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**Subcommittee to follow up
the outstanding capital works projects
of the former municipal councils**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Wednesday, 4 April 2001 at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members Present : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP (Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP

Members Absent : Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Members Attending : Hon CHAN Kam-lam
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Public Officers Attending : Agenda item I

Mrs Stella HUNG
Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Food (A)

Miss Eva TO
Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment and Food (A) 3

Mr WONG Shiu-kwan
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Miss Janet WONG
Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
(Administration and Development)

Mr Paul WONG
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 1
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mrs Angel CHOI
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr K K LEE
Assistant Director (Operations) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Agenda item II

Mr NG Shek-hon
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Ms Lolly CHIU
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Administration)

Mr WONG Shiu-kwan
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Ms Pamela CHAN
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs YUEN Kwong Wai-king
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 2
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Doris FOK
Acting Senior Staff Officer (Leisure Services) 2
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Clerk in Attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)5

Staff in Attendance : Miss Betty MA
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)1

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I Retro-fitting of air-conditioning to existing markets and cooked food centres
[LC Paper No. CB(2) 1216/00-01(01)]

Deputy Secretary for Food and Environment (DS(EF)) said that the Administration had assessed the relative priorities of the 19 projects to retro-fit air-conditioning to existing public markets and cooked food centres based on the five criteria proposed in paragraph 2 of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1216/00-01(01)]. Subject to the agreement of the Subcommittee, the Administration would consult the stall lessees and seek their co-operation in the implementation of these projects.

2. Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DD/FEHD) added that retro-fitting of air-conditioning to cooked food centres and public markets involved different considerations. The Administration proposed to deal with the retro-fitting of air-conditioning to public markets first, and those for cooked food centres would need further deliberations.

Retro-fitting of air-conditioning to cooked food centres

3. The Chairman enquired about the time-frame for the Administration to make a recommendation on the retro-fitting of air-conditioning to cooked food centres. DD/FEHD said that three cooked food centres had been independently proposed for inclusion in the retro-fitting programme. However, cooked food centres were regarded as Prescribed Commercial Premises, and were subject to more stringent requirements under the current Fire Safety Regulations. If retro-fitting of air-conditioning was to be carried out in cooked food centres, the premises would have to be completely closed during the construction period for hygiene reasons. Project Director 3/ Architectural Services Department (PD3/ArchSD) pointed out that alterations to comply with the

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statutory fire safety requirements, would result in the reduction of the seating areas of the cooked food centres. The cooked food stall holders would have to be consulted first, as this would affect their operation.

Retro-fitting of air-conditioning to public markets

4. The Chairman enquired about the implementation time-table of the retro-fitting projects. DD/FEHD responded that the Administration proposed to carry out the 16 projects in three phases. Top priority would be accorded to those projects where there was no air-conditioned public market of FEHD in the district concerned. Subject to the views of the Subcommittee, the Administration would consult the respective District Councils (DCs) on the 16 projects. To expedite actions, ArchSD would at the same time proceed with the Preliminary Project Feasibility Studies (PPFS) based on the order of priority proposed in the paper. The Administration would then bid funds under the annual Capital Works Resource Allocation Exercise (RAE) to implement these projects if they were confirmed to be technically feasible.

5. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that he was not a member of the Subcommittee. However, he had received complaints from residents in some districts concerning the criteria for determining the priority of the retro-fitting projects. He questioned the rationale for including the availability of air-conditioned markets or cooked food centres in the district concerned as a criterion. He also queried why the Administration proposed to include only one retro-fitting project for each district. Mr TAM pointed out that most public markets were not air-conditioned and they faced very keen competition from the air-conditioned private superstores. Some public market stall lessees had indicated that they might have to quit the business soon, given the unfavourable operating environment and the long time taken to complete the retro-fitting projects.

6. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that the conditions in San Hui Market, for example, were very poor. He urged the Administration to expedite implementation of these retro-fitting projects to improve the environment of the public markets. The Chairman agreed with Mr TAM.

