

立法會
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LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Minutes of meeting
held on Wednesday, 18 October 2000, at 10:15 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP (Chairman)
Hon LAU Ping-cheung (Deputy Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP

Non-Panel member attending : Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS

Members absent : Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP

Public officers attending : **Agenda Item I**

Mr WONG Hung-kin, JP
Secretary for Works (Acting)

Mrs Stella HUNG, JP
Deputy Secretary (Programme & Resources), WB

Mr CHAN Wing-sang, JP
Deputy Secretary (Works Policy), WB

Mr PAU Shiu-hung, JP
Director of Architectural Services

Dr LAU Ching-kwong, JP
Director of Civil Engineering

Mr John COLLIER, JP
Director of Drainage Services

Mr LO Yiu-ching, JP
Director of Highways

Mr Hugh PHILLIPSON, JP
Director of Water Supplies

Agenda Item II

Mr Gordon SIU, JP
Secretary for Planning and Lands

Mr Patrick LAU, JP
Deputy Secretary for Planning and Lands
(Lands and Planning)

Mr Stephen FISHER, JP
Deputy Secretary for Planning and Lands
(Urban Renewal and Buildings)

Mrs Helen YU, JP
Head, Task Force on Building Safety and
Preventive Maintenance

Mr R D POPE, JP
Director of Lands

Mr P C CHAN, JP
Director of Planning (Acting)

Mr C M LEUNG, JP
Director of Buildings

Mrs Alice LEE
Land Registrar (Acting)

Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Assistant Secretary (1)1 (Acting)

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Assistant Secretary (1)2

I Briefing by the Secretary for Works on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2000

The Secretary for Works (Acting) (S for W (Atg)) highlighted the progress and achievements made in the past year in the five major policy areas, namely, the public works programme, the review of the construction industry, flood prevention, slope safety and water supply. (A copy of S for W (Atg)'s opening remarks tabled at the meeting was circulated to members of the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(1) 73/00-01)

Public works programme and the review of the construction industry
Corruption prevention

2. Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip expressed concern about the quality of public works, in particular about corruption in the construction industry, as revealed in a series of problems uncovered in public housing projects. Since public works projects normally involved a substantial sum of money, he enquired about the measures adopted by the works departments in corruption prevention, particularly in the award of tenders and site supervision. In reply, S for W (Atg) said that the Chief Executive had appointed the Construction Industry Review Committee (CIRC) in April 2000 to review comprehensively the existing operations of the construction industry and to make recommendations for further improvement. The review was expected to be completed by the end of 2000. He assured members that the works departments had all along attached great importance to the prevention of corruption in delivery of public works and had worked closely with the Independent Commission Against Corruption in this respect.

Tendering system

3. Mr IP Kwok-him was concerned about another aspect of the quality of public works, namely, the award of contract to the lowest bidder. He enquired whether the works departments intended to model on the practice of the Housing Authority to take into consideration the past performance of bidders in deciding on the award of public works contracts. Sharing the same concern, Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him stated that the problem facing the construction industry was not due to the subcontracting system, but

the award of contract to the lowest bidder for public works. Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip however said that it was the responsibility of contractors to ensure the quality of works. The present tender system should not be used as an excuse for poor works.

4. S for W (Atg) said that in awarding tenders, the works departments had always upheld the principle of value-for-money and ensured the compliance of specified requirements. CIRC was reviewing ways to improve the procurement of public works. The Administration was considering the implementation of a tender assessment system which would take into account not only the tender price but also the past performance of tenderers. The Administration would consult the industry and report the outcome of the review to the Panel in due course.

Subcontracting system

5. While noting the merits of the subcontracting system in the construction industry which allowed flexibility, Mr TAM Yiu-chung stressed the need to deal with problems arising from subcontracting which included quality control and protection of workers. He pointed out that the recent enforcement of more stringent contract requirements had led to failure in the delivery of some works projects. As a result, some of the contractors had absconded without paying their workers. This had seriously affected the livelihood of the construction workers. He further pointed out that some contractors, in an attempt to avoid contribution to the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme, ended the employer-employee relationship and then appointed their workers as subcontractors. There were also site management problems in construction sites where there was an international mix of workers. It was reported that in some sites, licensed workers were placed under the supervision of unlicensed imported workers. Mr TAM had high hopes for CIRC to deal with all these issues. S for W (Atg) said that the Administration was well aware of the problems arising from subcontracting. CIRC would look into this area with a view to working out measures to tackle the problems.

