

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1121/05-06

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of special meeting held on Monday, 23 January 2006 at 10:45 am in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP (Chairman)
Hon TAM Heung-man (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Margaret NG
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, BBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
- Members attending** : Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
- Members absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Mr Thomas TSO
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (Special Duties)

Mr Eddie POON
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation & Sport)

Mr Alan SIU
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Leisure
Services)

Mr Wilson LEE
Project Director, Architectural Services Department

Mr Peter KAN
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)2, Leisure and
Cultural Services Department

Mr CHAN Wai-yan
Senior Project Manager, Architectural Services
Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Action

I. Development of Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)938/05-06(01) and CB(2)957/05-06(01)]

Briefing by the Administration

Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (Special Duties) (DSHA(SD)) said that the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (TKOSG) Project would be delivered by a design-and-build (DB) contract whereby the selected DB contractor would be responsible for both the design and construction works. The Administration had invited tenders for the DB contract from the pre-qualified tenders in June 2005. In September 2005, the Administration received tender returns from three pre-qualified tenderers. According to the most advantageous tender, the total project cost amounted to \$362.9 million. This exceeded the approved project estimate (APE) of \$293.1 million by \$69.8 million.

2. DSHA(SD) further said that the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) had critically examined the tender returns and had come to the view

Action

that the recommended tender was the most advantageous. He pointed out that the recommended tenderer had come up with an innovative design which would enhance the quality and usefulness of the sports ground although this also entailed higher costs. He highlighted that a comparison of APE and the revised project estimate of the TKOSG Project as well as a detailed explanation for the proposed increase were set out in paragraph 13 of the Administration's paper.

3. DSHA(SD) pointed out that the proposed development would provide the Tseung Kwan O new town with a much needed sports ground, and make available a sports ground equipped with facilities up to international standards for holding large-scale athletic competitions, including the track-and-field events of the 2009 East Asian Games (EAG).

Use of design-and-build approach

4. Ms Emily LAU asked whether the use of DB approach for the implementation of works projects always costed more than using other approaches. Project Director (PD) of ArchSD replied in the negative and explained that the merit of DB approach was that it could tap into the private sector's expertise and innovative ideas to enhance the work project. PD pointed out that the design of the recommended tender not only met the stipulated requirement and the requisite standard, but was more innovative than ArchSD's preliminary conceptual layout for the project. The Administration considered that the selected design was the most advantageous tender and was value for money.

5. PD stressed that the design of the recommended tender did not exceed the stipulated requirement. He explained that the recommended tender incurred higher costs because it proposed the use of better and more reliable facilities for the project. He added that the Administration had examined the tender returns and considered that the higher-than-estimated costs submitted by the recommended tenderer were reasonable.

6. Mr Ronny TONG asked whether the recommended tenderer would withdraw his tender if the Administration decided not to accept the innovative design and only awarded the tenderer the contract of construction of the new sports ground in accordance with the original layout plan prepared by the Administration. The Chairman said that as far as he understood, under DB approach, the design and construction work was to be carried out by the selected contractor as a package.

7. PD explained that under DB approach, ArchSD had first prepared a preliminary conceptual layout for the project which served as a reference for inviting tenders. The design put forward by the tenderers had to meet the stipulated requirement and the requisite standard, but not to exceed such

Action

requirement/standard. The design of the recommended tender was found to be more innovative than ArchSD's conceptual layout. However, it also resulted in higher costs. PD admitted that there was also an under-estimation made by the Administration in the original budget, which had been worked out only based on the preliminary conceptual layout. He explained that TKOSG was the first ever sports ground project ArchSD had embarked on using DB approach. It had relatively little experience and was lack of supporting cost data in making estimate for such scenario. PD added that ArchSD would avoid, as far as possible, making the same mistake in implementing similar projects under DB approach.

8. In response to Miss CHOY So-yuk's enquiry, PD confirmed that as far as ArchSD was concerned, other than the funding proposal submitted in July 2003 to increase the approved commitment for the fight against SARS in order to meet the funding requirements for, among others, alteration and addition works to improve the ventilation of wards, no funding proposal for increasing the approved commitment for a building project had been made before.