7. DS(EF) explained that in considering whether a project should be included in Phase I, the department had taken into account various factors, including the availability of air-conditioned public markets (not private superstores) in the vicinity. DD/FEHD added that the department had to strike a balance between the needs of the residents and the interests of market stall lessees concerned. She said that the department had exercised flexibility in applying the criteria for according priority to the 19 projects. For example, Fa Yuen Street Market was included in Phase I although there was already an air-conditioned public market in the district. The market was accorded higher priority because the market served not only the residents in the district,

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but it was also highly patronised by customers outside the district. As regards San Hui Market, DD/FEHD said that if the criteria were strictly applied, it would not have been included in Phase II because there was already an air-conditioned Yan Oi Market nearby. However, the Administration was aware of the poor ventilation of San Hui Market due to its unsatisfactory design. The project was therefore included having regard to the actual need and demand of the market stall lessees.

8. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that most public markets were poorly ventilated and he envisaged that the Administration would have difficulties in explaining to the relevant DCs that some projects were accorded lower priority than the others. He considered that the Administration should strive to allocate more resources so that more projects could be included in Phase I. The Administration should also consider setting aside resources specifically for the retro-fitting of air-conditioning projects. Mr TAM further suggested that consideration should be given to contracting out some of the retro-fitting works to private contractors if there were insufficient manpower resources within departments to carry out these projects.

9. DS(EF) said that she hoped to expedite the PPFS of those projects in Phases I and II so that these projects, if found technically feasible, could be included in this year's Capital Works RAE. However, she reminded members that these projects would still need to compete with projects from other government departments for allocation of resources under RAE and for inclusion in the Public works Programme (PWP). In reply to the Chairman, DS(EF) further said that depending on the resources allocated to the retro-fitting projects, it was only pragmatic to adopt a phased approach for the implementation of the 16 retro-fitting projects.

10. Mr Fred LI expressed concern about the plans for retro-fitting of air-conditioning to other existing public markets which were not included in the current proposal. He pointed out that some markets, such as Tai Shing Market in Wong Tai Sin, also had high customer patronage. He asked why this market was not accorded priority.

11. DD/FEHD said that as the 16 retro-fitting projects in the current proposal had in fact been approved by the former municipal councils, it was the Administration's intention to deal with these outstanding ex-PMC projects first before proceeding with other projects. She pointed out that Tai Shing Market was not included in the public works programme of the former Provisional Urban Council (PUC) and was therefore outside the list of 169 outstanding ex-PMC projects. She added that patronage level was only one of the assessment criteria for according priority to the retro-fitting projects.

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Market design

12. Mr Fred LI asked whether the Administration would take the opportunity to conduct an overall review of the design and layout of stalls in public markets in order to improve their ventilation and hygiene conditions. He said that the existing stalls might need re-arrangement as some meat stalls would not prefer to be located near the ventilation plant or shaft because the relatively higher temperature there would affect meat quality. There were also complaints about the odour of poultry stalls.

13. DD/FEHD agreed that improvements should be made to the design and layouts for stalls when planning new markets, for example, poultry stalls could be located at the periphery of the market for segregation or served by an independent ventilation/air-conditioning system. PD3/ArchSD added that his department would also consider whether it was feasible to relocate the poultry stalls or introduce other improvement measures when conducting PPFs for the retro-fitting projects. For example, poultry stalls could be provided with a separate air-conditioning system or a ventilation system with fresh air intake from outside. Scalding facilities could be improved. Bio-oxygen generators could also be installed to remove the odour. PD3/ArchSD further said that as refrigerators and high wattage light bulbs at meat stalls generated a lot of heat, additional air-conditioning would be provided to these stalls.

Funding arrangement and implementation time-table for the retro-fitting projects

14. Mr Fred LI, Mr IP Kwok-him and Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed concern about the procedures for bidding for resources for the 19 retro-fitting projects. They were worried that the complicated procedures would delay the implementation of these projects for more than five years.

