

立法會
Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the 9th meeting
held at the Legislative Council Chamber
on Friday, 7 April 2006, at 2:30 pm**

Members present:

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon MA Lik, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG
Hon KWONG Chi-kin
Hon TAM Heung-man

Members absent:

Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, BBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHIM Pui-chung

Public officers attending:

Mr Frederick MA Si-hang, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Alan LAI Nin, GBS, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Miss Amy TSE, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1

Mr Alfred FOK	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Miss Elizabeth TSE, JP	Director of Administration
Mrs Susan MAK, JP	Deputy Director of Administration
Mr Sidney CHAN	Assistant Director of Administration
Ms Annie CHOI	Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Transport)
Mr KONG Kwok-kwan	Acting Principal Transport Officer (Management) of Transport Department
Mr Y M LI	Project Manager of Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Miss Becky YU	Chief Council Secretary (1)1
Mrs Mary TANG	Senior Council Secretary (1)2
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

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Item No. 1 - FCR(2006-07)1

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MADE ON 8 FEBRUARY 2006**

Regarding EC(2005-06)14, Mr WONG Yung-kan reiterated his reservation on the filling of the two posts to head the two functional divisions under the Centre for Food Safety by medical officers rather than veterinarians and/or specialists in food safety. He said that he would vote against the proposal.

2. The Chairman put FCR(2006-07)1 except EC(2005-06)12 to the vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

EC(2005-06)12 Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Administration Wing of the Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary of Government Secretariat with immediate effect up to 31 March 2008 to coordinate and undertake the major tasks in implementation of the Tamar development project

3. Ir Dr Raymond HO declared that he was an executive director of one of the companies that would be participating in the tendering for the Tamar development project. He had written to the Chairmen earlier indicating that he would not take part in the voting of the proposal, but subsequently after seeking procedural advice, it was clarified that he could take part in the voting. As such, Ir Dr HO decided that he would take part in the voting on this staffing proposal.

4. Mr Patrick LAU also declared interest that he might participate in the tendering for the design of the Tamar development project. He would also take part in the voting on the staffing proposal.

Timing and justification for the creation of the post

5. Dr KWOK Ka-ki noted that there had been much controversy about the Tamar development project in terms of planning and usage. Despite the public's ongoing discussion on the concerns about the possible environmental and traffic impacts associated with the project, the Administration had not only failed to provide any positive response to address the concerns, it was now seeking Finance Committee (FC)'s approval for the creation of a directorate post to coordinate and undertake the major tasks in the implementation of the Tamar development project. He considered the said arrangement unacceptable and enquired whether the proposed post, apart from undertaking a coordinating role, would also be in charge of the redevelopment of the Government headquarters at the West Wing of the Central Government Offices (CGO), where much office space would be made available.

6. The Director of Administration (D of Adm) said that the Administration had considered in-situ redevelopment of CGO which was first proposed in 1990. As the present CGO was grossly under-developed, consideration had been given to optimizing the plot ratio and adopting a public-private partnership approach in redeveloping the site for public and private uses, such that the proceeds of the sale could be used to cover the redevelopment costs. However, the proposal was dropped in favour of the Tamar development project and the present thinking was that the intensity of development should be reduced. She added that the main duty of the proposed post was to implement the Tamar development project, including the reprovisioning of the Central Government Complex (CGC), the Legislative Council (LegCo) Complex (LCC) and the Civic Place. While the Tamar site was considered the most suitable site for the purposes, the Administration would need to justify its decision when seeking funding to proceed with the project.

7. Dr KWOK Ka-ki asked if the proposed post was also responsible for considering alternative reprovisioning options, such as the proposal of relocating CGC to the East Kowloon District put forward by the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB). Mr SIN Chung-kai further enquired if the post, which was created up to 31 March 2008, would be retained for evaluating and taking forward alternative reprovisioning options in the event that the funding for the Tamar development project was voted down by FC.

