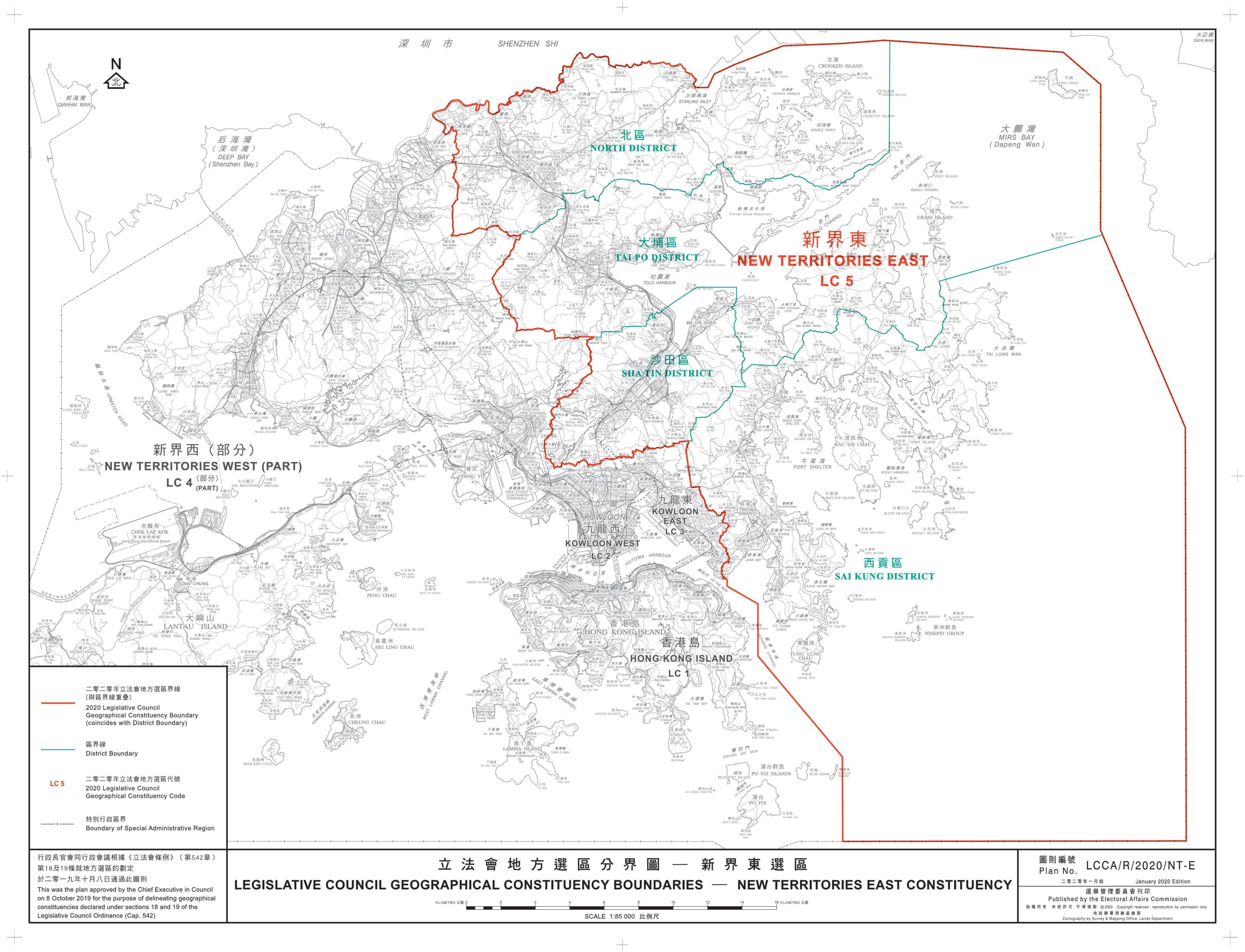
Explanatory Note

This Order declares areas of Hong Kong to be geographical constituencies for an election to elect Members for the seventh term of office of the Legislative Council, gives names to those constituencies, and specifies the number of Members to be returned for each of those constituencies.