15. On the Administration's proposal that the project would proceed only if 85% of the stall lessees concerned agreed to the retro-fitting works, Mr Fred LI asked about the Administration's plans if it could not obtain the support of 85% of the lessees concerned. The Chairman also asked whether it was possible to advance certain Phase II projects to Phase I if problems were found with some Phase I projects.

16. DD/FEHD said that the Finance Bureau had advised that the PPFs of these projects should start as soon as possible in order to secure funding for the projects in the RAE. In the meantime, FEHD would provide details of the implementation plan to the stall lessees concerned, such as the estimated additional recurrent expenditure on electricity charges and the impact on stall operation when the works were in progress. The principles for implementation, once agreed, would be binding on the stall lessees.

17. DD/FEHD further said that funds would be allocated for specific projects and would not be transferable. However, the Administration could expedite the PPFs of

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projects in the remaining phases for the purpose of bidding funds in the RAE. DS(EF) added that the Administration was considering grouping the Phase I projects under one item for funding purposes, so that there would be some flexibility in the implementation plan. She would discuss with FB the feasibility of such proposal.

18. Mr IP Kwok-him said that as the 19 retro-fitting of air-conditioning projects had been discussed previously by the relevant DCs and approved by the ex-PMCs, he hoped that the Administration would expedite these projects. Noting that the Administration proposed to implement these projects in three phases, Mr IP asked about the total provisions for these projects, and the implementation time-table for the three phases including the target dates for project commencement and project completion.

19. Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1/FEHD said that the estimated total cost for the 19 projects would be in the region of \$1,000 million. DD/FEHD said that it was the Administration's plan to bid funds for the Phase 1 projects in the coming Capital Works RAE which would invite applications in June/July this year.

20. On the estimated time-frame for implementation, DD/FEHD and PD3/ArchSD said that all projects would require PPFS to determine their technical feasibility for inclusion into the PWP. It would take about three months to assess the site conditions and the technical difficulties for the proposed retro-fitting works in these markets. Moreover, the market facilities would also need to be upgraded to meet the current fire and building safety requirements. If these projects were subsequently included in Category B of PWP, ArchSD would commence with the detailed project design and tender documents. After upgrading to Category A of PWP, the construction works would take about two and a half years to complete.

21. DS(EF) said that these projects were now in Category C of PWP and she would further discuss with FB ways to shorten the process for resource allocation and implementation of these 19 projects. She would provide the implementation time-table at the next meeting.

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22. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed concern that it seemed that there were more red tapes for taking these projects forward after dissolution of the two PMCs. She asked if PPFS was really necessary for these projects which already had the approval of the former PMCs. She wondered whether there were any differences between the feasibility studies carried out by the former PMCs and those by the Government.

23. DD/FEHD and PD3/ArchSD pointed out that before dissolution of the two PMCs, their capital works projects were also subject to detailed feasibility studies before implementation. The only difference was that the former PMCs could approve their own projects and provide the necessary funding because the PMCs were

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financially autonomous. Since the Government had assumed the responsibility for the provision of municipal services from January 2000, the outstanding PMC projects were subject to the same funding procedure as other government projects. Under the current procedure, after the technical feasibility of these projects were completed in the PPFS, the projects would require approval of the policy and Finance bureaux for inclusion into the PWP, and for bidding in the allocation of resources. DD/FEHD added that the former PMCs also had a resource allocation system similar to that of the Government, and that the capital works projects of the PMCs were classified into four categories according to their planning stage. She pointed out that many capital works projects of the former PMCs also took many years to complete. She stressed that Government had not imposed additional barriers or requirements on the ex-PMC projects.

24. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed concern that it would take an unduly long time to implement the ex-PMC projects under the present resource allocation mechanism. She was worried that the 19 retro-fitting projects might take 10 years to materialise. Miss CHAN said that as the Administration had previously undertaken to implement the ex-PMC projects, the Administration should set aside resources for these projects and expedite implementation. She considered that implementation of ex-PMC projects could also create employment opportunities. In this connection, the Chairman asked whether the Administration would consider according priority to the implementation of ex-PMC projects in the current RAE.

