

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **DELINEATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES**

#### **Section 1 : Statutory Requirements for Delineation**

##### ***Provisions stipulated under the LCO***

2.1 According to the LCO, in making the recommendations in respect of the delineation of GC boundaries, the EAC is required to adhere to the following stipulated provisions:

- (a) there are to be 10 GCs for the purpose of returning members at elections for those constituencies [section 18(1) of the LCO];
- (b) at a general election, 20 members are to be returned for all GCs [section 19(1) of the LCO]; and
- (c) the number of members to be returned for each GC is 2 [section 19(2) of the LCO].

### ***Criteria stipulated under the EACO***

2.2 In addition, section 20 of the EACO also promulgates the criteria for delineation of boundaries of LegCo GCs. Following the enactment of the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2025 upon gazettal in May this year, the statutory connection between the delineation of LegCo GCs and District Council (“DC”) geographical constituencies as well as the Districts was removed. In accordance with the prevailing provisions, the EAC shall:

- (a) ensure that the population in each proposed GC is as near as practicable to the number which results (i.e. “the resulting number”)<sup>1</sup> when the population quota is multiplied by the number of members to be returned to the LegCo by that GC [section 20(1)(a) of the EACO];

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<sup>1</sup> According to section 20(6) of the EACO, the EAC shall endeavor to estimate the total population of Hong Kong and the proposed GCs in the year in which the election is to be held. As an established practice, the EAC usually adopts the projected population figures as at the middle of the election year provided by the Planning Department (“PlanD”). According to the population projection as at 30 June 2025, the total population of Hong Kong will be 7 559 800. The population quota = the total population of Hong Kong ÷ the total number of members to be returned for all GCs in the election. Therefore, the average population to each seat of a GC is  $7\,559\,800 \div 20$ , i.e. the population quota is 377 990 persons. “The resulting number” = the population quota × the number of seats in that GC. Therefore, “the resulting number” of each GC is  $377\,990 \times 2$ , i.e. 755 980 persons.

- (b) where it is not practicable to comply with (a) above in respect of a proposed GC, ensure that the population in that GC does not exceed or fall short of “the resulting number” applicable to that GC by more than 15% [section 20(1)(b) of the EACO];
- (c) have regard to community identities and the preservation of local ties, and physical features (such as size, shape, accessibility and development) of the relevant area or any part thereof [section 20(3) of the EACO]; and
- (d) have regard to the existing boundaries of GCs [section 20(4) of the EACO].

2.3           The EAC may depart from the strict application of the requirements set out in paragraph 2.2(a) and (b) above only where it appears that a consideration referred to in paragraph 2.2(c) above renders such a departure necessary or desirable [section 20(5) of the EACO].

2.4           Besides, the EAC shall have regard to the representations made by the members of the public during the public consultation period [section 19(8) of the EACO].

## **Section 2 : Working Principles**

2.5            Apart from the statutory provisions set out above, the EAC has also adopted the following working principles for the delineation exercise:

- (a) the existing boundaries of the 10 GCs should form the basis of consideration in the current delineation exercise;
- (b) for those existing GCs where the population falls within the permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries will as far as possible be adopted to form new GCs;
- (c) Hong Kong Island (“HKI”), Kowloon (“KLN”) and the New Territories (“NT”) are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO; and
- (d) factors with political implications are not considered.

## **Section 3 : Names and Codes of GCs**

2.6            Since the first LegCo general election in 1998, the name of a GC has comprised two easily distinguishable components (i.e. the name of the area in which the GC is situated and a directional reference), while the code

of the GC is distinguished by two alphabets “LC” and a number<sup>2</sup>. It is the EAC’s prevailing practice to retain the relevant names and codes of GCs so that the members of the public could locate each GC easier when consulting the maps.

#### **Section 4: Provisional Recommendations**

2.7 According to the statutory provisions in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 above, the working principles in paragraph 2.5, and the practice regarding the names and codes of GCs in paragraph 2.6, the EAC has drawn up its provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of GCs for the 2025 LegCo General Election.

2.8 In fact, the EAC all along will not on its own initiative adjust the boundaries for those GCs with the projected population fallen within the statutory permissible range. Moreover, according to the EAC’s past experiences in delineation exercises, members of the public have also prevalently advocated to maintain the GC boundaries status quo as far as possible. The EAC noted that the projected populations of all GCs are within the statutory permissible range under the existing GC boundaries. Therefore, the EAC in principle can adopt the existing boundaries of 10 GCs as the GC boundaries for the 2025 LegCo General Election.

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<sup>2</sup> Taking the 2021 LegCo General Election as an example, the names of the relevant GCs are HKI East, HKI West, KLN East, KLN West, KLN Central, NT South East, NT North, NT North West, NT South West and NT North East; and the codes of the relevant GCs start from “LC1” and end at “LC10”.

2.9           However, it is noted that there are ongoing development and construction works in the Loop. Although the Planning Department (“PlanD”) currently projects the population for the Loop as at 30 June 2025 as zero, to tie in with the Loop’s development, the EAC proposed to include the Loop in the only contiguous GC, i.e. NT North (LC7) GC in the current delineation exercise.

2.10           As the EAC’s recommendations largely adopted the existing boundaries of 10 GCs, the EAC also proposed to retain the existing names and codes of 10 GCs.

2.11           A brief summary of the EAC’s provisional recommendations and the relevant information of the 10 GCs are set out in **Appendix**. The EAC consulted the public on the provisional recommendations during 2 to 31 May 2025. Please refer to Chapter 3 for details.