Chapter: 541 Title: Electoral Affairs Commission Gazette Number: E.R. 2 of 2012 Ordinance
Section: 20 Heading: Criteria for making Version Date: 02/08/2012

recommendations

- (1) In making recommendations for the purposes of this Part, the Commission shall-
 - (a) ensure that the extent of each proposed geographical constituency is such that the population in that constituency is as near as is practicable to the number which results (*the resulting number*) when the population quota is multiplied by the number of members to be returned to the Legislative Council by that geographical constituency pursuant to any electoral law;
 - (b) where it is not practicable to comply with paragraph (a) in respect of a proposed geographical constituency, ensure that the extent of the constituency is such that the population in that constituency does not exceed or fall short of the resulting number applicable to that constituency, by more than 15% thereof;
 - (c) ensure that the extent of each proposed District Council constituency is such that the population in that constituency is as near the population quota as practicable; (Added 8 of 1999 s. 89)
 - (d) where it is not practicable to comply with paragraph (c) in respect of a proposed District Council constituency, ensure that the extent of the proposed constituency is such that the population in that constituency does not exceed or fall short of the population quota, by more than 25% thereof. (Added 8 of 1999 s. 89)
- (2) In making such recommendations the Commission shall ensure that each proposed geographical constituency is constituted by 2 or more contiguous whole District Council constituencies.
- (3) In making such recommendations the Commission shall have regard to-
 - (a) community identities and the preservation of local ties; and
 - (b) physical features such as size, shape, accessibility and development of the relevant area or any part thereof.
- (4) In making such recommendations in relation to a general election the Commission shall have regard to-
 - (a) existing boundaries of Districts; and
 - (b) existing boundaries of geographical constituencies. (Replaced 78 of 1999 s. 7)
- (4A) Subject to subsection (4B), in making such recommendations in relation to an ordinary election, the Commission must follow the existing boundaries of Districts and the existing number of members to be elected to a District Council as specified in or under the District Councils Ordinance (Cap 547). (Added 8 of 1999 s. 89)
- (4B) If the Chief Executive in Council makes any order under section 8 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap 547)-
 - (a) not later than 12 months before the deadline for submitting a report for the ordinary election to which the recommendations relate; and
 - (b) which is applicable in relation to that ordinary election; and
 - (c) for the purpose of declaring Districts or specifying the number of members to be elected to a District Council,

the Commission must, in making such recommendations in relation to that ordinary election, follow the boundaries of the Districts as declared in the relevant order and the number of members to be elected as specified in the relevant order. (Added 8 of 1999 s. 89)

- (5) The Commission may depart from the strict application of subsection (1) only where it appears that a consideration referred to in subsection (3) renders such a departure necessary or desirable.
- (6) The Commission shall, for the purposes of subsection (1)-
 - (a) endeavour to estimate the total population of Hong Kong or any proposed constituency, as the case may be, in the year in which the election to which the recommendations relate, is to be held; and
 - (b) if it is not practicable to comply with paragraph (a), estimate the population of Hong Kong, the geographical constituency or the District Council constituency, as the case may be, having regard to the available information which is the best possible in the circumstances for the purpose of making recommendations.
- (7) In this section-

District (地方行政區) has the meaning assigned to it by the District Councils Ordinance (Cap 547). (Replaced 8 of 1999 s. 89)

(Amended 8 of 1999 s. 89; 78 of 1999 s. 7)

Chapter:	542	Title:	Legislative Council Ordinance Gazette Number:	E.R. 2 of 2012
Section:	18	Heading:	Establishment of geographical Version Date:	02/08/2012
			constituencies	

- (1) There are to be 5 geographical constituencies for the purpose of returning Members at elections for those constituencies. (Replaced 25 of 2003 s. 5)
- (2) The Chief Executive in Council may, by order published in the Gazette-
 - (a) declare areas of Hong Kong to be geographical constituencies; and
 - (b) give names to those constituencies.
- (3) When making an order under this section, the Chief Executive in Council must have regard to the recommendations made by the Electoral Affairs Commission in the last report of the Commission submitted in accordance with section 18 of the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap 541) for the purposes of the general election to which the order relates.
- (4) If an order under this section refers to a map that defines the area of a geographical constituency, the Electoral Registration Officer must ensure that at least one copy of the map is kept at that Officer's office and is made available for inspection by members of the public during ordinary business hours of that office.
- (5) No charge is payable by a member of the public who wishes to inspect a copy of the map.
- (6) A map certified by the Electoral Registration Officer as a true copy of a map that defines the area of a geographical constituency is conclusive evidence of the area of the constituency.

Chapter:	542	Title:	Legislative Council Ordinance	e Gazette Number:	2 of 2011; G.N. 5176 of 2012
Section:	19	Heading:	Number of Members to be returned for geographical constituency	Version Date:	01/10/2012

- (1) At a general election, 35 Members are to be returned for all geographical constituencies.
- (2) The number of Members to be returned for each geographical constituency is to be a number, not less than 5 nor greater than 9, specified in the order declaring the area of the constituency in accordance with section 18(2).

(Replaced 25 of 2003 s. 6. Amended 2 of 2011 s. 4)