25. Mr Andrew WONG and Ms Cyd HO also queried the arrangement for the ex-PMC projects to undergo the normal resource allocation procedures, since these projects had already been approved by the ex-PMCs.

26. In response, representatives of the Administration explained the funding arrangements for the outstanding PMC public works projects as agreed by the Finance Committee in December 1999, as follows-

- (a) the 149 projects for which the PMCs had contractual commitments should be injected directly into Category A of PWP for implementation;
- (b) funding should be set aside for the 12 projects which already had funding approval from the two PMCs but had not started yet;
- (c) for the remaining 169 projects which were then at a relatively early stage of planning, the bureau secretaries concerned should review whether these projects should be included in Category C of PWP. These projects would need to compete with other government projects for funding under the normal resource allocation procedures.

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27. DD/FEHD pointed out that the 169 outstanding projects had not received all necessary approvals from the former PMCs, and the majority was still at a relatively early stage of development. She said that these projects would have to take a fairly long time to complete even in the days of the ex-PMCs. DD/FEHD also explained the classification system of the PUC capital works projects. She said that Stage II projects referred to projects with approved layout and cost estimate, Stage III projects referred to projects with approved scope and Schedule of Accommodation whereas Stage IV projects referred to projects which were only in the preliminary planning stage. She further said that the majority of the outstanding projects was in Stages III and IV. As regards the retro-fitting of air-conditioning to ten existing public markets in the urban area, DD/FEHD pointed out that the former PUC had endorsed only two projects in January 1999 and decided that the remaining eight projects should be proceeded subject to availability of resources in future. She added that the Provisional Regional Council (ProRC) had not included any of its markets in the capital works programme before dissolution of the two PMCs in 2000. Despite this the Government now proposed to include all the ten markets of PUC and six ProRC markets in the retro-fitting programme.

28. Mr Andrew WONG sought clarification as to whether the 16 projects of retro-fitting of air-conditioning projects were already included in Category C of PWP, and the procedure for upgrading these projects to Category A.

29. DD/FEHD said that the department would recommend these projects for inclusion in Category C, subject to the outcome of PPFS. She added that FB had agreed to process the PPFS for ex-PMC projects in a flexible manner.

30. Mr Andrew WONG asked whether FB could reject the departmental recommendation for inclusion of a project in Category C on the ground that there were insufficient resources on the part of works departments. PD3/ArchSD said that the PPFS of the PMC projects had all along been carried out by his department which had the necessary resources. As far as the retro-fitting projects were concerned, the PPFS of these projects would be carried out by phases. He added that PPFS could be conducted any time to assess the technical feasibility and the costs of any identified project. Subject to the agreement of the Works Bureau on the technical aspects and the approval of FB on the cost estimates of the project, the project could be included in Category C of PWP.

31. On the procedure for upgrading these projects to Category A, DS(EF) said that the Bureau intended to bid for funding for the retro-fitting projects in the Capital Works RAE this year. Subject to the allocation of resources, the projects could be upgraded to Category B. The ArchSD could then proceed with the detailed design and preparation of tender documents for these projects. When the projects were ready in all respects, a proposal would be made to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) of

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the Finance Committee (FC) to upgrade these projects to Category A of PWP. Subject to the approval of FC, the projects could then be tendered for work to commence.

32. DS(EF) further said that to shorten the process, consideration was being given to batching the retro-fitting projects by phases, similar to the School Improvement Programmes. Mr IP Kwok-him said that he preferred creating one block vote of \$1,000 million for all the retro-fitting projects in order to speed up the process.

