Doc Type	НА
Paper No	63/95
Title	Housing Authority Standing Orders
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	THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY Memorandum for the Housing Authority
	Housing Authority Standing Orders
	PURPOSE
	To seek Members' approval for revised proposed arrangements in respect of processing presumption papers under the Housing Authority's (HA) Standing Orders (SOs).
	BACKGROUND
	2. Presumption Paper No. HA 55/95 was issued on 22 September 1995 to seek Members' approval for proposed arrangements in respect of declaration of non-pecuniary interests and processing presumption papers under the HA's SOs. Subsequent to the issue of the paper, an objection from a Member was received to our recommendation in paragraph 7(b) of the paper, which proposed to give the Chairman Note of HA/committee the discretion to decide whether or not an objection raised by a Member should be discussed at a meeting. This Member is of the view that other Members being consulted by presumption may welcome the opportunity to consider the points raised by the objector and then make their decisions. It would thus be fairer for the membership as a whole to make that decision, rather than the Chairman alone 2 -
	PROPOSAL
	3. Having further considered the issue, we propose that SO 18(5) and 22(11) be amended as follows -
	"The Chairman should be informed of a Member's objection or request for discussion as soon as possible. He should have the power to decide whether there should be a meeting to discuss the points made in an objection, or to circulate by presumption the objection as well as the Department's response before a committee reaches a decision. If no further objection or request for discussion from Members is received, approval of the paper will be presumed."

4. Apart from the above, other proposed amendments to the SOs have been endorsed. A set of the revised SOs, with all the proposed amendments underlined, is attached at Annex.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that the proposal in paragraph 3 above and the revised SOs at Annex be approved. If approved, a clean set of the revised SOs will be issued to Members for retention.

PRESUMPTION

6. It is not thought that Members will object to the recommendation in paragraph 5 above. If no objection or request for discussion is received by the Committees' Secretary by noon on 14 November 1995, Members' approval will be presumed and action taken accordingly.

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Date: 30 October 1995

Note

Chairman in this context refers to Chairman of the Housing Authority in respect of HA papers and chairman of a policy committee in respect of committee/sub-committee/panel papers.

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