



THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF
SURVEYORS

Your ref.: CB2/PL/CA

BY FAX AND BY POST
#2121 0420

30 June 2006

Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong

Attn: Mrs. Percy Ma

Dear Mrs. Ma,

**Views on the Consultation Document on
“Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils”**

I refer to your letter dated 7 June 2006 and would like to thank you for inviting the Institute to present views on the Consultation Document on “Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils”.

In this connection, I have pleasure in enclosing our written submission for the consideration of the Panel. A soft copy of our submission has also been sent to the email address ftsang@legco.gov.hk as per your request.

Please kindly note that we do not prepare to make any oral presentation at the meeting as our views are well written in this submission. However, our representative, Mr. T T Cheung, the Immediate Past President of HKIS, would like to attend this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Wong Chung Hang
President

Encl.

c.c. Hon. Patrick Lau



**Views on the Consultation Document on
“Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils”**

1. Reference is made to a letter from the Legislative Council dated 7th June 2006 inviting the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) to express its views on the subject matter.

2. HKIS supports the enhancement of the role of District Councils in district management to meet local needs. We also support the Chief Executive’s proposal that the District Councils, rather than the Government departments, should participate in the management of more district facilities including libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools.¹ The idea of setting up a District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC) under each District Council to consider and endorse proposals of operation, management and maintenance of facilities as pointed out in Item 2.6 of the Consultation Document can be useful for steering and overseeing the management of district facilities. However, the Consultation Document has not spelt out precisely the composition of the DFMC. We believe that professionals such as surveyors could be recruited into DFMC as co-opted members to provide the necessary expertise.

3. The Government should always be encouraged in doing more environmental improvements, management and maintenance of recreational and cultural facilities within the districts. Therefore, it is essential to make enough funding readily available for the work projects. As pointed out in Item 3.8, the existing sources of funding such as Urban Minor Works, DC Funds and central vote under ArchSD for funding the projects not exceeding \$15 million are not effective in meeting district needs in a timely manner. We believe that the proposal in Item 3.9 of creating a dedicated capital works block vote under the Capital Works Reserve Fund to directly fund the works projects initiated and prioritized by the DFMCs would be a possible and practical way to solve this problem.

4. It is proposed in Item 3.10 that the ways and means to involve DCs in the design and execution of the works will be explored. We suggest that the DCs should also consider the future maintenance problem of



facilities in addition to the design and execution of the works. Our surveying members are the professional who have been contributing to this aspect in the past. Therefore, we propose that since DCs will take more responsibilities in the management of district facilities in future, it should find enough experts to assist.

5. We agree with the point in Item 5.3 that it is good for DCs to proactively reach out to professional institutes and other business groups to take forward joint projects to address district needs. We also believe that it is important to develop a channel for different professional institutes to contribute to the DCs by offering their professional views on their expert fields. In particular, many surveyors have adequate expertise and experience in planning and land use, urban renewal, facilities management and maintenance works and other related areas. In the past years, we have already provided relevant professional views on different problems encountered from the works in DCs. In fact, our Institute is always willing to offer our professional views on relevant aspects as a commitment to public service and social responsibility in order to facilitate the environmental improvements and management of district facilities.
6. As pointed out in Item 7.9, it should be useful for the current appointed members in DCs to provide their relevant expertise and experience to serve the districts. As most professionals are not keen in direct election of DCs, we see the direct appointment scheme a good vehicle to allow the SAR to recruit the right members in DCs to provide enough useful professional views on different aspects. This should be one of the main advantages of maintaining a proportion of appointed members, particularly those with relevant professional background and qualification, in DCs in future.
7. HKIS hopes that the Government and the LegCo members would consider our views expressed in this submission. We will be very pleased to give its further comments on the captioned subject.

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Submitted for the LegCo Meeting on 11 July 2006