

## CHAPTER 2

### THE DELINEATION EXERCISE

#### Section 1 : Statutory Criteria for Delineation

2.1 The EAC has drawn up its recommendations in accordance with the criteria stipulated under section 20 of the EACO. These criteria are summarised as below:

- (a) the EAC shall ensure that the population in each proposed DCCA is as near the population quota as practicable. Population quota means the figure arrived at by dividing the total population of Hong Kong by the total number of elected members to be returned in the DC ordinary election;
- (b) where it is not practicable to comply with (a) above in any proposed DCCA, the EAC shall ensure that the population in that DCCA does not exceed or fall short of the population quota by more than 25%;
- (c) the EAC shall have regard to the community identities, preservation of local ties and the physical features (such as the size, shape, accessibility and development) of the relevant area;
- (d) the EAC may depart from strict application of (a) and (b)

above only where it appears that one or more of the considerations in (c) above renders such a departure necessary or desirable; and

- (e) the EAC must follow the existing boundaries of the administrative districts and the number of elected members to be returned to a DC as specified in Schedules 1 and 3 of the DCO respectively.

2.2 The population quota is the quotient in dividing the projected population of Hong Kong by the total number of elected seats in Hong Kong. It is the statutory requirement that delineation of DCCAs should be conducted on the basis of the projected population in the year in which the relevant election would be held. In respect of the 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the projected population of Hong Kong is 7 502 600, which being divided by the total number of 452 elected seats results in the population quota of 16 599. Since the statutory criteria allow the population of a DCCA to exceed or fall short of the population quota by not more than 25%, the statutory permissible range is between 12 449 and 20 749.

## **Section 2 : Working Principles**

2.3 The EAC has also adopted the following set of working principles for the delineation exercise:

- (a) for existing DCCAs where the population falls within the

permissible range (i.e. between 12 449 and 20 749 for the 2019 DC Ordinary Election), their boundaries will be maintained as far as possible;

- (b) for existing DCCAs where the population falls outside the permissible range, if that situation was allowed for the last DC ordinary election and there remain valid justifications to allow such situation, their boundaries will be maintained as far as possible;
- (c) other than (b) above, for existing DCCAs where the population falls outside the permissible range, adjustments will be made to their boundaries (unless there are justifications for maintaining their boundaries on grounds of community identities, preservation of local ties and/or physical features) and also those of the adjacent DCCAs so that their populations stay within the permissible range. Where there is more than one way to adjust the boundaries of the DCCAs concerned, the one which affects the least number of existing DCCAs or less population will be adopted, otherwise the one with the least departure from the population quota will be used;
- (d) factors with political implications will not be taken into consideration;
- (e) the names of the new DCCAs to be formed are proposed by reference to major features, roads or residential settlements in

the DCCAs after consultation with the relevant District Officers (“DOs”) of the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”);

- (f) the EAC’s provisional recommendations on the code references of administrative districts and DCCAs are that the administrative districts should be given the alphabetical reference from “A” onwards, with the omission of “I” and “O” to prevent confusion, starting from the Central and Western District and other administrative districts on Hong Kong Island, followed by the administrative districts in Kowloon and the New Territories. The numbering of DCCAs in an administrative district is to be prefixed by the alphabetical reference for the administrative district and starts from the first numeral. The number “01” should be allocated to the most densely populated DCCA, or the one traditionally considered most important or prominent or the centre of the administrative district, and the number be proceeded consecutively in a clockwise direction so that as far as possible, two consecutive numbers should be found in two DCCAs contiguous to each other. The code reference does not have any bearing on the delineation of DCCA boundaries, but the EAC hopes that by adopting this system, anyone who consults the maps would find it easier to understand them and locate the DCCAs. These methods have been adopted since 1994 and the public should be generally familiar with them; and

- (g) where the DCCA boundaries have to continue into the sea to align with the administrative district boundary, the DCCA boundary lines are, as far as possible, drawn perpendicular to the administrative district boundary lines on the sea.

