



完善地區治理 建設社區幫到你

Improve District Administration
Build a Better Community



Reforming District Councils (DCs)

We need to reform DCs, such that it can **revert to their positioning as district advisory bodies which are not organs of political power in accordance with Article 97 of the Basic Law**. Major specific measures include:

- Enhance the advisory and service functions of DCs;
- Designate DOs as DC Chairmen to lead the work of DCs;
- Reform the composition of DCs. DCs will be composed of appointed, DCC, DCGC and ex-officio members; with appointed, DCC and DCGC members accounting for about 40%, 40% and 20% of the total number of members respectively, plus 27 ex-officio members;
- Optimise the methods for the selection of DCs members, improve the nomination mechanism and introduce the eligibility review mechanism to fully implement the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”; and
- Introduce a monitoring mechanism of DC members’ performance.

Reforming DCs: Functions

The improved advisory and service functions of the DCs are set out as follows:

1. To **advise the Government on the district affairs** affecting the livelihood and living environment in the district and the well-being of the people in the district;
2. To **collect the views of the people in the district in respect of an issue specified by DC Chairmen (i.e. the District Officers (DOs))**, to submit a summary of the views collected and suggest corresponding measures;
3. To **establish a regular communication mechanism with the people in the district**, to meet with them and listen to their views regularly, and reflect their views to the Government;
4. To **support, and assist in, the promotion of laws and Government policies in the district**, and assist the Government in carrying out various consultation, publicity, and liaison activities such as district forums;

Reforming DCs: Functions

5. To assist in the smooth delivery of cultural, leisure, environmental hygiene and other services relating to the interests of people in the district under the coordination of the Government;
6. DCs and their committees/working groups can apply for funding for projects and activities for the purpose of promotion of sports, arts and culture; local events and celebration events; greening, volunteer work, etc.
7. To provide services for people in the district, such as consultation or case referral services;
8. To cooperate with other consultation and service organisations in the district under the coordination of the Government to achieve the best results in serving people in the district; and
9. To undertake any other matters as commissioned by the Government.

Reforming DCs: Functions

- DCs should play the role of complementing the Government, and assist the Government in keeping its finger on the pulse of the community so that the Government can have more effective planning of district services;
- Help foster social cohesion;
- Provide services for people in the district, such as consultation or case referral services.

Reforming DCs: Chairmen and Their Powers

- DC Chairmanship will be taken up by **DOs**.
- Empower the DC Chairmen to (1) make standing orders for meetings; (2) set up committees; (3) appoint DC members in the district as the Chairmen of the relevant committees; and (4) appoint non-DC members as co-opted members of the committees, etc.
- To manifest executive-led governance and to ensure that the work of DCs ties in with the Government's policy. DCs, “the three committees” and the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) will all be led directly by the Government to allow effective coordination, in order to raise the standard of district governance.

Reforming DCs: Composition

Composition

- There will be appointed, District Committees Constituency (DCC) and District Council Geographical Constituency (DCGC) members with the numbers of members set in a ratio of approximately 4:4:2 respectively, plus 27 ex-officio members. The total number of seats will be 470, which is comparable to the current term (i.e. 479 seats).

Advantages

- There will be multiple methods for the selection of DC members, so that persons who are patriotic and have an affection for Hong Kong and are dedicated to district services can participate in the work of DCs through multiple channels.
- Collecting views from various means will allow the Government to consider problems in a multi-dimensional way, which should be conducive to formulating more appropriate policies.
- When seeking help from DC members, residents can seek help from not only the DCGC members but also appointed and DCC members regardless of the constituencies.

Reforming DCs: Method for Selection

- **Appointed members (179 members):** the Government to adhere to the principle of meritocracy, and appoint capable persons (such as professionals or important stakeholders in the district) who are patriotic and have an affection for Hong Kong.
- **DCC members (176 members):** elected by the members of the District Fight Crime Committees (DFCC), the District Fire Safety Committees (DFSCs) and the Area Committees (ACs) (“the three committees”) in the district in order to take care of the overall interest of districts and strengthen the collaboration between district committees and DCs.
- **DCGC members (88 members):** elected by the GC electors in the district. Members responsible for larger constituencies can have a bigger picture on district affairs and attend to district issues at a more macro way.
- **Ex-officio members (27 members):** Chairmen of Rural Committees, same with the current arrangement.

Reforming DCs: Method for Selection

- **DCC members (176 members):** elected by the members of **the DFCC, the DFSC and the ACs (“the three committees”)** in the district through the “block vote” voting system.
- **DCGC members (88 members):** there will be 44 DCGCs in the territory, elected by the **GC electors** in the district through the “Double Seats and Single Vote” system.

