

Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

**Questions raised by members on the statement made by
the Chief Secretary for Administration at the meeting on 21 February 2006**

1. The difficulties mentioned by the Chief Secretary for Administration in relation to the Government's funding procedures, i.e. the uncertainty about the continued availability of sufficient funds for sustainable operation of the arts and cultural facilities in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) in the long run, should not arise. The Subcommittee has advocated an open mind in exploring various forms of funding arrangements, such as the arrangements for the setting up of the Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation and the Airport Authority as well as the setting up of a dedicated fund as in the case of the Innovation and Technology Fund. These funding arrangements are subject to the approval of the Legislative Council and allow the organization concerned to plan ahead and implement its activities without having to seek appropriations on an annual basis. Will the Government adopt an open mind in this respect and seriously examine the merits of the development and funding approach for the WKCD project recommended by the Subcommittee?
2. If the Government considers the option of setting up a dedicated fund for the development and management of the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in WKCD, will the Government deposit all proceeds from the sale of the residential and commercial lots in the West Kowloon Reclamation (WKR) into the General Revenue Account before appropriating funds to the dedicated fund or it will inject the proceeds directly into the fund. If the latter arrangement is adopted, will it involve any legislative process and whether the statutory body for the WKCD project should be set up before the injection of the fund can take place?
3. Will the Government consider progressive implementation of the development of WKCD, in particular the core arts and cultural facilities to allow flexibility and to take into account the needs of the community which may change over time. Will there be a master plan covering the entire development including the distribution of residential and commercial components to allow phased development without compromising the integrity of the WKCD project?

4. Will the timing and functions of the statutory body be part of the subject areas for public consultation? Will the Government consider setting up the statutory body to spearhead the WKCD project before the Government finalizes its master plan?
5. In considering the development of WKCD under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, will the Government strictly follow the basic principles along the adoption of a PPP project, which include ensuring transparency and accountability and allowing the Legislature to play an active role in monitoring the project?
6. How far and in what ways will LegCo be able to monitor the planning and implementation of the WKCD project especially if the PPP approach is to be adopted for the delivery of the project?
7. At what time will the Administration disclose more details on the financial aspects of the WKCD project? Will the Consultative Committee conduct a comparative analysis of the efficacy and risks of possible PPP modes vis-a-vis the “traditional” funding approach for the construction of the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD? It is the Subcommittee’s recommendation that PPP should be adopted in the operation and management of arts and cultural facilities.
8. The Administration should spell out in specific terms the Government’s cultural policy and explain how the WKCD project would help realize the relevant policy objectives.
9. The Administration is requested to elaborate its stance on the implementation of an arts accountability system in WKCD, and to respond to the relevant recommendation of the Subcommittee set out in paragraphs 4.15, 6.26 of its Phase II report and paragraph 4.26 of the Compendium of Public Views Submitted to the Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
10. How transparent would the Consultative Committee and its three Advisory Groups conduct their work? Who would be appointed to the Consultative Committee and the Advisory Groups? Will organizations and groups in the arts and cultural sector be allowed to nominate their representatives to sit on the committee and advisory groups?
11. Upon the termination of the Invitation for Proposals (IFP) process, the Administration should state unequivocally which elements of the WKCD project that had been pursued under the IFP process would still be upheld or adopted and which would be dropped or reviewed.

12. The Administration has indicated that it will adhere to the objective of developing the WKCD into a world-class integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district. Will the Government review this premise? Will the Government take a fresh look at the planning of the location of core arts and cultural facilities along the waterfront of Victoria Harbour instead of just focusing on the West Kowloon Reclamation? What other planning parameters, e.g. social integration and integration with old urban areas, will also be considered in the review?

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