8. Expressing similar concerns, Mr Albert CHAN held the view that the way the Government developed the last remaining prime site in Central into government offices had given the public the impression that the project had aimed at boosting the personal glory of the Chief Executive (CE). He stressed that the interest of the public should be taken into account in the development of Tamar site, and that more open spaces along the Central waterfront should be provided for public enjoyment. The proposed provision of a 40-storey building at the Tamar site would indeed have impact on the air quality of the area. He added that the creation of a post for coordinating a project which had yet to be approved was also rare in the past. He sought clarification on whether the post would be tasked with the responsibility to analyze the feasibility of alternative reprovisioning options as requested by DAB, in addition to the preparatory work for the implementation of the Tamar development project. He said that the Administration would need to state clearly its stance on the matter.

9. D of Adm reiterated that the proposed post was created to coordinate implementation of the Tamar development project, including the preparatory work. The Administration had considered the various alternative options and concluded that the Tamar site was the best choice for reprovisioning CGC and LCC. She hoped that members would support the project.

10. Since the proposed post would be responsible for working out a detailed implementation programme, coordinating various bureaux/departments and compiling tender documents, Mr Alan LEONG opined that the creation of the post would hinge on the Tamar development project. Yet, the decision on the implementation of the project had not yet been made but the Administration was now seeking to create the post. He said that Members of the Civic Party had made it clear at the meetings of the Planning, Lands and Works (PLW) Panel and the Subcommittee to Review the Planning of the Central Waterfront (including the Tamar Site) (the Subcommittee) that they would not support the proposed creation of post unless the Administration was able to confirm and justify its decision on the choice of the Tamar Site for the project.

11. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung also questioned the propriety of creating the post before the project was approved. He said that he would prefer in-situ redevelopment of CGO and Murray Building rather than reprovisioning the Government headquarters to the Tamar site. Given the controversy of the Tamar development project, he considered that there was a need to further consult the public and invite expert views on the project. He therefore called upon members to object to the staffing proposal.

D of Adm said that the Administration had consulted the PLW Panel, the Subcommittee as well as the District Councils on the project. There was a need for the proposed post to coordinate and undertake the major tasks in the implementation of the Tamar development project, which included, among others, updating of user requirements, preparing tender documents and providing secretariat support to the interdepartmental Steering Committee and the Special Selection Board for the selection of tenders. Besides, staff resources would be required to conduct public consultation and collate views.

12. Given that the Tamar development had yet to be approved, Miss TAM Heung-man opined that the proposed creation of the post was like putting the cart before the horse. She said that Members of the Civic Party would object to the staffing proposal since they could not accept that the post should be created before the project was approved. It would be a waste of resources if the project did not materialize rendering the created post unnecessary. D of Adm did not agree with Miss TAM, adding that the proposed creation of post was part of the overall plan for the implementation of the project. There was a lot of preparatory and coordinating work which needed to be done before seeking funding approval for the project. If the Administration was unable to obtain the necessary approval from FC in implementing the Tamar development project, arrangements would be made to delete the supernumerary post created for the purpose.

13. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung held the view that the proposed post was unnecessary and wasteful given that apart from implementing the Tamar development project, the main duty of the proposed post was to persuade Members and the public that the reprovisioning of CGC and LCC at the Tamar site was the best choice. He failed to see the benefits of the Tamar development project which would give rise to environmental problems and worsen the already congested traffic between Central and Wanchai. Therefore, he was not prepared to support the staffing proposal. D of Adm said that the proposed post was necessary to coordinate and undertake the major tasks in the implementation of the Tamar development project.

14. Mr Martin LEE opined that the post in question would not have been proposed had the Government taken on board DAB Members' suggestion of reprovisioning CGC at the Kai Tak site. However, it appeared to him that DAB Members' stance had changed after their recent meeting with CE.

15. Given that reference had been made to DAB's discussion with the Administration on the Tamar development project, Mr LAU Kong-wah said that he had to clarify DAB's stance on the project. It had all along been DAB's stance that Kai Tak was the preferred site for the reprovisioning of CGC and LCC. DAB had put forward its views and justifications for giving preference to the Kai Tak site. The Administration had adopted its usual practice of responding to the views of DAB and had agreed to analyze and compare the two options. Both the Administration and DAB endeavoured to justify their choice based on public interest.

