

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

#### **Section 1 : The Consultation Period and Public Forum**

3.1 In compliance with the requirement of section 19 of the EACO, the EAC conducted a public consultation exercise on its provisional recommendations from 23 June to 22 July 2011 for a period of 30 days. During this period, members of the public were invited to submit representations to the EAC to express their views on the provisional recommendations on the delineation and names of the GCs.

3.2 A list of the provisionally recommended GCs, together with the method for the allocation of seats, component Districts and DCCAs, and maps showing the boundaries of the GCs were exhibited for public inspection at District Offices, public housing estate offices, post offices, major and district public libraries and the REO at Harbour Centre, Wan Chai during the consultation period. Such information was also made available to the public on the EAC's website.

3.3 A letter from the Chairman of the EAC was attached to each set of consultation document to explain to the public the statutory criteria and the working principles adopted by the EAC in delineating the GCs.

3.4 The public consultation was widely publicised through the electronic and print media as well as through the EAC's website and the government gazette.

3.5 On the first day of the consultation period, i.e. 23 June 2011, the EAC held a press conference to launch the public consultation exercise and invited the public to give their views on the EAC's provisional recommendations. Underlining the importance of having a comprehensive assessment of the acceptability of the provisional recommendations, the EAC also appealed to the public that not only those who held different views but also those who had supporting views on the EAC's provisional recommendations should come forward and make their views known. This would facilitate the EAC to arrive at a balanced decision in finalising its recommendations.

3.6 A public forum was held at 3:00 p.m. on 4 July 2011 at Community Hall, 3/F, Causeway Bay Community Centre, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay, where members of the public could personally attend and make oral representations to the EAC direct. Audio-visual aids were used to facilitate understanding of the representations by making reference to maps.

3.7 The REO also briefed the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 18 July 2011, where Members expressed their views on the EAC's provisional recommendations.

## **Section 2 : Number of Representations Received**

3.8            During the consultation period, the EAC received a total of seven written representations. In addition, 21 persons turned up at the public forum held on 4 July 2011.

3.9            The original texts of the written representations are contained in Part II of this volume. Summaries of the written and oral representations are shown in **Appendix V** of this volume.