9. Miss CHOY and Ms Emily LAU both considered that the Administration should learn from the experience and avoid making the same mistake any more, as it was very unusual for the Administration to propose to increase the approved commitment for a work project. PD reiterated that the original estimate of the TKOSG project was based on a preliminary conceptual layout prepared for the reference of the tenderers. Moreover, the Administration had only used the medium pricing level in working out the estimate.

10. Ms Emily LAU said that since the Administration had already used the medium pricing level in working out the estimate, she did not understand why the tender prices in all tender returns were still much higher than APE. She expressed concern that, if the current proposal was approved, the Administration might give the impression that the original budget of a work project could be ignored by tenderers, as the Administration could always propose to the Legislative Council (LegCo) to increase APE to make up for any shortfall.

11. PD reiterated that the recommended tender exceeded the original budget because it included facilities and design in its proposal which were better and more reliable but incurred higher costs. He stressed that the recommended tender did not exceed the stipulated requirement and the requisite standard. He added that the recommended tender scored the highest in terms of technical merits and its tender price was the lowest among the tender returns.

12. Ms Margaret NG expressed concern whether it was appropriate to implement work projects which had a time constraint through DB approach. She was concerned that the Administration would be put in a difficult position

Action

and forced to accept a tender price which might be unreasonable. Ms NG considered that the Administration should review whether there was room for improvements in the DB mode of implementation.

13. PD explained that ArchSD had critically examined item-by-item the proposal submitted by the recommended tenderer and considered that the cost proposed for each item was reasonable, thus recommending the bid for adoption. PD undertook that he would convey members' concern about the appropriateness of use of DB approach for implementation of work projects which had a timing constraint to the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau for consideration and review. The Chairman requested PD to provide further information to the Panel when any progress of the review was made for members' information. PD agreed.

Admin

Design of the recommended tender and revised project estimate

14. Mr Daniel LAM said that he and Mr LAU Wong-fat accepted the revised project estimate increase, as they noted that the innovative design put forth would enhance the quality of the sports ground. They, however, considered it necessary for the Administration to avoid under-estimating in working out project budgets again in the future.

15. The Deputy Chairman raised the following questions regarding the design of the recommended tender –

- (a) whether the proposed large increase in project estimate was justifiable taking into account the practical value of the innovative design and the long-term needs of sports development of Hong Kong; and
- (b) whether the recommended tender had hired experienced consultants to ensure that the athletic facilities designed fully met the international standards, and whether ArchSD had hired consultants to provide expertise advice in working out the stipulated requirement and requisite standard to ensure that TWOSG met the international standards.

16. DSHA(SD) responded that Hong Kong so far did not have a sports ground equipped with facilities up to international standards for holding large-scale athletic competitions. He said that TWOSG could be used for holding international track and field competitions as well as local recreation and sports programmes.

17. PD highlighted some of the special features contained in the design of the recommended tender such that –

Action

- (a) the proposed combination of main spectator building and the administration block would facilitate organisation of major athletic events; and
- (b) the provision of a paved entrance plaza with better segregation of spectators, VIP, and athletes circulation for the purpose of holding major athletic events and the proposed openable boundary fence wall design would be effective in discharging mass crowd within a short period of time.

18. PD further explained why the feature in paragraph 17(a) above incurred additional piling and building costs, as detailed in subparagraphs 13(a) and (b) of the Administration's paper.

19. Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Leisure Services) (DDLCS(LS)) informed members that the recommended tenderer had employed an experienced and renowned international sports consultant firm to provide expertise services to ensure that International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) standards for holding international track and field competitions were fully complied with. Moreover, the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association strongly supported the proposed development of TKOSG. The Association had advised that with the new sports ground made available, it would be interested in applying for the holding of international and regional athletics competitions in Hong Kong.

20. Mr WONG Ting-kwong and Miss CHOY So-yuk said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) supported the Administration's proposal. Mr WONG said that there was a need for Hong Kong to have a sports ground which was equipped with facilities up to IAAF as well as the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) standards for holding large-scale international athletics events. He added that DAB supported the current proposal also because of the support expressed by local residents and Sai Kung District Council. Miss CHOY So-yuk said that she also did not want to see the development of an extravagant sports ground. She, however, considered that the current proposal had the merit that if TKOSG included facilities of a high standard, the proposed development of a multi-purpose stadium complex in South East Kowloon might be no longer necessary.

