

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 6 September 2013

HC/17/2013

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. In the first term of Harbourfront Commission (HC), three geographical Task Forces were set up to assist HC in advising on and monitoring 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 the water-land interface issues around the Victoria Harbour. As agreed among the HC Chair, Vice-Chair and the respective Task Force Chairs, a total of 13 additional Members were co-opted into the four Task Forces to provide expertise on specific aspects, including design, law, accounting, marine trade and transport operation, water-sports, arts and culture, social service, 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.

4. Having regard to the experience of the Task Force operation in the first term and our recent encounters with the District Councils (DCs), it is considered desirable to include some district personalities in the geographical Task Forces to strengthen our partnership with DCs and local communities in pursuing harbourfront enhancement initiatives.

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PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

Number of co-opted members

5. According to the House Rules, the number of co-opted members 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	28	9
Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development	23	7
Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing	19	6
Task Force on Water-land Interface	20	6

6. To ensure effective operation of the Task Forces, it may however not be necessary to co-opt up to the maximum if the required expertise is readily available among HC Members.

Expertise Required

7. Given the broad-based representation of HC with members coming from a wide spectrum of background, we may consider co-opting volunteers from the field of law and accounting (if the relevant HC members have not joined the Task Force), arts and culture/design, and relevant district personalities to the geographical Task Forces. As for

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the Task Force on Water-land Interface, we may continue co-opting marine trade and transport operators, as well as water-sports players, and may consider expanding to volunteers with expertise on barrier-free access to assist in the planning and implementation of the Task Force's initiative of providing barrier-free facilities at public landings.

Tenure

8. The tenure of co-opted Members should be the same as that of other regular Task Force Members, i.e. till 30 June 2015.

WAY FORWARD

9. Members are invited to comment on the proposed arrangements for co-option of Members in paragraphs 5-8. Subject to Members' comments and agreement on the above arrangements, nominations from Members will be invited to compile a pool of potential candidates with the required expertise. A list of co-opted members will be finalized and prioritised by the HC Chair and Vice-Chair. The co-opted members are expected to be engaged and to join the first or the second meeting of the Task Forces in late 2013 or early 2014.

Secretariat
Harbourfront Commission
August 2013