

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 29 September 2015

HC/16/2015

Co-option of Members in Task Forces

PURPOSE

This paper aims to seek Members' agreement on the proposed arrangements for co-opting Members to the Task Forces.

BACKGROUND

2. Under Section 5(5) of the House Rules, "*Co-opted Members are allowed in the Panels. The number of Co-opted Members in the Panels shall not exceed one-third of the Panel membership. The Co-opted Members shall have voting rights, but they shall not have any Alternate.*"

3. Three geographical Task Forces were set up to assist the Harbourfront Commission (HC) to advise on and monitor the planning, land/marine use, urban design and implementation of harbourfront development proposals, and a Water-land Interface Task Force was also set up to review and advise on water-land interface issues around the Victoria Harbour.

4. As agreed among the HC Chair, Vice-Chair and the respective Task Force Chairs, a total of 29 additional Members were co-opted into the four Task Forces to provide expertise on specific aspects in the previous two terms of HC. These co-opted members came from a wide variety of backgrounds, including design, law, marine trade and transport operation, marine activities, arts and culture, district issues, etc. The co-option arrangement has proven to be useful in bringing in new perspectives and relevant expertise to facilitate the work of the Task Forces.

5. Having regard to operating experiences of the Task Forces, it is recommended to continue the co-option arrangement in the four Task Forces for the current term of HC.

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

Number of co-opted members

6. According to the House Rules, the number of co-opted members

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in the Task Force shall not exceed one-third of the Task Force membership. The following table shows the number of members (including official members) in each Task Force and the maximum number of co-opted members allowed -

Task Force	No. of Task Force members	Max. no. of co-opted members allowed
Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island	27	9
Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development	24	8
Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	19	6
Task Force on Water-land Interface	23	7

7. However, in order not to crowd out each Task Force to a size that would work against the principle of efficiency, it is not recommended to necessarily co-opt members to the upper limit. Rather, any co-option ought to be merit-based and justifiable by the introduction of additional expertise.

Expertise Required

8. Given the broad-based representation of HC with members already coming from a wide spectrum of backgrounds, we may consider co-opting members from the field of law, event organising, accounting, arts and culture and design into the geographical Task Forces.

9. Having regard to the frequent encounters with district matters, it is considered desirable to continue co-opting district personalities in the geographical Task Forces to strengthen our partnership with District Councils (DCs) and local communities to better understand their needs and concerns.

10. As for the Task Force on Water-land Interface, we may continue co-opting members working on the marine trade or as transport operators, and may consider candidates with in-depth knowledge on water-land interface issues to help assist in the planning and implementation of the Task Force's initiatives.

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Tenure

11. The tenure of co-opted Members should be the same as that of the current term of HC, which will be from the date of co-option until 30 June 2017.

WAY FORWARD

12. Members are invited to comment on the proposed arrangements for co-option of Members as outlined in paragraphs 5-11. Subject to Members' comments on the proposed arrangements, nominations will be invited from Members to compile a pool of potential candidates.

13. A list of co-opted members will then be finalised and prioritised by HC Chair and Vice-Chair. After engagement, the co-opted members are expected to join the second meeting of the Task Forces in late 2015. Nomination from harbour-related DCs will also be invited after the DC election later this year.

**Secretariat
Harbourfront Commission
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