21. Mr Andrew CHENG said that he did not consider the proposed combination of main spectator building and the administration block and a floodlighting system which could reduce glare effect and the provision of a paved entrance plaza for the purpose of more effective discharge of mass crowd were any essential provision that had to be included in the new sports ground. He said that as long as the facilities of the main and the secondary sports grounds were built up to international standards, he did not see why the

Action

Administration had to spend additional some \$60 million to further upgrade the facilities.

22. Referring to paragraph 14 of the Administration's paper, Mr CHENG further said that the unit rates for TKOSG were even higher than that for the Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, which had been used for holding one of the qualifying matches for the Soccer World Cup 2006, during which there had not been any problem with the discharge of mass crowd.

23. Referring to paragraph 13 of the Administration's paper, Mr WONG Ting-kwong asked why there were decreases in the estimates for "Consultant's Fee for Contract Administration" and "Contingencies" while there was an increase in building cost.

24. On the Consultant's Fee, PD explained that the net decrease of \$0.9 million was because the consultancy for quantity surveying and electronic installations was awarded in early 2005 and fee level at that time was lower than the original estimate. PD further explained that in the light of the returned tenders which gave a clearer indication of the project cost, the Director of Architectural Services (D Arch S) proposed to use part of the project contingencies to meet the increase in project cost. He said that the net decrease of \$9.7 million was due to the draw-down of the contingencies to partially offset the \$69.8 million increase in the project cost (\$0.9 million of which would be offset by savings under Consultant's Fee).

25. Referring to paragraph 11 of the Administration's paper, Ms Emily LAU asked which neighbouring markets were referred to by the Administration regarding "booming construction activities in neighbouring markets". PD replied that Macau was an example where had seen a general rise in the cost of construction materials. He pointed out that the quarterly Tender Price Index (TPI) of ArchSD during 2004-05 had indicated an upward trend by 3.42% whereas private sector TPI had also been slightly higher at 3.66%. He added that as the tenderers anticipated that the increasing trend in construction and overhead costs in the local market would continue in subsequent years, they adopted a more conservative pricing strategy in their tender returns. Ms LAU said that as the Administration had cited Macau as the only one example, the Administration should provide more information if available, e.g. situation on the Mainland.

Admin

26. Ms Emily LAU considered that the Administration should make available the new design to LegCo Members and the public to demonstrate that the design was much better than the preliminary conceptual layout and worth the extra money. PD explained that during the tendering process, the Administration was bound by a confidentiality clause as long as the tender had not yet been awarded. Ms LAU suggested that the Administration should seek to enhance the transparency and release as much information as possible for

Action
Admin

LegCo Members to consider in the future. PD agreed to take note of Ms LAU's suggestion.

Policy of sports development and distribution of resources under different policy areas

27. Mr Andrew CHENG said that LegCo Members fully appreciated the need to provide a sports ground in Tseung Kwan O. He, however, queried whether the proposed increase in APE was really necessary, as he noted that when the Administration applied for funding approval for upgrading of the project to Category A in early 2005, it informed LegCo Members that upgrading of the project scope of the sports ground could make it suitable for holding major international athletic events, including the track and field events of the 2009 EAG. Funding approval for upgrading of TKOSG to Category A at an estimated cost of \$293.1 million in MOD prices was then granted in February 2005. Mr CHENG further said that even without adopting the selected design, TKOSG as originally planned would still be a suitable venue for holding the track and field events of the 2009 EAG. He also recalled that the Administration had previously informed LegCo Members that the Ma On Shan Sports Ground was suitable for holding the competition events of the Asian Games. Mr CHENG said that with the availability of the Ma On Shan Sports Ground, there should be no venue problem for holding the track and field events of the 2009 EAG. He further said that he did not see why the Administration could not re-tender the project even though this might risk deferring the completion date of the project.

28. Mr CHENG said that while the Democratic Party (DP) supported enhancing sports venues, it was of the view that this had to be implemented alongside the implementation of active measures to promote a sporting culture in Hong Kong. He expressed concern whether the project would only become a white elephant, as holding of large-scale international sports events would not be frequent.

