

(TRANSLATION)

Demarcation of District boundary between Eastern and Wan Chai Districts

Purpose

This paper aims to consult members on the demarcation of District boundary between Eastern and Wan Chai Districts.

Background

2. In May 2013, the Government has reviewed the number of elected seats for the fifth-term District Councils (“DCs”). In accordance with past practice, the Government has taken into consideration the forecast of the population of Hong Kong by mid-2015 (i.e., 7 311 300), the current population quota of about 17 000 residents to one DC elected seat, and other factors, and has submitted a proposal to the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) for scrutiny.

3. According to the above-mentioned practice, the elected seats of the Wan Chai DC and the Eastern DC should be reduced by 2 and 3 respectively based on the forecast of the population of Wan Chai and Eastern Districts by 2015. However, taking into consideration the abolition of DC appointed seats from the fifth-term DCs onwards¹ and the increasingly important role DCs will play in district

¹ The LegCo has passed the District Council (Amendment) Bill 2013, which implements the abolition of all DC appointed seats from the fifth-term DCs (1 January 2016) onwards.

administration, the Government decided that the number of elected seats of these two DCs should remain unchanged, i.e., 11 seats and 37 seats respectively.

4. During the policy making process, we noticed that there were views that the Wan Chai DC would have a relatively small number of elected seats and the Eastern DC would have a relatively large one. The daily operation of both DCs may be affected as a result. Therefore, some suggested the Government to consider adjusting the District boundary between Eastern and Wan Chai Districts by transferring some DC elected seats from the Eastern DC to the Wan Chai DC.

Preliminary contacts with DCs

5. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs met with the Chairmen of the Eastern DC and the Wan Chai DC and some DC members on 20 June 2013 to listen to their preliminary views on the suggestion of transferring DC elected seats from the Eastern DC to the Wan Chai DC.

6. At the meeting, some members mentioned that after the abolition of DC appointed seats and even the number of elected seats would remain unchanged, there would only be 11 elected seats left in the Wan Chai DC and that would affect the efficient operation of the DC. Moreover, Wan Chai District had a massive “mobile” working population that needed to be provided with community services. The duties of the Wan Chai DC were no different or less than those of other DCs as well. Therefore, they considered the number of elected seats of Wan Chai DC should be suitably increased. Among the Eastern DC representatives, some shared this view; some also considered that some of the DC constituency areas (DCCAs) of

the Eastern DC that are currently adjacent to the Wan Chai DC actually shared more commonality with the Wan Chai DC and could be considered to be transferred to the Wan Chai DC. Some however disagreed with any change; they were concerned that the suggestion might upset the school net, leisure facilities and even community identity, etc. The DC Chairmen suggested the Government to consult relevant DCs and to gauge the views of the DCs and residents.

Advice sought

7. After taking into account the preliminary views collected, we consider that there are two options that are more practicable, namely:

- (a) transferring two DCCAs (i.e., Tin Hau (C16) and Victoria Park (C18)) from Eastern DC to Wan Chai DC (see Annex); and
- (b) status quo.

8. The suggestion to adjust the District boundary between Eastern and Wan Chai Districts has its policy rationale, but it is also necessary to address the local concerns that may arise. Therefore, the Government considers it necessary to further consult the Eastern and Wan Chai DCs. We will consult the Wan Chai DC and the Eastern DC on 2 July and 4 July respectively. We will also consult the local residents of the possibly affected DCCAs.