33. Mr Andrew WONG said that it was rather unclear as to the current status of the retro-fitting projects. He was given the understanding that the Administration had undertaken at the Finance Committee in December 1999 that all the outstanding ex-PMC projects would automatically be included in Category C of Government's PWP, pending any necessary design work or study for their upgrading to Category B. He asked whether the Administration would now undertake to expedite the retro-fitting projects and consider proceeding with the projects in Phases I and II at the same time. DS(EF) said that she would endeavour to obtain resources for the early implementation of these ex-PMC projects. However, she pointed out that the decision of resource allocation rest with the Star Chamber.

34. The Chairman pointed out that the crux of the issue was that previously the PMCs enjoyed financial autonomy and could approve their own capital works projects. However, after dissolution of the two PMCs, the ex-PMC projects had to compete with government capital works projects for resources under Government's overall resource allocation mechanism. He said that presently the funding of these projects had to be approved by FB, while ArchSD continued to provide technical assistance to departments.

35. Ms Cyd HO said that the former PMCs could make use of the rates collected and the rental income from public market stalls to finance capital works projects for the provision of municipal services. She asked about the current accounting arrangements for the rates and market stall rental collected.

36. DD/FEHD said that the former PMCs planned their expenditure according to the triennial allocation. Since the Government had assumed the responsibilities for the provision of municipal services from January 2000, the ex-PMC projects were now subject to the normal resources allocation mechanism in the same way as other capital works projects of government departments. The rates and other income collected were paid to Government's General Revenue Account.

37. Ms Cyd HO said that the current arrangement was a major policy change which would have the result of significantly reducing the provision of municipal services. She considered it a deviation from the Government's previous undertaking that there

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would be no reduction in the level of municipal services after the dissolution of the two PMCs. She suggested that the Subcommittee should write to FB urging for resources to be set aside specifically for the ex-PMC projects. Mr Andrew WONG said that the Subcommittee should also convey to the Administration members' strong views about the early implementation of the ex-PMC projects.

38. DS(EF) reiterated that all public works projects required PPFs and this would be carried out according to a phased programme. She assured members that her bureau would strive to bid for resources for these projects under each year's RAE.

39. In view of members' concerns, the Chairman said that he would write to the Secretary for Treasury on behalf of the Subcommittee urging for early implementation of the ex-PMC projects. He would also request FB to create a special category or "block vote" for the ex-PMC projects, in particular the retro-fitting projects, so that they could be directly injected into Category C of PWP and accorded funding priority in the RAE. Members agreed.

(Post-meeting note : The Subcommittee Chairman's letter to the Secretary for the Treasury on 9 April 2001 and the reply were circulated to the Subcommittee on 25 April 2001.)

II. Report of the Administration's consultation with District Councils on the relative priorities of ex-PMC capital works projects involving leisure and cultural facilities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 1216/00-01(02) & (03)]

40. Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DD/LCSD) said that her department had consulted 18 DCs on the relative priorities of projects involving leisure and cultural facilities in their respective districts, and recommended that 21 projects be proceeded with priority. The 21 priority projects were generally supported by the DCs concerned. The views of the respective DCs were summarised in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1216/00-01(02)]. DD/LCSD said that she hoped that all the 21 projects could be included in either this year's or subsequent years' RAE and implemented expeditiously. She pointed out that it was still necessary to prepare the Client Project Brief and to conduct PPFs for these projects.

41. The Chairman enquired about the status of the proposed Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 4, Tsing Yi and the reason for its not being included in the priority list. Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1 of LCSD (CEO(P)1) replied that Kwai Ching DC had requested priority be accorded to this project during consultation which had not previously been included, but it was not included in the list of the 21 priority projects.

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She explained that the priority list was drawn up on the basis of the criteria set out in the Administration's paper.

42. Noting that the Administration only recommended 21 projects be accorded priority, Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed concern on how the Administration would deal with the remaining projects, in particular those projects which were strongly requested by DCs.

