

Panel on Home Affairs

List of outstanding items for discussion

(as at 1 February 2005)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Management and resumption of private streets

This subject was discussed at the Legislative Council (LegCo) Members' meetings with Kowloon City District Council (DC) and Wanchai DC on 14 March 2002 and 3 April 2003 respectively. Some DC members suggested that the Administration should introduce legislation to improve the management of private streets.

To be confirmed

A motion on "Resumption of private streets" moved by Mr IP Kwok-him and amended by Mrs Sophie LEUNG was carried at the Council meeting on 11 June 2003.

2. Grant of land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organisations

An oral question was raised at the Council meeting on 13 November 2002 about the grant of government land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organisations for use as clubs or clubhouses. The Administration has been asked to review the criteria for the grant of land for sports and recreational uses.

To be confirmed

3. Enforcement of maintenance order

To be confirmed

a. Setting up an intermediary body for the collection of maintenance payments

Item proposed by Miss CHOY So-yuk. This issue was last discussed by the Panel on 8 February 2002. The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has requested this Panel to discuss the setting up of such an intermediary body.

b. Streamlining the relevant court procedures

The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has requested the Panel on

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Administration of Justice and Legal Services (AJLS Panel) to follow up with the Administration on ways to streamline court procedures in relation to enforcement of maintenance order and address the problem of evasion of service of summons by maintenance payers who have defaulted on their maintenance payments. Some members of the Bills Committee have suggested that the summons should be considered to have been served so long as the summons has been served to the address provided by the payer.

AJLS Panel suggests that as this item falls under the policy area of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), it is more appropriate for it to be followed up by this Panel.

4. Computer programme for calculation of interest and surcharge on arrears of maintenance

The subject was last discussed on 22 March 2004. The Administration has advised that it will be ready to brief the Panel on the implementation of the computer programme in February 2005. The Panel has requested the Administration to first provide a paper on the subject by 28 January 2005 for members' consideration as to whether or not it would be necessary to discuss the paper at a meeting of the Panel.

February 2005

5. Future development of public libraries

The Panel received the Administration's briefing on the consultancy report on the future development of public libraries on 13 December 2002. Members requested the Administration to consult the Panel before finalizing its recommendations and provide an interim report to the Panel when it was available.

To be confirmed

6. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk

At the meeting of the Duty Roster Members (DRMs) with representatives of the Association of the New Territories

To be confirmed^{Note}

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for discussion**

(NT) Indigenous Residents on 16 December 2002, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the Heung Yee Kuk (HYK) Ordinance (Cap. 1097) under which the NT Justices of the Peace (JPs) served as Ex Officio Councillors of the Full Council and Ex Officio Members of the Executive Committee of HYK. They considered that the NT JPs, and Special Councillors and Co-opted Councillors of HYK could not represent and protect the interests of the villagers and indigenous inhabitants of NT and requested that the HYK membership should be reviewed. Their views were referred to this Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item along with item 9 on traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT.

Note

The Administration has advised that it does not propose to discuss this item and item 9 in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

7. Promotion of youth development

At the policy briefing held on 15 January 2003, members noted that the Commission on Youth (COY) had submitted a draft report on unemployment problems of young people to the Chief Executive. The Panel requested to be briefed on how HAB would cooperate with COY in tackling youth problems.

To be confirmed

8. Sports policy review and problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations

The new administrative structure for sports development was discussed by the Panel on 14 and 29 July 2003. Supplementary information provided by the Administration on the new administrative structure was issued to members under LC Paper No. CB(2)178/03-04 on 24 October 2003.

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 October 2003, Mr Albert CHAN proposed to discuss problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations in the areas of administration, financial arrangements, structures and selection of members.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

9. Traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT

At LegCo Members' meetings with HYK Councillors on 10 June 2003 and 2 March 2004, issues relating to the enactment of legislation to implement Article 40 of the Basic Law and exemption from payment of Government rent were discussed. Members agreed that the issues involving policy consideration about the traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers in NT should be referred to this Panel for follow-up. Members also suggested that HYK Councillors should be invited to attend the relevant meeting(s) of this Panel to give views when the issues were discussed.

To be confirmed^{Note}

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item together with item 6 on membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of HYK.

Note

The Administration has advised that it does not propose to discuss this item and item 6 in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

10. Impact of authorised football betting

At the Council meeting on 9 July 2003, the Administration undertook to review its policy of authorisation of football betting against certain benchmarks, such as changes in the intensity of illegal gambling activities and prevalence of problem and pathological gamblers, and report the findings to this Panel after authorised football betting had been implemented for two years.

To be confirmed

The Panel discussed "Measures to address gambling-related problems" at the meeting on 12 December 2003 and "Codes of Practice for the conduct of football betting and lotteries" on 13 February 2004.

11. Review of built heritage conservation policy

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

When the subject was last discussed on 9 November 2004, the Administration reported on the major findings of the first stage public consultation on the review conducted from February to May 2004. HAB is conducting an in-depth analysis on views received and is formulating proposals on implementation measures for further public consultation in 2005. A report on the second stage of the review will be made to the Panel in July 2005.

July 2005

12. Provision of leisure and cultural services facilities

The subject was last discussed on 16 April 2004. According to the recommendations of the Subcommittee to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils, this Panel should follow up those outstanding projects involving leisure and cultural facilities and receive periodic reports from the Administration.