Allocation of risk

6. Referring to item I in page three of the information booklet entitled "Public Works Programme", Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him enquired about the date of completion of the review by the international expert on the allocation of risk in the General Conditions of Contract and the likelihood of implementation of its recommendations. S for W (Atg) said that the review on allocation of risk was completed by Professor Grove in 1998. Since the subject was very controversial, the Administration had taken quite some time to study the recommendations, which required in-depth consideration. As the allocation of risk was also one of the important subjects to be considered by CIRC, upon the completion of the review, the Administration would come to a view as to how the conditions of contract could be revised to provide for a proper and fair allocation of risk.

7. Mr LAU Ping-cheung considered it unfair that the Administration had taken two

years to study the review by Professor Grove on the allocation of risk, but had only allowed four months for the building profession to give their comments. He further pointed out that apart from the projects undertaken by the Architectural Services Department, all other works projects undertaken by the various departments within the purview of the Works Bureau were under the charge of Project Engineers, who were responsible for the design, operation and cost control of the projects. There was an apparent role conflict in the present arrangement as matters relating to cost control were not subject to checks and balances. To improve transparency and accountability in cost control in works projects undertaken by the Works Bureau and its departments, the appointment of surveyors was necessary. He was disappointed at the indifferent attitude of the Administration towards the views of the surveying profession. He called on the Administration to address their concerns and discuss the matter with the profession. S for W (Atg) said that the Administration would be pleased to exchange ideas with the profession.

Dredging and reclamation works

8. Mr WONG Yung-kan expressed concern about the adverse effects of dredging and reclamation on the marine environment. Referring to the dredging works at Penny's Bay, he queried whether the Administration had any effective means to monitor the operation. S for W (Atg) said in response that an Environment Impact Assessment had to be conducted prior to the commencement of each and every major works project. In implementing the project, the contractor would need to comply with the requirements as set out in the permit issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Both EPD and the works department concerned would closely monitor the progress of works to ensure compliance with the permit conditions.

9. Mr WONG further pointed out that the extent of pollution caused by dredging and reclamation could not be clearly reflected as the Administration had selectively taken water samples from areas where the water was clear. The Director of Civil Engineering (DCE) explained that prior to the commencement of dredging or reclamation works, EPD would conduct a base-line monitoring of water quality. In the course of construction, water samples would be taken each day or every two days from a number of locations and a comparison would be made with the samples taken before the commencement of works. Where the quality of water had deteriorated to a certain extent, affected fishermen would be eligible for an ex gratia compensation. However, as the source of pollutants was often difficult to ascertain, it would not be easy to hold a particular contractor responsible. The Chairman suggested that Mr WONG followed up his complaint about the Penny's Bay case with the departments concerned.

Salary structure of resident engineers

10. Ir Dr HO Chung-tai noted with concern the recent changes in the salary structure of resident site staff (RSS) who were employed by consultants on contract terms. He pointed out that RSS who were not able to secure an employment contract within four

months upon the expiry of the previous contract as RSS would lose their status as “serving RSS”. Should they be employed as RSS in another works project afterwards, they would have to be employed as “non-serving RSS”. Such a measure discouraged experienced engineers, particularly those engineers who returned to HK after further studies abroad, from working on Government projects, resulting in loss of expertise in the public sector. Ir Dr HO said that he had already brought the matter to the attention of the Chief Executive and he enquired how the Administration proposed to deal with the problem.

11. S for W (Atg) said that the Administration was aware of the problem and had in fact worked out a more relaxed arrangement after consultation with the profession. Based on the merits of each case, the Administration would exercise discretion as to whether RSS should be employed on “serving-RSS” terms in a new employment contract after the expiry of four months of the previous employment contract. This relaxed arrangement had addressed some of the concerns of the profession. S for W (Atg) stressed that as the salary scale of engineers employed by Government had been adjusted, there was always the question of different pay for new recruits and serving staff of the same rank. Ir Dr HO considered that the four-month limitation period should be removed altogether. He was also of the view that projects of Mass Transit Railway Corporation and Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation should also be regarded as Government projects for the purpose of determining the salary of engineers.

