

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 9th meeting
held at the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building
on Wednesday, 13 June 2001, at 9:00 am**

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kwok-keung (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon HUI Cheung-ching
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP
Hon SZETO Wah
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung

Members absent:

Hon NG Leung-sing (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, JP
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Bernard CHAN
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok

Public Officers attending:

Mr Stanley YING, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Treasury
Mrs Jessie TING	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service
Mr K K LAM	Principal Executive Officer (General), Finance Bureau
Mr CHAN Wing-sang, JP	Deputy Secretary for Works
Mr Gordon CHO	Chief Assistant Secretary for Works
Mr M B WILDE	Assistant Director of Architectural Services
Mr Brian LO	Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport
Mr Thomas THUMB	Assistant Commissioner for Transport
Mr Robin GILL, JP	Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare
Mrs Carrie LAM, JP	Director of Social Welfare
Mrs Patricia CHU, JP	Deputy Director of Social Welfare

Clerk in attendance:

Miss Polly YEUNG	Chief Assistant Secretary (1)3
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Staff in attendance:

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mrs Mary TANG	Senior Assistant Secretary (1)2

EC(2001-02)10 Proposed revision of the starting pay for the Assistant Landscape Architect rank from Master Pay Scale Point 11 to Point 13 and corresponding increase in establishment ceilings in 2001-02 of Architectural Services Department, Highways Department, Lands Department, Planning Department and Territory Development Department

Members noted that the Planning Lands and Works Panel had been informed of this proposal at its meeting on 4 June 2001.

2. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong noted that the existing starting pay for Assistant Landscape Architect (ALA) was below that of other assistant professional ranks. Referring to paragraph 5 of the paper on the Administration's proposal to raise the starting pay for the ALA by two points with immediate effect, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong sought clarification on when the proposed revision would take effect. The Deputy Secretary for Works advised that the proposal had been scheduled for submission to the Finance Committee (FC) for approval at its meeting on 6 July 2001 and the starting pay of ALA would be revised upon FC's funding approval.

(Post-meeting note: The proposal had been re-scheduled for submission to the Finance Committee for approval at its meeting on 22 June 2001.)

3. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2001-02)11 **Proposed creation of two supernumerary posts of one Chief Engineer (D1) and one Chief Systems Manager (D1) in the Technical Services Branch of Transport Department for a period of five years and three years respectively to strengthen the directorate structure of the Branch**

4. Members noted that the item had been discussed by the Transport Panel at its meeting on 18 May 2001.

5. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2001-02)12 **Proposed creation of 14 permanent posts of 13 Principal Social Work Officer (D1) and one Principal Executive Officer (D1) offset by deletion of six permanent posts of one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) and five Principal Social Work Officer (D1) in Social Welfare Department, and revisions to the job description of various directorate posts in the Department**

6. Members noted that the item had been discussed by the Welfare Services Panel at its meeting on 14 May 2001.

7. Mr Howard YOUNG said that Members of the Liberal Party had all along held reservations over proposals for substantial staff increases. It appeared that the proposed re-organization of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) was meant to upgrade the 13 District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) to D1 level. He pointed out that re-organization exercises of such magnitude in the private sector would often result in staff retrenchment rather than upgrading of posts. Referring to the disbandment of the Regional Offices which would result in the deletion of five Regional Officer (RO) posts at the Principal Social Work Officer rank and 39 supporting staff of non-directorate ranks, he enquired whether the savings resulting from the proposed deletion of posts would be able to offset the net increase in directorate posts and their supporting staff.

8. In response, the Director of Social Welfare referred members to Enclosure 11 to the paper which set out the summary of the proposed establishment changes in SWD. She pointed out that the proposed re-organization would bring about a reduction in the establishment of SWD, representing savings of over \$3 million in

staff costs. Furthermore, a total reduction of 44 posts was made possible through streamlining the three-tiered headquarters, regional and district structure into a two-tiered one by disbanding the regional offices. Therefore, there had not been any increase in the establishment of the department resulting from the proposed re-organization. The proposed re-organization would result in the devolution of responsibilities from the five ROs to the 13 DSWOs, and would necessitate a corresponding upgrading of the rank of DSWO posts to D1 commensurate with the added responsibilities under the enhanced district structure.

9. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong agreed that the proposed re-organization of SWD from a three-tiered structure to a two-tiered one would streamline the operation of SWD and ensure greater efficiency. He considered the upgrading of 13 DSWO posts justified in view of the added responsibilities and stated that Members of the Democratic Party would support the present proposal.

10. The item was voted on and endorsed.

11. The Subcommittee was adjourned at 9:10 am.

Legislative Council Secretariat
19 June 2001