### **Section 3 : Working Partners**

2.4 The EAC Secretariat, staffed by designated personnel of the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”), assisted the EAC in carrying out the exercise.

2.5 As in the past, the necessary projected population figures are provided by an Ad Hoc Subgroup (“AHSB”), 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 most essential information required for conducting the delineation exercise. The AHSB was chaired by an Assistant Director of PlanD and comprised of representatives from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”), Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”), Housing Department (“HD”), Lands Department (“LandsD”), Rating and Valuation Department, HAD and REO. These professional departments in the AHSB 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 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the AHSB was requested to project the population distribution figures as at a date as close to the election date as practicable.

For this reason, the AHSG followed the practice in past delineation exercises and provided the EAC with the projected population figures as at 30 June 2019, presuming that the DC ordinary election would be held in November 2019.

2.6 The LandsD also rendered assistance in producing maps showing the projected population, administrative district and DCCA boundaries, and the boundary descriptions for use by the EAC in the delineation exercise. It also provided the EAC with information related to land administration where necessary.

2.7 According to the statutory criteria, the EAC is required to have regard to the community identities, preservation of local ties, and the physical features (such as the size, shape, accessibility and development) of the relevant area when drawing up its recommendations on the boundaries of DCCAs. Having regard to the fact that the DOs, being officers responsible for district administration, having more in-depth knowledge of the local characteristics, geographical and transport matters of their administrative districts, the EAC has followed the established practice to invite the DOs to provide factual information of their respective districts on such matters for reference so as to have a better understanding of the feasibility of different delineation proposals. Moreover, the EAC, where necessary, has requested other government departments (e.g. LandsD) to provide information.

2.8 The Information Services Department (“ISD”) has given expert advice in drawing up the strategy and ideas for the publicity

programme and materials for the consultation exercise.

## **Section 4 : The Work Process**

### ***Commencement of work***

2.9 The AHSG held its first meeting in June 2017 to work out the method to be adopted for compiling the data and set out the work schedule. The projected population figures were made available in January 2018, on which basis the LandsD prepared the maps. When these maps were ready, the EAC Secretariat proceeded to work on the preliminary proposals for delineation of DCCA boundaries.

### ***Site visits***

2.10 Physical features such as the size, shape, accessibility and development of an area are important considerations in the delineation work. Therefore, the local geographical situations would impact on the delineation of DCCA boundaries. In order to obtain first-hand information on the relevant DCCAs, where necessary, the staff of the EAC Secretariat would conduct site visits to inspect the unique physical features, transport facilities and accessibility of the DCCAs concerned. The information and topographical features so gathered were analysed and taken into account in drawing up the preliminary proposals.

### ***Meetings to deliberate and formulate proposals***

2.11 After the staff of the EAC Secretariat had finalised their preliminary recommendations on the boundaries and names of the DCCAs, the EAC convened meetings to consider the preliminary proposals. The EAC Secretariat presented the proposals to the EAC with the aid of maps and photographs to facilitate better understanding of the local features and the environment of the DCCAs concerned. Information gathered from site visits and the factual information provided by the DOs were also submitted to the EAC for reference.

### ***Provisional recommendations***

2.12 In the EAC's provisional recommendations, the boundaries of 128 DCCAs had to be changed and six DCCAs were renamed. The EAC allowed 12 DCCAs to exceed the permissible range of the population quota for one reason or the other. The proposed boundaries and names of the DCCAs requiring adjustments and those allowed to exceed the permissible range with the relevant considerations by the EAC were set out in the consultation documents.

2.13 After the EAC had drawn up the provisional recommendations on the DCCA boundaries, the EAC Secretariat prepared for the launch of the public consultation exercise. The public consultation exercise ran from 23 July 2018 to 21 August 2018. Details of the provisional recommendations were set out in the two volumes document published for the public consultation.