Slope safety

12. While appreciating the efforts made by the Administration in improving slope safety, Mr LAU Ping-cheung pointed out that the present appearance of slopes, particularly those at the Anderson Road Quarry was an eyesore to the public and landscape treatment was necessary to improve the aesthetics of slopes. DCE advised that to enhance the aesthetic aspects of slope works, the Civil Engineering Department and the Highways Department had jointly produced the Technical Guidelines on Landscape Treatment and Bio-Engineering for Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls. Under these guidelines, every slope upgraded under the Landslip Preventive Programme would be landscaped. Meanwhile, efforts would be made to effect control on the use of shotcrete in slope maintenance works and to progressively improve the appearance of slopes in the course of maintenance. Plans were underway to landscape the slopes at the Anderson Road Quarry and treatment works were expected to commence in about a year’s time.

13. Responding to Mr IP Kwok-him on the assistance given to owners/owners corporations in the maintenance of private slopes, DCE made the following points -

- (a) the task of identifying the maintenance responsibility of man-made slopes had been completed;
- (b) a register on maintenance responsibility of slopes was placed at the Slope Maintenance Information Centre in North Point Government

Offices;

- (c) the computerised Slope Maintenance Responsibility Information System would be put on the Internet by December 2000;
- (d) various information pamphlets and booklets providing guidance on slope maintenance and what to do upon receipt of a Dangerous Hillside Order were made available to members of the public. Public awareness on the need for slope maintenance was enhanced through public education programmes; and
- (e) The Community Advisory Unit had been proactively providing assistance to owners on slope maintenance and in discharging Dangerous Hillside Orders.

14. In response to members, the Administration would provide information on the assistance given to owners in maintaining slopes and on the number of substandard slopes which had been rectified as a result.

(Post meeting note: An information note entitled “Community Advisory Unit-Progress Report”, a Layman’s Guide to Slope Maintenance, a guidance booklet on “What to do when you receive a Dangerous Hillside Order”, a leaflet on “Keep Your Slopes Safe”, and a leaflet on “Slope Safety Hotline”, together with an information note on slope safety had been provided by the Administration and circulated to members under LegCo Paper Nos. CB(1) 86/00-01 and CB(1) 107/00-01).

Flood prevention

15. On the progress of the flood prevention programme, the Director of Drainage Services (DDS) said that there had been a robust strategy for flood prevention territory-wide. The Administration was actively implementing a series of major flood control projects in the New Territories and West Kowloon at a cost of about \$12 billion. In addition, further drainage improvement projects, valued at \$5 billion, in the various flood prone areas were being planned. Large scale river training projects were in hand and good progress was attained. In the North West New Territories, over 18 kilometres of drainage channels had been constructed and a further 11 kilometres was underway. In the Northern New Territories, the construction of 18 kilometres of drainage channels in the River Indus and River Beas was in progress. Planning and design for another 26 kilometres of drainage channels including the Yuen Long Bypass floodway, the upper reaches of Kam Tin River, Ngau Tam Mei Drainage Channel and some small channels, were underway. In addition, 19 village flood protection schemes to protect low-lying village were constructed. A new scheme at Pok Wai would be completed in 2002 while another seven schemes were at the planning and detailed design stage. Meanwhile, a project for the construction of a flood storage tank underneath Tai Hang Tung Playground

and a drainage transfer scheme from Kowloon Tong to Kai Tak Nullah was underway. When all these schemes were completed, they would protect the public from major storm events.

16. Mr Henry WU King-cheong enquired about the flood prevention standards adopted in Hong Kong and how these compared with those of Shenzhen. He was of the view that the money spent on drainage improvement works would be futile if the standards of protection achieved by both sides were inadequate.