43. DD/LCSD said that in addition to the 21 projects recommended by the department, some DCs/individual DC members had recommended 27 other projects during consultation. However, having regard to the manpower and funding constraints for carrying out all these projects at the same time, it was necessary for the Administration to prioritise the projects. She added that the 21 priority projects were only the first step and the department would continue to review and consult DCs on other projects and their priority. In this connection, the department would provide annual reports on and discuss with the DCs the position of the remaining projects. She said that the DCs had indicated agreement to the proposed arrangement.

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44. To enable members to have a better understanding of DCs' views on individual projects, Miss CHAN Yuen-han requested the Administration to provide more detailed information on DCS' views, particularly those on the 27 projects recommended by DCs. DD/LCSD agreed to provide the information after the meeting.

45. Ms Cyd HO commented that the Administration had not provided an overall picture or blueprint on what it was going to achieve in the provision of leisure and cultural facilities. She said that the DCs would not be able to comment on the overall need for cultural and leisure facilities. She further said that the Administration's cultural policy was ambiguous, and the roles of DCs and the Culture and Heritage Commission in the provision of cultural and leisure services were unclear. Citing Tai Po Civic Centre as an example, Ms HO said that despite the strong request by Tai Po DC, the Administration had maintained the view that implementation of the project would depend on the review on the policy and cost-effectiveness for the provision of civic centres. Ms HO asked whether the Administration would take the views of the DCs concerned or those of the Culture and Heritage Commission if they held different opinions regarding the need for certain facilities in a district. In this connection, she urged the Administration to provide its policy objectives for the provision of cultural and leisure services, to facilitate monitoring by LegCo. She added that it was not possible for the Subcommittee to review and discuss each and every project.

46. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (DS(HA)) said that the consultation with DCs was to collect local views on the relative priorities of ex-PMC projects in respective districts, and the priority list was drawn up on the basis of criteria set out in

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the Administration's previous paper. However, those projects which were to provide service at a regional or territorial level, such as the Regional Indoor Stadium project in Fanling, would require detailed study. He added that a consultancy study on the requirements for major new sports and recreation venues was underway and the findings, which would be available in the coming months, would provide useful information for the Administration to draw up its future development plans. The Chairman advised that the policy issue should be followed up by the Panel on Home Affairs.

Clerk

47. DS(HA) stressed that although 21 projects were recommended to proceed with priority, it did not mean that the Administration had abandoned the remaining projects. The Administration would continue to review the priority of these projects from time to time. As regards the use of certain projects sites in Tai Po as temporary car-parks, DS(HA) said that these sites might be under short term lease and were not yet ready for development. He would check whether these sites could be released earlier for development.

48. Ms Cyd HO said that the criteria for recommending the priority projects were unclear. She queried that the Administration had been selective in adopting the various criteria to its advantage. For example, the Administration did not recommend providing a sports centre in the Aldrich Bay Complex project on the ground that the Sai Wan Ho Complex Indoor Games Hall and the Island East Sports Centre were only within 12 minutes' walk. However, the Tseung Kwan O Complex in Area 45 was recommended for commencement while similar facilities were available within 10 minutes' travelling time. Ms HO said that she could not understand why the two projects were treated differently.

49. DD/LCSD said that a number of factors were taken into consideration when the department drew up the priority list. As regards the proposed sports centre in the proposed Aldrich Bay Complex, the availability of similar facilities in the vicinity and their utilisation rates were also taken into account. The Administration would like to see a more balanced distribution of facilities in the Eastern district, in view of the growing population in Siu Sai Wan.

50. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that the Administration should explain why certain ex-PMC projects were delayed or aborted. He considered that the Administration should accord priority to those projects which were strongly requested by DCs. He further said that the list of 21 priority projects was a bit tricky as some were not new facilities. For example, the golf course in Shuen Wan Landfill in Tai Po was already in use and he did not see any urgency in providing a 9-hole golf course there. Moreover, he could not accept that the Tai Po Civic Centre was not accorded priority. He said that since the ProRC had already approved the project, the Administration should proceed with this project immediately without further delay. Mr WONG added

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that he had also received strong requests from residents in Ma On Shan urging for early construction of the Ma On Shan Seafront Promenade. Since the Territory Development Department (TDD) was currently carrying out some improvement facilities in the area, he hoped that LCSD could consider providing some temporary facilities to tie in with TDD's improvement works. He said that the Administration should expedite the Ma On Shan Seafront Promenade project in the long run. In this connection, the Chairman also referred members to a submission from an Owners' Corporation in Ma On Shan tabled at the meeting.