Reforming DCs: Method for Selection

Method for selection	DCC (176 seats)	DCGC (88 seats)
Nomination requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nominated by 3 members of each of “the three committees” in the district but do not have to be members of “the three committees” themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nominated by 3 members of each of “the three committees” in the district; and • Nominated by not less than 50 electors in the constituency
Qualified elector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of “the three committees” in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC electors in the district
Voting mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double Seats and Single Vote

Reforming DCs: Eligibility Review Mechanism

- DCs are important parts of the district governance structure. To ensure national security and the full implementation of the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, we have to introduce eligibility review for DCs.
- District Council Eligibility Review Committee (DCERC) will be established to review the eligibility of all candidates in elections, as well as appointed and ex-officio members.
- Election candidates, as well as appointed and ex-officio members, must uphold the Basic Law and bear allegiance to the HKSAR. Section 3AA of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance has set out the relevant standard, including the lists of positive and negative behaviour.
- DCERC will be chaired by CS, consisting of 2-4 official members and 1-3 non-official members.

Reforming DCs: Delineation of Geographical Constituencies



- The boundaries of the current 18 districts will remain unchanged.
- 44 larger new DCGC will be formed to encourage members to consider a bigger picture on district affairs, attend to district issues at a more macro way and assist the Government to formulate policies in a multi-dimensional way, so that the services for citizens will be more targeted with a more holistic perspective.
- Members of the public can provide views on the delineation proposals.

Reforming DCs:

Remuneration Package for DC Members



- DC members are currently entitled to honoraria, miscellaneous expenses allowance, operating expenses reimbursement, medical allowance, setting-up expenses reimbursement, winding-up expenses reimbursement, provision for duty visits outside Hong Kong, end-of-term gratuity, etc.
- We propose to continue to provide remuneration package for members of the coming term DCs at a level similar to the current level, so as to support DC members to various district duties.

Reforming DCs: Performance Monitoring Mechanism for DC Members

- We will introduce a **performance monitoring system** for DC members to conduct supervision on members who fail to meet public expectation accordingly, so as to further strengthen the accountability of DC members and the transparency of their work.
- The case will be referred to a **supervisory committee** appointed by the **Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (SHYA)** to conduct an investigation. SHYA may, taking into account the investigation results and the recommendations, **handle the case as appropriate** according to the severity.
- If the DC member involved considers that the ruling is unfair, he or she **can appeal to the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)**.
- SHYA will formulate **administrative guidelines**, which will be **made available to the public**, to set out the standard of performance required of DC members and a list of negative behaviour which may constitute grounds for investigation.
- Citizens can not only exercise the voting right during elections, but also can continuously monitor the performance of members during their terms of office to ensure that every DC member delivers due diligence and meets the public expectation.

Legislative Amendments

- 6 primary legislation and 14 subsidiary legislation are involved. The below areas are involved in the amendments:
 - Revising the functions of DCs
 - Revising the composition of DCs
 - Adding the provisions on appointed members and DCC members
 - Revising the relevant provisions on the method for returning of DCGC members
 - Establishing the DCERC
 - Adding provisions on monitoring the performance of DC members, conducting relevant investigations and setting out the ways of handling
- Primary legislation includes :
 - Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541)
 - District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547)
 - Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap. 554)

Strengthening the District Governance Structure

Objective: to strengthen district governance and to enhance leadership and coordination

- Establishing the “**Steering Committee on District Governance**” (SCDG) which will **be chaired by CS** to **take a leading role** on the overall strategies, policies and measures of district governance; and
- Repositioning the “**Task Force on District Governance**” (TFDG) which will be **chaired by Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration (DCS)** to **coordinate and steer** the district work of various policy bureaux and departments

SCDG

SCDG will be **chaired by CS** and **will regularly report to CE on the effectiveness and progress of its work**. The terms of reference of the SCDG are as follows –