29. Mr CHENG further said that DP had great reservations about the current proposal also because it had reflected the Administration's unfair policy in its allocation of resources. He pointed out that it was unacceptable for the Administration to further increase APE for the project by some \$60 million without practical needs while it continued to cut subsidies for welfare services and other services which affected people's livelihood. Mr CHENG asked whether the Administration would spend \$60 million on sports development. He said that if \$60 million was to be spent on sports development, he would prefer spending the money on training for athletes and on enhancing sports facilities in schools. Mr CHENG further said that he was worried that the proposal was put up just because Government officials who had seen the success of the 2005 EAG in Macau wished to build a "Rolls Royce" stadium, and this might have been seized by the tenderers as the opportunity for them to increase their tender prices.

Action

30. DSHA(SD) reiterated that the higher-than-estimated costs submitted by the tenderer were attributable to the under-estimation in the original budget made by the Administration, and the Administration would learn from this experience and avoid as far as possible seeking funding approval to increase the approved commitment for any project in future. He stressed that the Administration had no intention to make TKOSG an extravagant stadium. He pointed out that it was on the advice of IAAF and an experienced international sports consultant firm that the project, if implemented in accordance with the current proposal, would better meet the international standards for holding large-scale international athletics competitions. The Administration only considered that the opportunity should be taken to adopt a better design for the new sports ground and make sure that its every component would allow the most effective use of the facility.

31. DSHA(SD) invited members to note that there was already a separate funding mechanism to meet the costs for provision of training for athletes. He pointed out that TKOSG would not only enable the sports community to organise major athletics events, but would also provide a base for athletic training. He added that the Administration had devoted considerable resources in various areas to promote and support sports development in Hong Kong.

32. DDLCS(LS) supplemented that as undertaken by the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) at a Finance Committee meeting earlier, a paper on the strategy and initiatives for the promotion of sports would be submitted to this Panel for members' reference. He pointed out that since the deadline for submitting tender in this tendering exercise was in the autumn in 2005, there should not be a direct relation between the holding of the Macau EAG, which was held in November 2005, and the tendering returns.

33. PD said that if the Administration conducted re-tendering for the project, the process would take at least four months to complete. In that case, the expected completion date of the project would be deferred to the period between June and August 2009. He pointed out that given the need to conduct commissioning test, the new sports ground might not be ready for holding the 2009 EAG competition events. Moreover, there was no guarantee that the tender price would be lowered. PD said that in view of the foregoing, he recommended that there should not be re-tendering of the project.

34. Mr Andrew CHENG said that if the Administration capped the project cost at the approved commitment of \$293.1 million for the construction of TKOSG, he did not see why the tender price could not be lowered. He added that if the expected completion date of the project was between June and August 2009, TKOSG could still be used for the organisation of the 2009 EAG. Mr Ronny TONG also asked whether the 2009 EAG could be held as scheduled if the current proposal was not approved.

Action

35. PD explained that if the Administration decided to conduct re-tendering and capped the project cost at the approved commitment of \$293.1 million, it might be necessary for the Administration to conduct a new round of selection of pre-qualified tenderers before it could conduct the re-tendering. He said that in this way the re-tendering process would even take longer time.

36. DDLCS(LS) informed members that the estimated project period was 36 months and the project was scheduled for completion in mid-2009. He said that if re-tendering of the project had to be conducted, the new sports ground was unlikely to be ready for use for competition events of the 2009 EAG. He also pointed out that with the Government's unsuccessful bid for the organisation of the 2006 Asian Games, the facilities in the Ma On Shan Sports Ground were no longer built up to standards for holding large-scale international athletics events. He said that the Ma On Shan Sports Ground was now only a district-based sports ground.

37. Mr Ronny TONG shared Mr Andrew CHENG's concern about the principle of fairness in the allocation of resources. He asked whether the Administration could give an undertaking that it would proceed as soon as possible with the extension of the Tseung Kwan O Hospital, the Haven of Hope Hospital and Sai Kung Hiram's Highway to meet the pressing needs of residents, if LegCo approved the funding proposal.