March 2005

At the LegCo Members' meeting with North DC members on 27 May 2004, request for the provision of a new civic centre in the North District was discussed. Some Members suggested that policy issues relating to the construction of civic facilities in various districts should be followed up by this Panel. A case conference was held on 20 July 2004 to discuss the request for the provision of a new civic centre in the North District. The Administration advised that consideration of adopting the "Private Sector Finance" approach for other capital projects would depend on the response of the private sector on the pilot projects which were still at a starting stage.

At the LegCo Members' meeting with Eastern DC members on 10 June 2004, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the delay in the construction of Siu Sai Wan Complex which was once included in the Government Priority Project Programme but had been deferred due to financial constraints. Members agreed that the above concerns raised by Eastern DC members should be referred to this Panel for consideration.

In his reply to a question raised on this subject matter at the Council meeting on 20 October 2004, the Secretary for Home Affairs undertook to provide a list of the outstanding projects

**Proposed timing
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of the two Provisional Municipal Councils which were subject to review in three months' time.

13. Review of advisory and statutory bodies

During the 2003-04 session the Administration provided three progress reports comprising 12 interim reports on the review to the Panel for discussion.

April 2005

The Panel discussed a progress report on the establishment of a consultative forum on 10 December 2004. The Administration plans to submit further interim reports on individual topics in April 2005.

14. Regulating property management companies by legislation

Item proposed by Miss TAM Heung-man on 12 October 2004. When the Panel discussed the Albert House case at the special meeting on 12 November 2004, the Administration informed the Panel that it planned to introduce the Building Management (Amendment) Bill (the Amendment Bill) into LegCo in April 2005. The Amendment Bill would include proposals aimed at strengthening regulatory control of property management companies.

April/May 2005
(tentative)

15. Safeguarding Hong Kong's core values

Item proposed by Miss TAM Heung-man on 12 October 2004. A group of professionals and academics initiated a declaration on safeguarding Hong Kong's core values around May/June 2004. In June 2004 the Chief Executive met with the group to hear their views.

To be confirmed

16. Promotion of creative industries

At the meeting on 12 October 2004, Mr Albert CHAN proposed to further discuss this item as he felt that the Administration had made little progress in promoting creative industries. The subject was last discussed on 13 June 2003.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

17. Report of the independent panel of inquiry to look into the incidents relating to the Equal Opportunities Commission

Item proposed by Mr Albert HO on 12 October 2004. The panel of inquiry is required to submit its report to the Administration by 15 February 2005.

To be confirmed

18. Progress report of Team Clean

The Home Affairs Department plans to brief the Panel on the above progress report.

To be confirmed

19. Funding proposal on hosting the 2009 East Asian Games

The Administration plans to consult the Panel on the funding proposal in May 2005 before seeking the Finance Committee's approval.

May 2005

20. Submission of reports by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to the United Nations under international human rights treaties

The second report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was submitted to the United Nations (UN) in June 2003. The report is scheduled for UN Committee hearing on 27 to 29 April 2005 in Geneva.

June 2005

The initial report of the HKSAR under the Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) was submitted to the UN in June 2003. The report is likely to be heard by the UN Committee in September 2005 in Geneva.

The Administration is currently preparing the HKSAR's second report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Pre-drafting consultations were conducted in March 2003. The Panel received views from deputations on the outline of topics to be included in the

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

report on 11 April 2003. The second report was due to be submitted on 31 October 2003. The UN Committee will advise on the hearing date after receiving the report.

The HKSAR's first report under the International Convention in the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) was submitted to the UN in late 2000. It was heard by the UN Committee in 2001. The HKSAR's second report will form part of China's combined 10th and 11th reports. The 10th and 11th reports of China were due to be submitted by 28 January 2003. HAB will initiate the pre-drafting consultations when the Central People's Government (CPG) calls for contribution to its report.

The HKSAR's second report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was submitted in early 2004 as part of China's combined 5th and 6th reports. The UN Committee has yet to announce the hearing date.

The Administration is currently preparing the HKSAR's second report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), which will form part of the China's 4th and 5th combined reports. Pre-drafting consultations were conducted between 7 May and 18 June 2004. The Panel received views from deputations on the outline of topics to be covered in the report on 11 June 2004. The UN Committee will announce the hearing date after CPG has submitted the report. The second report is due to be submitted in 2005.

The Administration undertook in 2003 to provide the Panel with reports on annual overviews of developments relating to the various human rights treaties applicable to Hong Kong. The first implementation report provided by the Administration was discussed by the Panel on 11 June 2004.

21. Revision of fees and charges for services not directly affecting people's livelihood under the purview of HAB

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Administration has advised that it will be ready to brief the Panel on its proposal in February 2005. The Panel has requested the Administration to first provide a paper on the subject by 28 January 2005 for members' consideration on the appropriate timing of discussion of the paper.

February 2005

22. Public consultation on legislating against racial discrimination

The Panel discussed the consultation paper entitled "Legislating against Racial Discrimination" on 9 November 2004 and met with deputations on the consultation paper on 11 December 2004. As proposed by Ms Emily LAU, the Panel requested the Administration to give a report on the outcome of the consultation exercise for further discussion by the Panel around February 2005.

April 2005

The Administration informed the Panel in writing on 22 December 2004 that as the consultation period had been extended to 8 February 2005, the Administration would need to defer reporting on the outcome to either the March or April meetings.

23. Works project

The Administration plans to consult the Panel on the works project on "Local Open Space in Areas 25,25A and 25B, Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long" in May 2005.

May 2005

Note

Changes proposed by the Administration are in italics.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
1 February 2005