Environmental and traffic impacts of the Tamar development project

16. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that DAB remained of the view that the reprovisioning of CGC and LCC at the Kai Tak site of the Southeast Kowloon was a better option. DAB Members had made their stance clear at the Establishment Subcommittee (ESC) meeting when the present proposal was discussed. In fact, DAB had conducted a survey on the proposed reprovisioning in March 2006. Of the 923 interviewees, 29.3 % favoured the Kai Tak site, 31.5 % preferred the Tamar site while the remaining 40% had no particular preference. Given the divided views on the reprovisioning options, it had been hoped that the proposed post would also have the duty to analyze the merits of different options and release the findings of the analysis to Members and the public before a decision was made on the choice of site in June 2006. It was on that basis that DAB Members had supported the proposed post at the ESC meeting. D of Adm said that the Administration was aware of the concerns on the environmental and traffic impact of the Tamar development project as well as the need to preserve heritage and would take all these issues into consideration. In response to Mr Abraham SHEK's enquiry on whether the Administration would consider DAB's proposal of redeveloping the Kai Tak site as another CGC. D of Adm affirmed that the Tamar site was considered the best site for the new CGC and LCC.

17. Mr Alan LEONG recalled that at the Subcommittee's meeting on 3 April 2006, 21 deputations/individuals were invited to express their views. They had raised concern about the environmental and traffic impacts of the Tamar development project, inter alia, the "canyon effect" of buildings in trapping air pollutants. The proposed transport infrastructure providing a total of 13 roads and 8-lane traffic would also prevent the public from accessing the Central waterfront. It was disappointed that the Administration had used the findings of the environmental impact assessments (EIA) made years ago to address these concerns. He opined that as a responsible government, it was obliged to justify its decision and address any concerns raised. Since the Administration was not able to discharge its obligation, Members of the Civic Party were not prepared to support the proposed creation of post. Sharing similar concerns, Mr LEE Wing-tat opined that there might be a need to conduct a consultancy study on the contribution of tall buildings to the "canyon effect" in the busy Central District.

18. D of Adm said that in response to concerns on air impacts raised at the Subcommittee meeting on 3 April 2006, the Environmental Protection Department had subsequently issued a press statement stating that the 2001 EIA, which was prepared in accordance with international standards and approved by the Advisory Council on the Environment, had taken into account all scenarios, including the construction of the new CGC at the Tamar site. Its study was based on air quality modelling studies and had taken into consideration the impact of buildings on air quality. As regards the "canyon effect", D of Adm said that this would unlikely occur as the project would not be composed of two tall undivided blocks standing at both sides of a road. Instead, the LegCo Complex would comprise one low block

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and one higher block the height of which would not be more than 86 metres, whereas CGC would similarly have a low block and a higher block. The varying height of the buildings would facilitate air circulation. Mr LEE Wing-tat requested the Administration to release the EIA report to allay the concern of the green groups about the “canyon effect”. The Deputy Director of Administration (DD of Adm) said that the Administration had agreed to provide written response to the concerns about “canyon effect” raised at the Subcommittee meeting on 3 April 2006.

19. Given that the last EIA was conducted in 2001, Miss TAM Heung-man said that there might be a need to conduct a new EIA to take account of the latest developments. D of Adm said that an EIA would not be necessary as there had not been much change to the planning of the project since 2001.

Other use of the Tamar site

20. Mr Albert CHENG enquired about the use of the Tamar site if the funding proposal for the Tamar development project was voted down by FC. He said that the eventual use of the site would affect his voting as the site could be used for recreational purposes or be auctioned for sale. D of Adm explained that according to the Central District (Extension) Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) approved by the Town Planning Board, of the 4.2 hectares of land at the Tamar site, two hectares had been zoned “open space” and the remaining 2.2 hectares were zoned “Government, institution or community (GIC)”. The land use of the Tamar site would remain unchanged irrespective of whether the project was approved or not.

21. Mr Albert CHENG recalled that the Tamar site was formerly zoned for “commercial” use and later changed to “open space” and “GIC” uses. He asked whether the site would be reverted back to “commercial” use if the Tamar redevelopment project was voted down. D of Adm clarified that after completion of land formation works in 1998, the site was removed from the Application List and its use had been changed to “open space” and “GIC”. The proposed changes had been put to public consultation. Despite that about 70 objections to OZP had been received, none of them was against the proposed GIC use of the Tamar site.