Admin

38. DSHA(SD) responded that he was not in a position to give the undertaking as requested by Mr TONG as it concerned with decisions which should be made by other policy bureaux. DSHA(SD), however, undertook that he would relay Mr TONG's question to the relevant policy bureaux and the Administration would give a consolidated response to the Panel.

39. Ms Margaret NG echoed the concern expressed by Mr Ronny TONG. She considered that the crux of the issue was how the Administration should prioritise its limited resources. Ms NG said that she also had reservations about the current proposal, as the Administration had neither provided information on its priority in allocation of resources nor given any undertaking that it would also attach equal importance to meeting the needs of residents in Tseung Kwan O in other areas, e.g. public medical service.

40. Mr Andrew CHENG said that the Administration should make a balanced consideration of the service demands in various policy areas. He further asked whether the Government would consider the following suggestions –

- (a) to enhance athletic training and sports facilities in schools by allocating the same amount of funding, i.e. \$60 million; and
- (b) to address the longstanding problem of unfair allocation of

Action

resources for the development of sports which had been in favour of major National Sports Associations.

41. DDLCS(LS) said that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) organised a variety of community sports programmes. He said that the number of students taking part in the School Sports Programme had increased to more than 500 000 each year and LCSD would continue to increase the rate of students' participation. He added that in response to concern expressed by Mr Andrew CHENG earlier, SHA had written to the Secretary for Education and Manpower proposing to further enhance the cooperation between HAB and the Education and Manpower Bureau in promoting sports in schools.

Admin

42. Mr Andrew CHENG urged the Administration to draw up a plan which should include concrete details on how it would increase the allocation of resources for the promotion of sports in schools including enhancement of school sports facilities, and for the enhancement of athletic training. He requested the Administration to provide details of the plan.

Cost comparison with stadiums in different countries

43. Miss CHOY So-yuk requested the Administration to provide information on a cost comparison with stadiums in different countries. With reference to the information tabled at the meeting, PD said that the new construction cost of TKOSG was on the low side as compared with that of other stadiums included in the cost comparison.

Admin

44. Miss CHOY requested the Administration to also include a major stadium in Beijing and Shanghai in the cost comparison. The Administration agreed to follow up.

[Post-meeting note : the information tabled by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. 965/05-06 dated 24 January 2006.]

45. Mr Albert CHAN said that it was inappropriate to draw comparison between the construction cost of TKOSG, which only had a seating capacity of 3 500, with other world-class stadiums, such as Wembley Stadium, which could accommodate 100 000 people and had an extremely wide range of functions. Mr Andrew CHENG echoed Mr CHAN's views. He further pointed out that the unit cost per Construction Floor Area of TKOSG, by proportion, was unreasonably high compared with that of Wembley Stadium.

Impact on the implementation of outstanding ex-Municipal Council (ex-MC) leisure and cultural services (LCS) projects

46. Mr Albert CHAN expressed serious concern as to whether the implementation of the sports facilities projects, including the current proposal,

Action

for the 2009 EAG would cause further delays to the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC LCS projects due to competition of resources. He pointed out that based on information provided by the Administration, he had worked out the following figures regarding resources spent on LCS projects before and after the abolition of ex-MCs –

- (a) in the five years before the dissolution of the MCs from 1995-96 to 1999-2000, the Administration had spent an average of \$1.68 billion per year on the implementation of LCS projects;
- (b) in the five-year period from 2000-01 to 2004-05, the Administration had only spent an average of \$0.68 billion per year on the implementation of LCS projects; and
- (c) in the five-year period of 2005-06 to 2009-10, the Administration would increase spending on the implementation of LCS projects to an average of about \$1.1 billion per year. However, the estimated cost for the sports facilities projects for the 2009 EAG took up about 17% of the total estimated cost for the LCS projects which would commence construction in the coming five years.

47. Mr CHAN said that there was a pressing need to speed up the implementation of ex-MC LCS projects especially those for new towns, particularly, Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung. He said that for example, there was not even one indoor stadium provided in Tin Shui Wai where the population had already reached 150 000. However, most of the LCS projects for the two new towns were scheduled for commencement in as late as 2009 or even later. He also noted that the implementation schedules in respect of the outstanding ex-MC LCS projects were much later than those originally planned by ex-MCs. He considered that the implementation of sports facilities projects for the 2009 EAG was one of the reasons causing the delay. He suggested that the Administration should separately allocate funds for the implementation of sports facilities projects for the 2009 EAG, in order not to delay the delivery of the outstanding ex-MC LCS projects. He added that the implementation of LCS projects in new towns should always be accorded with higher priority than sports facilities projects for the 2009 EAG.