17. DDS advised that flood prevention standards should be set on a value-for-money basis. He believed that the standards set for the flood prevention projects were adequate and value-for-money for the types of storms in Hong Kong. If the standards of protection were set to protect against the worst scenario of extreme rainfall intensity for a sustained period, it would be seen to be over-investing. The standards of protection were pitched at a return period of 1 in 200 years for main drainage and major nullahs and 1 in 50 years for trunk drains. These standards however were not always achievable in congested and developed urban areas. DDS further advised that the Administration had been working closely with the Shenzhen authorities on the river training works of the Shenzhen River. Although the standard expected by the Shenzhen authorities was not known, the money spent on both sides of the border on training of Shenzhen River was reasonable and had achieved adequate protection.

18. Addressing Mr WU's concern that the drainage transfer scheme from Kowloon Tong to Kai Tak Nullah would merely transfer the flooding problem from one place to another, DDS explained that the capacity of Kai Tak Nullah was adequate to take the amount of water and divert it from the catchment at Mongkok. The flood storage tank at the Tai Hang Tung Playground would hold the water during the peak of the rainstorm and later transfer it out to the sea. Therefore, the implementation of the scheme would not transfer the problem from Mongkok to another area.

Water supply

19. Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip enquired whether, in the light of the deteriorating quality of Dongjiang water, the Administration would identify alternative water resources. The Deputy Secretary for Works (Works Policy) said in response that the quality of Dongjiang water started to deteriorate in 1993/1994 and was at its worst in 1998. With the commissioning of the bio-nitrification plant in 1999, the quality of water had since improved. Further improvements would be expected upon the completion of the closed aqueduct which commenced construction in August 2000. Efforts had been made by the Mainland authorities in tackling the pollution problem at source. The quality of water was closely monitored by the authorities on both sides of the border. Notwithstanding, the Administration had always explored alternative water resources which included the extension of water catchment areas, the re-cycling of treated water, the desalination of seawater and the supply from Xijiang.

20. Responding to Mr IP Kwok-him, S for W (Atg) said that the Administration had always and would continue to discuss with the Guangdong authorities on the adjustment of water supply. As regards the replacement and rehabilitation programme of aged mains, the Director of Water Supplies advised that the programme was meant to upgrade the distribution system. It was not related to water quality. Priority would be given to upgrading the watermains which were susceptible to leakage and bursts. The programme would be expected to last for 10 to 20 years.

II Briefing by the Secretary for Planning and Lands on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2000

21. The Secretary for Planning and Lands (SPL) briefly took members through the progress and achievements made with regard to planning strategy, urban renewal, building safety and maintenance by highlighting the salient points of a set of material prepared by the Planning and Lands Bureau (PLB) entitled "Developing Hong Kong" which was tabled at the meeting and circulated to members vide LC Paper No CB(1)73/00-01.

Building safety and maintenance

Clearance of unauthorized building works and illegal rooftop structures

22. On the clearance of unauthorized building works (UBWs), the Director of Buildings (D of B) said that there was no evidence to show that the number of UBWs had increased substantially. A total of 10,000 UBWs had been cleared from the 300 buildings which were targeted for removal of UBWs last year. The rate of compliance with the notice for removal of UBWs had risen from between 20% to 30% to 76%. The Buildings Department aimed at the removal of UBWs from 400 target buildings in 2000 and 900 target buildings in 2001. It was hoped that the rate of clearance of UBWs would be further stepped up. The Administration would soon provide a paper detailing the strategy for clearance of UBWs to the Panel.

23. While appreciating the efforts of the Administration in clearing UBWs, Ir Dr HO Chung-tai said that strengthening enforcement actions against UBWs was but one way to tackle the problem. A better approach should be to encourage the owners concerned to voluntarily demolish their UBWs.

24. Regarding Mr IP Kwok-him's enquiry about mandatory inspection and maintenance of buildings, SPL said that the Administration planned to seek the Panel's views on the proposed strategy for building safety and maintenance. A paper on the subject would be issued for public consultation in November 2000. The Administration would consult Members, District Councils and the building industry. The Administration considered it important to gain public support for the implementation of any strategy.

