

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Section 1 : The Responsibility of the Electoral Affairs Commission

1.1 Under section 4(a) of the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (“EACO”) (Chapter 541 of the Laws of Hong Kong), one of the functions of the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC” or “Commission”) is to consider and review the boundaries of district council constituencies for the purpose of making recommendations on the boundaries and names of constituencies for a District Council (“DC”) ordinary election.

1.2 The Commission is required under section 18 of the EACO to submit a report to the Chief Executive (“CE”) on its recommendations for DC constituencies not more than 36 months from the preceding DC ordinary election. As the last DC ordinary election was held on 23 November 2003, the EAC should submit its report and recommendations to the CE by 22 November 2006.

1.3 Under section 21 of the EACO, the CE in Council shall consider the Commission’s report. Subject to CE in Council’s approval, the boundaries and names proposed by the Commission would be adopted for the DC ordinary election to be held in late 2007.

Section 2 : Changes since the last demarcation exercise in 2003

1.4 In drawing up the provisional recommendations for the district council constituency area (“DCCA”) boundaries for the 2007 DC Election, the EAC took into account the two changes set out in paragraphs 1.5-1.7 below, which were put in place since the last DCCA demarcation exercise in 2003.

(a) The increased number of elected seats

1.5 In view of the sharp population growth in the new towns of Tung Chung and Tseung Kwan O in the Islands and Sai Kung districts respectively since the last DC election in 2003, the Administration amended Part I of Schedule 3 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap 547) in June 2006 to increase the number of elected seats in the **Islands DC** and **Sai Kung DC** by **two and three** respectively for the 2007 DC Election. The amendment legislation was passed by the Legislative Council on 7 June 2006 and published in the Gazette on 9 June 2006.

1.6 The change increased the total number of elected seats in the 2007 DC Election by five from 400 to 405. Therefore, the total number of DCCAs to be delineated was increased to 405, as one DC member was to be elected from each constituency.

(b) The change of boundary between Sham Shui Po and Kwai Tsing districts

1.7 In its Report on the recommended constituency boundaries for the 2003 District Councils Election, the EAC pointed out that a private residential development named Nob Hill which straddled the boundaries of Sham Shui Po and Kwai Tsing districts had affected the EAC's work in the delineation exercise and suggested that the district boundary should be revised to include the whole of Nob Hill in one single district. In response to the EAC's suggestion, the Administration consulted local residents and relevant parties concerned on the issue. On the basis of the views received, the Administration proposed that the district boundary between Sham Shui Po and Kwai Tsing districts should be revised to include the whole of Nob Hill in Sham Shui Po district. The legislative amendment to revise the boundary for the two districts was endorsed by the Legislative Council on 21 June 2006.

Section 3 : Scope of the Report

1.8 The scope and content of this report are based on the requirement stipulated under section 18 of the EACO. The report is published in three volumes. **Volume 1** primarily describes how the proposed delineation of the boundaries of DCCAs was worked out and sets out the Commission's recommendations on the boundaries and the names of the DCCAs with the reasons for its recommendations.

Volume 2 contains the maps of all the districts showing the proposed boundaries and names of the DCCAs in each district and the related boundary descriptions. **Volume 3** records all written representations and minutes of a special meeting held in Sham Shui Po DC to discuss the demarcation proposals relating to the district.