[Post-meeting note : the Administration provided information on the LCS projects scheduled for implementation in Tin Shui Wai on 8 February 2006. The information was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1089/05-06 dated 10 February 2006.]

48. As proposed by Mr Albert CHAN, the Panel requested the Clerk to compile the following information for reference by members before the relevant PWSC meeting –

Clerk

Action

- (a) the implementation schedules of ex-MC LCS projects originally planned by ex-MCs under their respective five-year rolling programmes of capital works projects;
- (b) the implementation schedules of ex-MC LCS projects submitted by the Administration after the abolition of ex-MCs; and
- (c) the average annual spending on LCS projects in the five-year period before and the ten-year period after the abolition of ex-MCs, and the percentage share of the estimated cost for the sports facilities projects for the 2009 EAG, in each of the next few coming years, of the total estimated cost for the LCS projects which would commence construction during the same period.

The Clerk said that the LegCo Secretariat would base on available information and compile the requisite information as far as possible.

49. Mr Albert CHAN further said that it would only be reasonable if, starting from 2006-07 when the budgetary deficit problem had been resolved, the Administration would increase spending on LCS projects back to the same level as that before the abolition of ex-MCs, i.e. \$1.68 billion each year. He requested that the Administration should give such an undertaking before submission of the current proposal to PWSC for consideration.

Admin

50. Ms Emily LAU also expressed reservations about the current proposal. She pointed out that despite the grave concern expressed by members of the Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils (the Subcommittee) about the serious delay in the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC projects and the late commencement dates of the construction of the 25 priority projects, little improvements had been made by the Administration. She said that in proposing to increase APE for TKOSG by \$70 million while delaying the implementation of other long awaited LCS projects, which even cost much less than TKOSG, the Administration had given the impression that it was very selective and unfair in its allocation of resources.

51. DDLCS(LS) responded that the Administration would sustain its efforts in speeding up the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC projects wherever appropriate. He explained that the progress of individual projects, however, depended on their merits and the completion of relevant planning and technical feasibility studies. He said that the sports facilities projects for the 2009 EAG did not affect the implementation of other LCS projects, as seen from the fact that among the 17 new sports facilities to commence construction in the next two years, only TKOSG was related to the 2009 EAG. He added that the other sports facilities projects for the 2009 EAG were actually the improvement

Action

projects for the refurbishment of existing ageing facilities, and the improvement to these facilities would also benefit members of the public.

52. Mr Albert CHAN expressed regret that the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS) seldom attended meetings of this Panel or the Subcommittee to discuss issues on provision of LCS facilities. He considered that she should have attended this meeting to answer members' questions on this important proposal. He requested to put on record his dissatisfaction with DLCS's absence.

[*Post-meeting note* : the Administration clarified on 8 February 2006 that of the four Panel meetings in the 2005-06 legislative session held before 23 January 2006 involving the attendance of public officers, two involved items concerning LCSD. DLCS personally attended all the two Panel meetings which were held on 20 October and 9 December 2005 respectively.]

Summing up

Admin

53. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Liberal Party supported submitting the current proposal to PWSC for further discussion. To sum up the discussion, he said that members attending the meeting had expressed diverse views on the proposal, but they raised no objection to the Administration submitting the proposal to PWSC for consideration at its meeting on 15 February 2006 provided that the Administration would provide supplementary information pursuant to members' requests made in paragraphs 25, 38, 42, 44 and 49 before the PWSC meeting.

Clerk

54. Members noted that the chairman of Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) had written to the Panel Chairman on 21 January 2006 expressing support for the current proposal. At Ms Emily LAU's suggestion, members agreed that the Clerk should write to inform SKDC of the outcome of the Panel's discussion.

[*Post-meeting note* : the Clerk wrote to the chairman of SKDC on 24 January 2006.]

55. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:48 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
14 February 2006