25. Referring to page 11 of the information booklet prepared by PLB regarding the pledge to clear 12,000 existing illegal rooftop structures on single-staircase buildings in seven years, Mr Henry WU King-cheong doubted the viability of meeting the target given that the Administration had succeeded in clearing illegal roof-top structures on 120 single-staircase buildings only this year. D of B advised that there were 4500 single-staircase buildings where unauthorized rooftop structures were found. The roofs of 1,300 of these buildings were fully covered with illegal structures. Given the fire hazards posed by these buildings, the Administration aimed to clear all unauthorized rooftop structures on the remaining 1,200 buildings in three years, instead of six years. As regards illegal rooftop structures on single-staircase building outside this category, Buildings Department (BD) aimed to clear all in seven years. SPL added that the clearance programme would be people-oriented and rehousing assistance would be sought from the Housing Department.

26. On the Chairman's concern about the availability of manpower to meet the targets as regards removal of UBWs and illegal rooftop structures, SPL said that since a high priority had been accorded to building safety and maintenance, sufficient resources would be allocated to meet the pledges. He hoped that the work of BD would help create a culture whereby building owners were aware of and ready to discharge their responsibility to upkeep their buildings. Proper maintenance of buildings would not only increase their value, but would also extend their life span, making them more comfortable to live in. With increased awareness on the part of owners on preventive maintenance of buildings, less resources and manpower would be needed in taking enforcement actions.

Advertisement signboards

27. Responding to Mr IP Kwok-him's enquiry on the implementation plan for registration of advertisement signboards, the Head, Task Force on Building Safety and Preventive Maintenance advised that according to BD's estimate, there were about 220,000 signboards in Hong Kong, with a growth rate of 3% and an abandonment rate of 10% per year. Based on the outcome of the consultation conducted last year, there was wide support for the introduction of a registration system for signboards. The Task Force on Building Safety and Preventive Maintenance would be formulating a package of proposals on the implementation of a statutory registration system for signboards, taking into account the views gathered from the consultation exercise. The Task Force would consult members on these proposals later.

Urban renewal

Preservation of buildings and sites of historical, cultural or architectural interest

28. On Mr IP Kwok-him's enquiry about the preservation of buildings and sites of historical, cultural or architectural interest, SPL advised that PLB was committed to preserving the 27 identified buildings in the nine urban renewal target areas. The task of

preserving buildings and sites of value outside the urban renewal target areas was under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). PLB had and would assist HAB in land use and planning aspects.

29. Responding to Mr Henry WU King-cheong about the compatibility of the identified preserved buildings with the surrounding area, SPL said that in planning for the redevelopment of the urban renewal target areas, priority would be given to preserving these buildings. Instead of preserving individual buildings on a stand-alone basis, the Administration would endeavour to plan the development of the whole area with reference to the buildings to be preserved to ensure their compatibility with the surrounding environment. The Administration would adopt the good practice of the Land Development Corporation (LDC) on preservation of buildings of value as in the case of a redeveloped site in Western District.

30. The Deputy Secretary for Planning and Lands (Urban Renewal and Buildings) (DSPL(URB)) supplemented that in redeveloping the urban renewal target areas where identified buildings of historical, cultural or architectural interest were situated, consideration would be given to transferring the plot ratio of these buildings to other buildings within the same project area. In this way, resources for urban renewal could be deployed to preserve the buildings while improving the built environment.

31. Mr LAU Ping-cheung said that the Administration's proposal to transfer the plot ratio of preserved buildings or sites to the surrounding areas was welcomed by the building profession as the interest of owners of the preserved buildings would not be jeopardized. DSPL(URB) said that PLB had been reviewing with HAB on how preservation of identified buildings and sites could be better achieved. Owners of buildings and sites of preserved value had indicated their willingness to preserve the buildings provided that they did not have to incur financial losses. The proposed transfer of plot ratio was considered an effective measure. However, there were legal and technical issues that had to be sorted out amongst the departments concerned and PLB would provide assistance to HAB in this respect.

