

S.C.M.P.

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# All unofficial DB members canvassed

By **MATTHEW LEUNG**

The City and New Territories Administration has canvassed the views of all 267 unofficial district board members in the current review on district administration.

And officials are rushing to compile a report to be forwarded to the Secretary for District Administration in a few weeks' time.

The report will also include the views of district officers and other Government departments closely linked with the district board scheme.

The Regional Secretary for the New Territories, Mr Ian Macpherson, said yesterday the views gathered were wide-ranging.

He was speaking to the press before he chaired the sixth and the last meeting with district board members yesterday evening.

Some 46 members from Islands, Taipo, North and Shatin district boards attended yesterday's meeting.

The series of meetings with the unofficial members started early this month.

These were one method used by CNTA to conduct its review on district administration.

At the meetings, members were asked their views on various topics including how they saw the role and the composition of the district boards and their committees; the relationship between district boards, area committees, mutual aid committees and other district organisations; procedures for the election of the district board chairmen in April next year; meet-the-public schemes; ways of improving services provided by the district board secretariat and the frequency of district board meetings.

The high-powered review task force comprises the two regional secretaries and their two deputies; the principal assistant secretary (general) for district administration and two senior district officers.

"There is a whole mass of information from all unofficial members. And most of them have something to say. But they were not unanimous," Mr Macpherson said.

The views of the unofficial members were extremely wide-ranging with some calling for no changes to the current district board system while others have suggested turning the district boards into local governments.

Some members also called for an improved relationship between the boards, district management committees and other Government departments.

Many accepted the idea of unofficial chairmen after next year's elections. And some called for more executive powers.

The department is also seeking the views of various district officers.

Mr Macpherson and Mr Barrie Wiggham, the Regional Secretary for Hongkong and Kowloon, will be consulting heads of Government departments which are most closely involved with the district administration scheme.