

Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

**Questions raised and information requested by members
at the meeting on 30 May 2008**

Administration to provide written response

1. How could the Administration assure Members that the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project would not end up as a failure? Could the Administration figure out the "worst scenario" of the WKCD project and provide an estimate on any supplementary funding provision required in such a scenario?
2. The Administration is requested to conduct further analyses on the investment returns and the inflation of construction costs.
3. As returns from retail, dining and entertainment facilities make up the lifeline of WKCD, the Administration is requested to provide more details of these facilities such as their layouts, settings, anticipated pedestrian flow, business plans and measures to enhance the viability of these facilities. The Administration should also advise on its plans to strengthen WKCD's connectivity with neighbouring areas.
4. Will the Administration consider seeking funding approval only for the Phase I development of WKCD at this stage and conduct a thorough review before moving onto Phase II to ascertain whether any adjustment in the scale of the project is required?
5. The current estimates are worked out by assuming that the "design and build" approach will be adopted for the arts and cultural facilities. Will the Administration consider adopting other approaches such as drawing up the detailed design first and then tender out the construction works under a separate contract for certain facilities such as the M+ and the major performance venues? What will be the impact on the estimated funding requirement if the latter approach is adopted?
6. Will the Administration give second thoughts to engaging an international operator to operate M+?
7. On what basis does the Administration consider that the provision of \$1,214 million (covering \$1 billion initial collection cost and an annual collection budget of \$20 million) is enough for acquiring collections of world standards?

8. Is it possible to further downsize **M+**?
9. The Administration is requested to illustrate the ideas/concepts for **M+** using concrete local and/or overseas examples. The Administration is also requested to make use of the existing museum facilities and collections on visual culture to demonstrate to the public on what **M+** is like?
10. The Administration should explain how the costs for major renovation or reconstruction of the aged buildings in WKCD would be financed after 50 years.

Specialist Adviser to provide written response

1. The Specialist Adviser has expressed the view that it is possible for the WKCD project to achieve financial sustainability with the upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion, subject to certain amendments to the current plans or certain conditions. Please elaborate on the proposed amendments/conditions.
2. In choosing overseas examples for comparison for **M+** and the WKCD Authority, is the Specialist Adviser actually comparing like with like? Please elaborate.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 June 2008