Compensation and rehousing arrangements

32. On Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip's concern about the compensation and rehousing arrangements for owners/tenants affected by urban renewal projects, SPL assured members that the Administration had committed to adopting a people-oriented approach in urban renewal. He said that the enactment of the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance was meant to overcome the constraints faced by LDC in implementing urban renewal projects. DSPL(URB) supplemented that a review on the compensation arrangements for owners/tenants of domestic, commercial and industrial premises affected by urban renewal was underway. The Administration would submit its proposals to members for consideration in November 2000.

33. As for rehousing arrangements, DSPL(URB) advised that both the Housing

Authority and the Housing Society had undertaken to provide an annual quota of 1,000 public rental housing units for rehousing tenants affected by urban renewal projects. They had also agreed to allocate 20% of their annual quota for compassionate rehousing of affected tenants at the discretion of the Urban Renewal Authority. These rehousing arrangements should be able to meet the needs of the affected tenants.

Land resumption

34. Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip noted with concern the impact of land resumption on industrial development. He pointed out that as a result of land resumption arising from urban renewal, rail projects and public works projects, a number of dockyards and factories were forced out of business while some industries had to be relocated to the Mainland. This had seriously affected the survival of some industries as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In response, SPL said that the Administration had never wished to drive SMEs out of business as a result of land resumption. On many occasions, the Administration had assisted in reprovisioning of the affected business as in the case of Tsing Yi Shipyard. In the course of land resumption, PLB would consult the Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB) on the impact of land resumption on SMEs concerned. He suggested and members agreed that the matter should be further followed up by the Panel and that representatives of CIB should be invited to attend the meeting when the matter was discussed.

Clerk to
note

35. Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him wished to record his appreciation for the work of PLB in urban renewal. He said that PLB had done the best it could and it was up to members to help achieve the objectives in making Hong Kong a better place to live in. He would give his support in achieving these objectives. SPL thanked Mr SHEK for his support. He said that he was grateful to Mr SHEK for his guidance in the formulation of the urban renewal strategy and the drafting of the Urban Renewal Authority Bill.

Engagement of professionals

36. Responding to Ir Dr HO Chung-tai about the need for enhanced engagement of professionals in areas relating to building facilities, D of B agreed that strengthening the involvement of professionals in those areas would help ensure building safety. He said that the Administration had been working with the building professions to devise measures to enhance their professionalism and accountability, in particular, on how their auditing role could be strengthened.

37. Mr LAU Ping-cheung said that he was given to know that there was a trend for some Government departments, as part of the resource allocation exercise, to engage non-professionals to take up professional work. This had been a cause for concern to the building profession as this practice would not only undermine the quality of service provided to members of the public but would also affect their job opportunities.

38. SPL said that it was the responsibility of the respective departments to

rationality allocate their resources. Where necessary, the departments concerned would apply for additional resources. He invited the heads of the respective departments to apprise members on the engagement of professionals within their departments-

- (a) The Director of Lands categorically assured members that the Lands Departments would not employ non-professional staff to undertake professional work. He however pointed out that there was a lot of technical work in the department which could be undertaken by technical and non-professional staff;
- (b) D of B also assured members that the Buildings Department would not engage non-professionals to undertake professional work. He said that assistance was provided to professionals in the discharge of duties and the department was considering the viability of contracting out part of its work;
- (c) The Director of Planning (Acting) said that all the professional work of the department was undertaken by professionals. Although some of the work had been assigned to consultants, care was taken to ensure that the consultants engaged professionals to do professional work; and
- (d) The Land Registrar (Acting) said that there were both professional and non-professional staff within the Land Registry. There was a clear delineation of duties between professional and non-professional staff. Professionals were engaged in dealing with legal and land registration matters.

Revamping the Buildings Ordinance

39. Ir Dr HO Chung-tai welcomed the Administration's initiatives in modernising and liberalising the Buildings Ordinance with the objectives of attaining sustainable development and reducing construction waste, etc. He enquired about the timetable for introducing legislative changes. SPL said that before introducing amendments to the Buildings Ordinance, the Administration would consult the public, the trade and Members of this Council. To this end, a series of consultation papers would be issued in November/December this year to solicit the views of Members and the public on the way forward.

III Any other business

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:30 pm.

Action

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Legislative Council Secretariat

23 November 2000