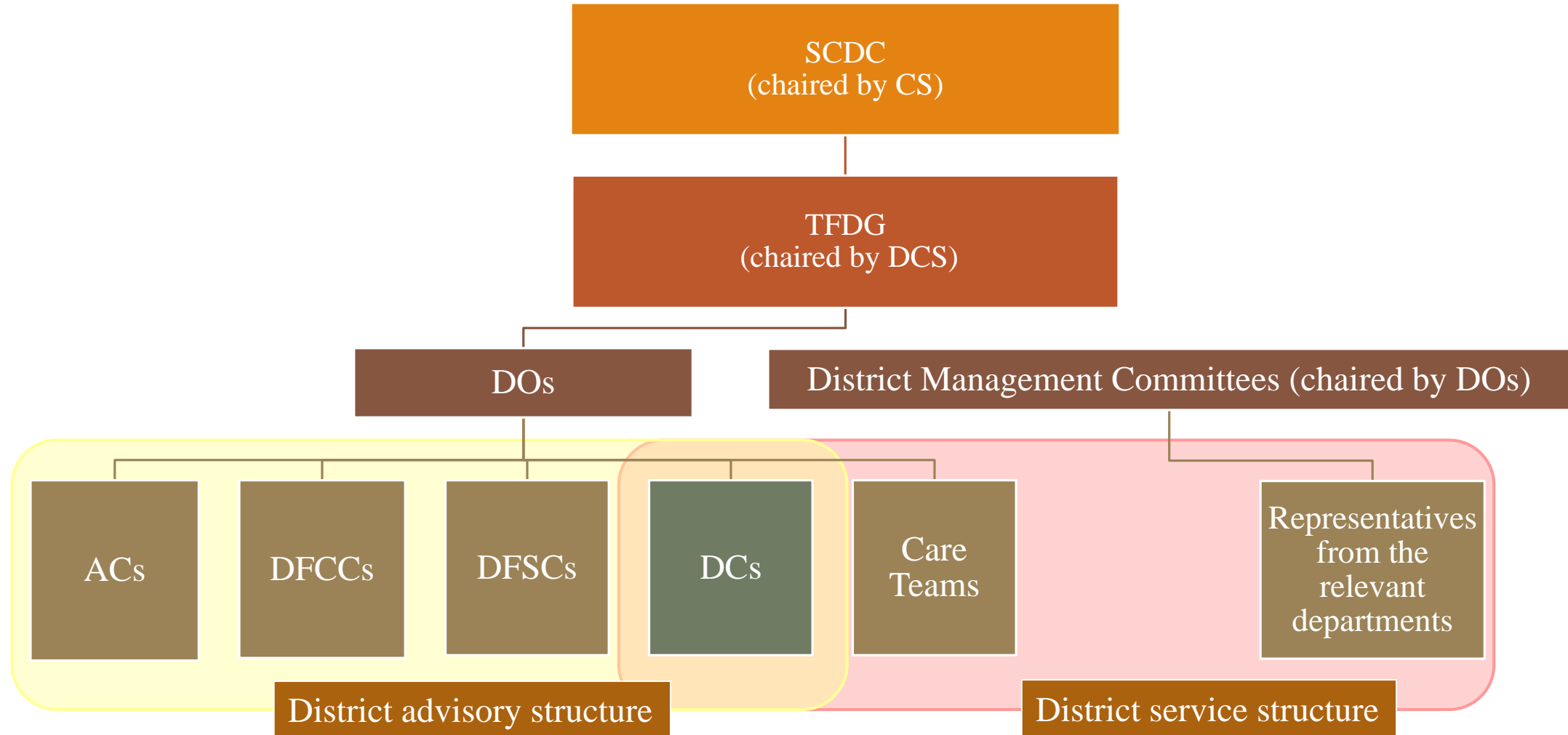
1. To formulate strategies, specific policies, measures and work priorities for district governance work;
2. To lead the relevant bureaux/departments to streamline the policies and the measures implemented in districts; and
3. To review the effectiveness of district governance work, as well as provide steer on the implementation of policies and measures, resource allocation, etc.

TFDG

The TFDG will be chaired by DCS to coordinate and supervise the departments in following up with and resolving district issues.

According to the strategies set by the SCDG, TFDG will steer and coordinate the relevant policy bureaux and departments to formulate corresponding district governance policies and measures.

Strengthened District Governance Structure



Advantages of the Proposals

1. Optimising the Functions of DCs and DC Chairmen

- The Government can plan and implement district services more effectively.
- DCs no longer have the function to manage or approve funding. It can prevent any DC members from abusing the relevant authority, obstructing the administration of the Government.
- With DOs being the DC Chairmen, the Government's control over consultation on district affairs can be ensured. Furthermore, there will be better coordination among DCs, “the three committees” and Care Teams, so that they can complement each other to generate synergy, serving the people more effectively.

Advantages of the Proposal

2. The Composition and the Methods for Selection of DCs

- There will be multiple methods for the selection of DC members, so that persons who are patriotic and have an affection for Hong Kong and are dedicated to district services can participate in the work of DCs through multiple channels. There will be more capable persons with professional knowledge and various experiences joining DCs to serve the people. Views collected by them from various means will allow the Government to consider problems in a more multi-dimensional way, which should be conducive to formulating more appropriate policies. Members of the public can seek help from capable DC members with different experiences.
- The introduction of appointed and DCC members can effectively rectify the problems of politicisation and populism brought by DCGC members under the existing system.
- With enlarged geographical constituencies, members are encouraged to have a more holistic and comprehensive perspective.
- The requirement of nomination by “the three committees” for DCC and DCGC elections, and the adoption of “Double Seats and Single Vote” system can increase the stability across political spectrum, and can better reflect the opinions of the majority of the people.

Advantages of the Proposal

3. Eligibility Review Mechanism

- “Patriots administering Hong Kong” will be ensured. DCs will no longer be a platform to advocate the so-called “independence” of Hong Kong or undermine national security but will return to their livelihood-oriented positioning.

4. Performance Monitoring Mechanism

- The people can not only exercise the voting right during elections, but also can continuously monitor the performance of members during their terms of office. This can ensure that every DC member delivers due diligence and meets the public expectation.

Advantages of the Proposal

5. Strengthening the District Governance Structure

- SCDG can ensure that the policies and measures formulated by the various parties in the district governance structure are well coordinated and complementary with each other. It will consider various district problems from a holistic and more comprehensive perspective to effectively address the demand of the citizens in a timely manner.
- TFDG can effectively facilitate the coordination and collaboration of district work by government departments for enacting corresponding measures promptly.

Thank you!