Relocation of Government offices to CGC

22. Ms Audrey EU asked if the Secretary for Justice (SJ) would also be moving to the new CGC at the Tamar site. She noted that all along, SJ’s office was not situated within CGC but located near to the High Court. DD of Adm said that the former SJ had indicated that the Department of Justice would not be moving to the new CGC as she preferred her office near the High Court for operational reasons. The incumbent SJ shared the same view and would not be moving to the new CGC. Bureaux and departments had earlier been requested to indicate the number of staff who would be relocated from the existing Government headquarters at CGO and Murray Building to the new CGC at the Tamar site. Information on number of officers to be moved to the new CGC would be made available to members soon.

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23. Mr LAU Kong-wah opined that from an operational point of view, it would be best if all key Government officials could be housed within the same CGC. Therefore, he enquired if SJ would be persuaded to move to the new CGC at the Tamar site which was not far from the High Court. He also asked if other Bureau Secretaries had been consulted on their preference. DD of Adm said that the reprovisioning plans had yet to be finalized. An assessment would be made on the operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness of centralizing the operation of bureaux and departments which were currently distributed in different locations. More information in this respect would be made available by the end of April 2006.

24. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed dissatisfaction over the Administration's responses which had failed to explain the future planning for CGO and Murray Building after the proposed reprovisioning of CGC to the Tamar site. He asked if the Administration would take on board the requests of Members of the Democratic Party and DAB, such as imposing height restrictions, reducing the scale of development and reprovisioning CGC at the Kai Tak site, in an attempt to gain their support for the funding proposal. He noted that Members of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Union had also requested for the use of locally manufactured pre-fabricated components in the construction of CGC. D of Adm said that the present proposal was meant to seek funding for the creation of a supernumerary post to implement the Tamar development project. Further details on the implementation of the project would be provided at a later stage. She added that while the Administration would actively consider members' requests as far as practicable, no commitment could be made at this stage.

25. Referring to the submission from the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor which stressed the obligations of both LegCo and the Administration to allow demonstrations and other legitimate forms of expression of views in front of the new CGC and LCC at the Tamar site, the Chairman noted that it had also urged FC to ensure that the proposed post and all other related posts responsible for building facilities and implementing operational procedures were made aware of their obligations to facilitate the freedom of expression of views.

26. D of Adm said that the Administration respected the right of the members of the public to freely express their views through petitions and peaceful assembly. It would need to strike a balance when allowing these activities to proceed outside the precincts of CGC and LCC to also ensure that the efficient operation of LegCo and the Administration would not be affected. The matter would be looked into in the detailed design for the project. The Chairman hoped that enough public space would be provided to facilitate expression activities at the main entrance to the key buildings at the new CGC and LCC premises such that these activities would neither be too distanced from Members and Government officials. Hence, the use of underground entrance to the buildings should be avoided as far as possible.

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27. Mr James TIEN said that the staffing proposal was discussed by the ESC at its meeting on 8 February 2006. He said that Members of the Liberal Party (LP) were in support of the Tamar redevelopment project which proposed to re-provision CGC and LCC under one roof and would facilitate the work between the Administration and the Legislature. The shortage of space in the present LegCo Building also supported an early re-provisioning. Besides, the sale of the vacated CGO and Murray Building in the prime Central District would likely bring about more Government revenue than the Tamar site alone. Given that the Tamar redevelopment project had dwelled on for a long time, a decision should be made at this stage to avoid further delay on its implementation. According to an opinion poll conducted by LP regarding the re-provisioning of CGC at Tamar site, 52% of the 800 interviewees accepted the proposal, 22% of them were opposed to the proposal while 25% of them offered no comments. This indicated that there was majority support for the proposed re-provisioning.

28. In view of the objection against harbour reclamation and concerns about the need for protection of the Central waterfront and the blockage of view of the ridge line from the other side of the Victoria Harbour, Dr YEUNG Sum said that he would object to the Tamar development project. He held the view that the scope of development of the Tamar development project could be downsized if the existing Government headquarters at CGO and Murray Building were retained, thereby allowing more open spaces at the water front for the enjoyment of the public. He enquired about the Administration's latest thinking on the project. The Chairman also enquired about the future use of CGO and Murray Building upon the re-provisioning of CGC to the Tamar site. D of Adm said that this had yet to be decided pending the approval of the Tamar development project and factors, such as the number of staff who would not be moving to the new CGC and the availability of office space in other Government premises. As to the views from some District Council members and concerned groups on the need to preserve the heritage value of CGO and Murray Building, the declaration of these structures as historical buildings would be subject to the decision of the Secretary of Home Affairs under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53). The existing CGO and Murray Building were located within land designated for GIC uses. Any changes to the usage would have to be approved by the Town Planning Board and the Executive Council after public consultation.