Way forward

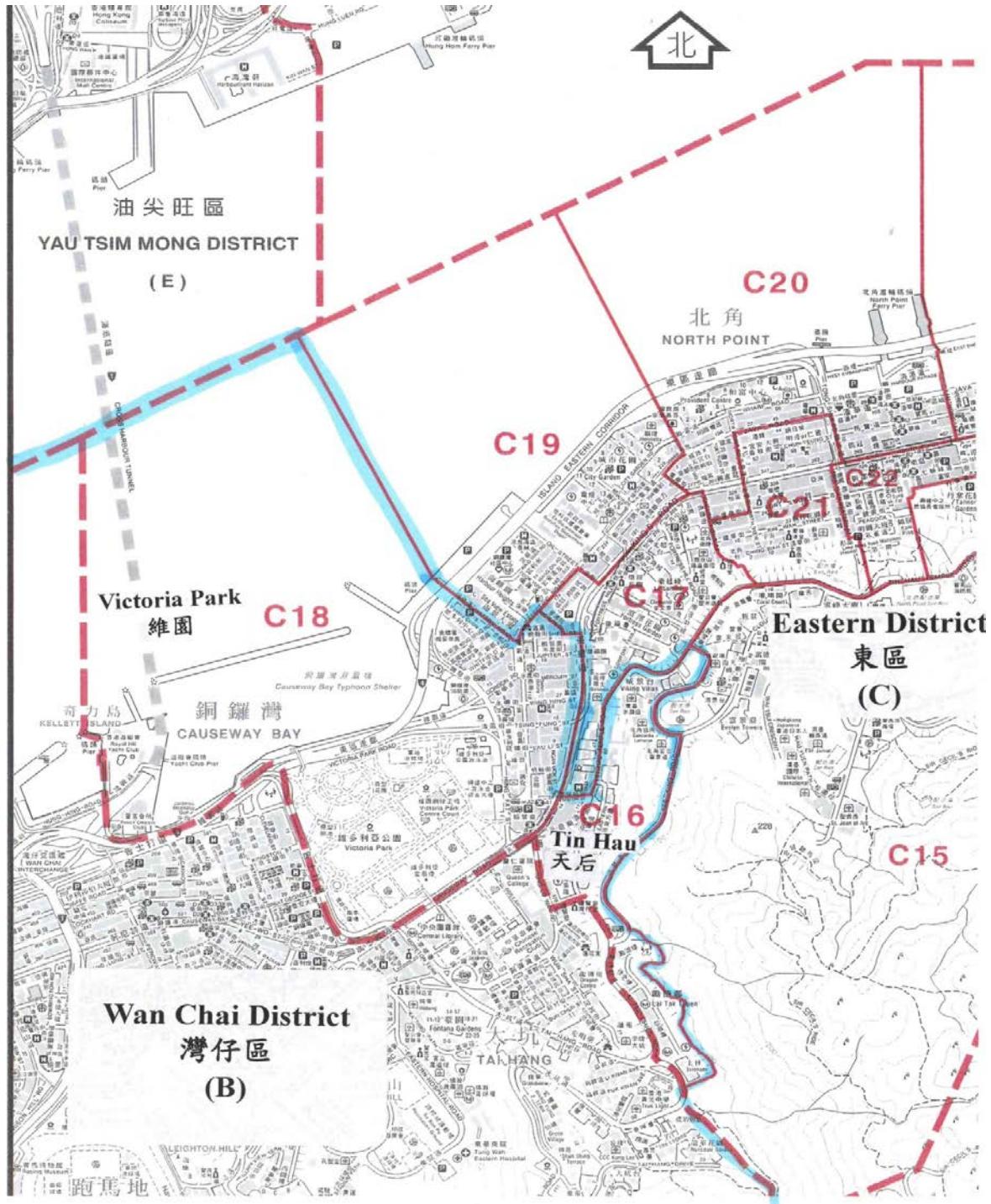
9. We will carefully listen to the views of the Eastern

and Wan Chai DCs and the local residents of the possibly affected DCCAs, before deciding whether and how to adjust the District boundary between Eastern and Wan Chai Districts.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

June 2013

Proposed option (transferring two DCCAs (i.e. Tin Hau (C16) and Victoria Park (C18)) from Eastern DC to Wan Chai DC)



Proposed boundary between Eastern and Wan Chai District Councils

— Current boundary of the District Councils

— Current boundary of District Council constituency areas