

**For Information**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PANEL ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Establishment of Office for Former Chief Executives**

Members are invited to note the financial implications of establishing an office to provide support services to former Chief Executives (CEs).

**Background**

2. At the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs (CA) on 20 June 2005, members were consulted on the recommendations of the Independent Commission on the Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the Chief Executive of the HKSAR (the Independent Commission). The Independent Commission's recommendations have been accepted by the Administration as the basis for determining the arrangements relating to the office of the CE. These recommendations include, amongst other things, a package of services to be provided to support former CEs in discharging promotional and protocol-related functions. Such services comprise office accommodation and administrative support, a car with driver service, protocol and related arrangements, security protection, as well as medical and dental care.

3. At the CA Panel meeting on 18 July 2005, the Administration informed members that it would seek approval from the Finance Committee (FC) on the new remuneration package to be implemented for the third term CE in July 2007, and invite FC to note the financial implications of establishing an office to provide support services to former CEs. We undertook to inform members of the financial implications of setting up the office before making a submission to FC.

## **Establishment of an office for former CEs**

4. On the basis of the Independent Commission's recommendation, the Administration will set up an office in government premises which will be made available to any former CEs to perform promotional, protocol related, or any other activities in relation to their former official role, such as receiving visiting dignitaries and delegations, giving local and overseas media interviews, attending public and social events, and taking part in speaking engagements. The office shall provide administrative support for scheduling and making arrangements for public and social appointments, handling correspondence and enquiries, and dealing with general administrative duties.

5. We will also provide a car with driver service through that new office. This service will be withdrawn for as long as a former CE takes up gainful employment in the non-government sector or engages in commercial activities.

## **Financial Implications**

6. We estimate that the additional recurrent expenditure arising from the office for former CEs is around \$2.2 million at full year cost. This comprises mainly the staff costs for three secretarial and clerical staff and a driver, as well as the operating expenses (including start-up cost) of the office. Subject to identification and availability of suitable government premises, the relevant departments will absorb the additional recurrent expenditure from within existing resources for 2005-06; recurrent provision will be included in the annual estimates for 2006-07 and thereafter.

7. The provision of office accommodation to former CEs will incur expenditure of non-recurrent nature, including those for fitting-out works as well as procurement of necessary facilities and equipment for the office accommodation, which are expected to be absorbed within existing allocation to relevant departments.