

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary Information on 227DS - Trials and studies in relation to the way forward for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme

INTRODUCTION

In considering paper PWSC(2001-02)10 on **227DS** "Trials and studies in relation to the way forward for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme" on 25 April 2001, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the mechanism for coordinating the delivery of the further stages of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS). This note sets out the information sought.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

2. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for the overall planning of sewerage infrastructure. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is responsible for the design, construction and operation of sewerage infrastructure.

3. The Environment Division under the former Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau was responsible for policy on the provision of sewage services. In mid-1998, it also took on responsibility for the funding and implementation of sewage services from Works Bureau. The Division was subsumed under the newly-established Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) on 1 January 2000 but has kept the unified responsibility for the provision of sewage services.

4. EPD and DSD report to the Bureau on the delivery of this programme in order to meet the policy objectives of protecting public health, conserving the marine environment, and providing adequate environmental infrastructure to support social and economic development.

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5. HATS is one component of the sewerage programme. Given the extensive range of trials and studies that are to be conducted to determine the way forward for later stages of HATS, and given the extensive public interest in the Scheme, the Secretary for the Environment and Food (SEF) has decided to set up a Monitoring Group to assist with the process. The Group will comprise three local members of the International Review Panel, four members of the Advisory Council on the Environment, other members of the public, the Director of Environmental Protection and the Director of Drainage Services. The Group will advise SEF on both the technical aspects of the trials and studies, and on a strategy for public information and consultation with the community.

6. As the policy bureau on sewage services, EFB has the overall policy responsibility in delivering sewerage projects, including HATS. It will work with the Planning and Lands Bureau and the Works Bureau to resolve any matters in relation to planning, lands and works issues for subsequent stages of HATS.

Environment and Food Bureau
May 2001

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