29. Dr YEUNG Sum said that consideration could be given to retaining CGO and Murray Building as Government offices such that only CE and his principal officials would move to the Tamar complex, thereby scaling down the scope of development. D of Adm said that as the existing split locations of Government offices had undermined the operation of the Administration, it was hoped that the housing of CGC within the Tamar complex could lead to more efficient operation. The Administration was aware of the request for downsizing the scope of the development of the project and had been reviewing the space requirements of the different Policy Bureaux.

30. Ms Audrey EU pointed out that apart from the project, the redevelopment of CGO and Murray Building would also give rise to serious environmental and traffic impact in the Central District. She added that the Administration did not appear to have made any efforts to address the concerns about the environmental and traffic impacts associated with the Tamar development project raised by concern groups for quite some time. Instead of canvassing support from the political parties, the Administration should have met and exchanged ideas with the concern groups with a view to resolving the issues, which were backed by scientific findings. D of Adm said that the Administration would be pleased to meet with the concern groups and exchange views on the environmental and traffic impacts. Appropriate arrangements would be made.

Creation of job opportunities

31. Mr Frederick FUNG said that when the Administration lobbied his support for the Tamar development project, he had made it clear that he would support the project provided that the Administration would provide more open spaces at the Tamar site, impose height restrictions on buildings at the site and endeavour to create job opportunities for local workers. While the said conditions had largely been met under the revised proposal, efforts should be made to ensure that the project also meet with requirements set out in EIA report. He further sought the Administration's stance on the construction industry's request for the pre-fabricated components used in the project to be manufactured locally. D of Adm said that the tender documents would set out the tightened height restrictions for the project. The tenderers would be required to observe the town planning guidelines as well as the proposals on the protection of the harbour put forward by the concerned groups. Meanwhile, the Financial Secretary would consider the feasibility of using locally manufactured pre-fabricated components for the project, taking into account market response and legal implications.

32. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions would support the early implementation of the Tamar development project as this would create job opportunities for the many construction workers who were suffering from unemployment. He enquired if it was possible to set out in the tender documents requiring work processes under the project to be carried out in Hong Kong with a view to increasing the job opportunities for local workers. Consideration should also be given to using locally manufactured pre-fabricated components for the project.

33. While it was hoped that the implementation of the Tamar development project would provide the needed job opportunities for construction workers, D of Adm stressed that a balance had to be struck between the interests of workers and developers in the tendering of the project. There was also a need to ensure the cost-effectiveness of using locally manufactured pre-fabricated components. She nevertheless undertook to consider Mr WONG Kwok-hing's suggestions. DD of Adm added that the Administration was well aware of the need to tackle the

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unemployment situation of the construction industry. It was estimated that the project would be able to create 2 700 jobs. However, the Administration would need to consider market acceptance and legal implications in drafting the tender document to ensure impartiality. It was expected the drafting would be completed around August 2006. The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST) said that it was hoped that the annual investment of \$29 billion in public works would assist in resolving the problem.

34. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed concern about the adverse impact on job opportunities of construction workers if the scale of the Tamar development project was reduced. He enquired whether the reprovisioning of CGC to alternative sites with less space constraint would allow for the creation of more job opportunities for construction workers. D of Adm said that the estimate of 2 700 jobs to be created was based on the scope of the project as submitted to Public Works Subcommittee in 2003, using the formula for calculating estimates for public works projects. The estimates for the project would need to be reviewed taking into account latest developments, including user requirements, need for mitigating measures and underground tunnelling works to address environmental and traffic concerns, the latter of which would incur much higher labour and construction costs. The actual number of jobs to be created would depend on the finalized scope of works to be carried out under the project.

