

Panel on Housing

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 4 May 2005)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. General Rent Allowance Scheme

The subject was proposed by the Administration in the previous term.

To be decided

2. Public consultation on policy on public housing rent

The subject was proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

3. Disposal of surplus Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats and Private Sector Participation Scheme (PSPS) flats

The Panel discussed the subject at various meetings in the 2003-04 session. Two joint meetings with the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works were held on 17 February and 8 March 2004 to discuss the disposal of surplus HOS and PSPS flats in the wake of the agreement reached by the Administration with the developer of the Hunghom Peninsula PSPS project over the disposal of the flats concerned. At the meeting on 7 June 2004, the Panel further discussed the proposed use of surplus HOS flats for reprovisioning departmental quarters for disciplinary services. Disposal of Kingsford Terrace PSPS flats was also discussed at the Panel meeting on 5 July 2004. At the meeting on 6 December 2004, the Panel further discussed the disposal of the Hunghom Peninsula PSPS flats. The Panel may wish to follow up the general issue of disposal of HOS flats, recently discussed at the meeting on 12 April 2005, from time to time.

As and when
necessary

Proposed timing for discussion

4. Review of domestic rent policy

In respect of the Judicial Review of the Housing Authority (HA)'s decisions to defer the review of public rental housing (PRH) rents in 2001 and 2002, the Court of First Instance ruled in favour of the two applicants for the Judicial Review. Pursuant to this outcome, the Panel held a special meeting on 16 July 2003 to discuss the issue of median rent-to-income ratio (MRIR) for PRH flats. The Panel held another special meeting on 25 March 2004 to discuss the Administration's proposed framework for reviewing PRH rents. The Panel further discussed the subject at the meeting on 29 November 2004 after the judgment concerning the MRIR case was delivered by the Court of Appeal on 22 November 2004. The Panel may wish to follow up the issue from time to time.

As and when necessary

5. Review of the public housing policy to help address the problem of ageing population

When the review of income and asset limits for Waiting List applicants was discussed at the meeting on 7 February 2005, members urged the Administration to significantly raise the asset limits for the elderly households and relax the PRH eligibility criteria for the elderly in general in preparation for the problem of ageing population in Hong Kong. At the meeting between LegCo Members and the Tsuen Wan District Council on 6 January 2005, the problem of ageing population was also discussed. Various proposals on how assistance to the elderly could be improved through adjusting the public housing policy were referred to the Panel for necessary follow-up. The referral and the relevant extracts of minutes were circulated to Panel members vide LC Paper No. CB(1) 996/04-05 on 25 February 2005.

To be decided

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

6. Allocation of PRH flats for the elderly to other PRH applicants

Proposed by Mr Albert CHAN. He called upon the Panel to discuss the general issue of allocating PRH flats for the elderly to other categories of PRH applicants.

To be decided

7. Divestment of Housing Authority's retail and car-parking facilities

The subject was discussed at the meetings of the Panel on 3 November and 1 December 2003 as well as 3 May, 5 July and 22 November 2004. At the last meeting, a motion urging HA to put the relevant listing arrangements on hold until a consensus had been reached between The Link Management Limited and the commercial tenants was carried. The listing was subsequently aborted as a result of the application of a judicial review by a PRH tenant.

To be decided