51. In response, DD/LCSD made the following points -

- (a) The proposal to provide a 9-hole golf course in Shuen Wan Landfill in Tai Po was to meet the repeated demands of the district. Moreover, funds were available for the project because the Hong Kong Jockey Club had agreed to sponsor about 80% of the project cost.
- (b) A decision on the Tai Po Civic Centre was pending the Consultancy Study for the review on the provision of regional/district facilities for performance, rehearsals, lectures, exhibitions, meetings, music & dance practices in Hong Kong. The project brief for the consultancy study was being finalised and the study would start later this year.
- (c) Regarding the Ma On Shan Seafront Promenade, LCSD was actively discussing with TDD the provision of some temporary leisure facilities, e.g. cycling track. The Administration would report the progress of the project later.
- (d) LCSD was studying the feasibility of making use of the allocation for minor works projects to provide some temporary leisure facilities and amenity planting to improve the environment.

52. Mr WONG Sing-chi welcomed the proposal of making use of the minor works allocation to expedite the provision of parks and recreation facilities.

53. On the implementation time-table of the 21 priority projects, DD/LCSD said that the Client Project Brief for some of these projects which were intended for 2001 RAE bid had been completed. Subject to the comments of the Home Affairs Bureau, ArchSD would proceed immediately with the PPFS for these projects. It was estimated that the PPFS would take about three to six months to complete. While the plan was to bid for funds in this year's RAE, it was not possible to take all the 21 projects forward in this financial year. DD/LCSD further said that FB had already agreed to set aside funding for six projects last year pending completion of the PPFS. LCSD would try to seek FB's approval for similar funding arrangements for about six

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to eight projects this year. She estimated that it would take two to three years to process all the 21 projects.

54. Responding to the Chairman, CEO(P)1/LCSD informed members that the following six projects had been earmarked funding -

- (a) a multi-purpose grass pitch on Sai Tso Wan Landfill;
- (b) improvement works to Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village;
- (c) Kwai Chung Park Football Training Centre;
- (d) grass pitches in Tseung Kwan O Landfill;
- (e) additional open space to Tsuen Wan Town Hall; and
- (f) Indoor Recreation Centre Area 17 in Tin Shui Wai.

DD/LCSD said that the six projects would be upgraded to Category B in 2001 subject to the approval of the relevant PPFs reports.

55. Mr Andrew WONG sought clarification on the status of the remaining 15 priority projects. PD3/ArchSD said that the projects had not been included in Category C and they had to compete with other government projects for inclusion into PWP under Government's normal resource allocation exercise. He said that the six projects in paragraph 54 above were included in the Reserve List by special arrangement. He added that the PPFs of improvement works to Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village would be completed in July 2001 and the PPFs for three other projects were underway.

56. Miss CHAN Yuen-han said that FB should be requested to create a "block vote" for the priority projects in order to expedite implementation. DS(HA) assured that the Administration would actively pursue the implementation of the ex-PMC projects.

57. As there was insufficient time for discussion, members agreed to hold another meeting on 18 April 2001 to continue discussion with the Administration.

III Any other business

Proposed invitation of District Councils to discuss ex-PMC projects in their districts

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58. The Chairman said that Miss CHAN Yuen-han had earlier proposed to invite DCs to discuss ex-PMC projects in their districts. He sought members' views on the proposal.

59. Miss CHAN Yuen-han said that having studied the Administration's report on its consultation with DCs, she did not wish to pursue her proposal. Members raised no objection.

60. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:10 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

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