35. Given that the Administration had to abide by the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), Ms Audrey EU opined that there were difficulties in setting out in the tender document for the project requirements on the use of locally manufactured pre-fabricated components. She asked if this was the reason why the Administration could not commit to the construction sector on the use of locally manufactured pre-fabricated components for the project. D of Adm affirmed that this was a relevant consideration. However, efforts would be made to consider scope for maximizing job opportunities within the constraints set by WTO GPA.

36. Mr SIN Chung-kai noted that pre-fabricated components manufactured locally were used in a public housing project of the Housing Authority (HA) in Kwai Chung. As HA was also subject to the same obligations under the WTO Agreement, the housing project would provide useful reference for the Tamar development project. Mr Frederick FUNG said that he would have grave reservations on the Tamar development project if it was unable to create job opportunities for the construction workers. Instead of focusing on the use of locally manufactured pre-fabricated components which might only be applicable in housing projects and not the Tamar development project, consideration should be given to including in the tender documents requirement for the employment of local workers. D of Adm assured members that their views would be taken into consideration in drafting the tender documents. Mr FUNG expressed disappointment at the lack of firm commitment on the part of the Administration in addressing his concern on creation of job opportunities. As such, he would abstain from voting on the proposal. SFST

however pointed out that the much needed job opportunities for construction workers would be lost if the project could not proceed. He therefore urged members to support the proposed creation of post to take forward the project.

37. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that he found it hard to support the proposal since a lot of information, including those related to the planning of the Tamar development project and the use of the vacated CGO and Murray Building, was still awaited while concerns over the environmental and traffic impacts had yet to be addressed. He asked if the Administration would consider withdrawing the proposal now and re-submitting it when more information was made available. D of Adm said that the Administration would endeavour to provide the information required. Respective bureaux and departments at CGO and Murray Building had been requested to work out their estimated space requirements as early as 2003. However, there were some subsequent organizational changes, the plans and projections had to be updated. The Administration was not prepared to withdraw the proposal as the post was needed to take forward the project.

38. The Chairman put EC(2005-06)12 to the vote. 36 members voted for the proposal, eight members voted against and one member abstained. The individual results were as follows:

For :

Mr James TIEN Pei-chun	Mr Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Raymond HO Chung-tai	Mr Martin LEE Chu-ming
Mr Fred LI Wah-ming	Dr LUI Ming-wah
Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee	Mr James TO Kun-sun
Mr CHAN Kam-lam	Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun
Mr SIN Chung-kai	Dr Philip WONG Yu-hong
Mr WONG Yung-kan	Mr Jasper TSANG Yok-sing
Dr YEUNG Sum	Mr LAU Kong-wah
Ms Miriam LAU Kin-yee	Miss CHOY So-yuk
Mr Andrew CHENG Kar-foo	Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him	Ms LI Fung-ying
Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan	Mr Vincent FANG Kang
Mr WONG Kwok-hing	Mr LEE Wing-tat
Mr LI Kwok-ying	Dr Joseph LEE Kok-long
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung	Mr MA Lik
Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen	Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming
Mr WONG Ting-kwong	Mr Patrick LAU Sau-shing
Mr Albert Jinghan CHENG	Mr KWONG Chi-kin

(36 members)

Against :

Ms Margaret NG	Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Ms Audrey EU Yuet-mee	Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	Dr KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung	Miss TAM Heung-man

(8 members)

Abstention :

Mr Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
(1 member)

39. The Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 2 - FCR(2006-07)2

CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND

HEAD 708 - CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS AND MAJOR SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

Transport Department

- ♦ **New Subhead “Replacement of the field equipment of the toll collection system in Tseung Kwan O Tunnel”**
- ♦ **New Subhead “Replacement of the field equipment of the toll collection system in Shing Mun Tunnels**
- ♦ **New Subhead “Replacement of the field equipment of the toll collection system in Lion Rock Tunnel”**

40. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Transport was consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 24 February 2006.

41. Mr LAU Kong-wah, Chairman of the Panel on Transport, said that at the meeting on 24 February 2006, some Panel members had pointed out that in view of the demand for electronic toll collection service, opportunity should be taken to provide more autotoll lanes and install Octopus card readers to facilitate users. Consideration should also be given to adjusting the number and location of manual toll and autotoll lanes to meet demand.

42. The Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Transport) said that the Administration would follow up the concerns and revert back to the Panel on Transport in due course.

43. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

44. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.