

Panel on Home Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(as at 12 January 2006)**

**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 organizations

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

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

To be confirmed

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

To be confirmed

The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Maintenance Bill 2001 has requested the Panel on 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 the 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. 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 finalising its recommendations and provide an interim report to the Panel when it was available.

To be confirmed

5. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk (HYK)

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

To be confirmed
(Note)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

referred to this Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item along with item 8 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 8 in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

6. 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

7. Policy on long-term sports development and operation problems of National Sports Associations

The new administrative structure for sports development was discussed by the Panel on 14 and 29 July 2003.

To be confirmed

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

At the meeting on 21 June 2005, Mr Andrew CHENG suggested that the Panel should discuss the policy on long-term sports development, including the development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute and elite sports training.

8. Traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT

At LegCo Members' meetings with HYK Councillors on

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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.

(Note)

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item together with item 5 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 5 in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

9. 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.

10. Review of built heritage conservation policy

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 formulating proposals on implementation measures for further public consultation in

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

2005.

11. 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

12. 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 hearing of HKSAR's report under the ICESCR was held in Geneva between 27 and 29 April 2005. The concluding observations, issued on 13 May 2005, were discussed by the Panel on 21 June 2005.

The initial report of the HKSAR under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was submitted to the UN in June 2003. The Panel discussed the report on 11 June 2004 and 20 July 2005. The report was heard by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on 19 and 20 September 2005. The concluding observations, issued on 30 September 2005, were initially discussed by the Panel on 8 November 2005 and were scheduled for further discussion in February 2006. The second report of HKSAR under CRC is due for submission by 31 March 2009 as part of China's combined third and fourth report.

February 2006

The Panel discussed the preparation of second report of HKSAR under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on 11 April 2003. The report was submitted to the UN Committee on 14 January 2005 and was issued to members on 21 February 2005. The report will be heard by the UN Committee on 20 and 21 March 2006.

March 2006

The HKSAR's second report under the International

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Convention in the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) 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. The Panel discussed the preparation of the second report of HKSAR under ICERD on 13 December 2002. HAB will initiate the customary pre-drafting consultations when the Central People's Government (CPG) calls for contribution to its report.

The Panel discussed the preparation of the second report of HKSAR under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 8 November 2002. The report 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 has finalised 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. The UN Committee will announce the hearing date after CPG has submitted the report (at which point, the Government will publish it locally). The second report is due to be submitted in 2005. The Panel received views from deputations on the outline of topics to be covered in the report on 11 June 2004.

The Administrations' second report on implementation of international human rights treaties in Hong Kong in 2004 was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 2403/04-05(01) dated 1 August 2005.

13. Review of advisory and statutory bodies

The item was last discussed on 8 July 2005. The Panel discussed 14 interim reports and a progress report on the review during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 sessions. The Administration will continue to submit interim reports on various topics concerning the review to the Panel.

To be confirmed

When the Bills Committee on Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2005 discussed a proposed amendment to the

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Legal Aid Services Council (LASC) Ordinance (Cap. 489) on extending the deadline for LASC to submit its annual report, some members expressed concern that there should be consistency in the time limit within which statutory bodies should submit their annual reports. HAB has then agreed to include review of the time limit for submission of annual reports by statutory bodies in its current review of advisory and statutory bodies.

14. Cinema licensing

At the meeting of the Subcommittee to Study the Streamlining of Food Business Licensing on 4 April 2005, Ms Emily LAU suggested that the Subcommittee should also study cinema licensing in view of recent cases of cinemas operating without licences. As the subject is under the policy purview of HAB, the Subcommittee has agreed that the Administration should report to this Panel on this subject.

To be confirmed

The Business Facilitation Division of the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit of the Financial Secretary's Office has completed the review of cinema licensing and has made recommendations on short-term and long term improvement measures, including a provisional licensing system.

15. Report on the survey on public attitudes towards homosexuals

A survey on public attitudes towards homosexuals will be conducted in the fourth quarter of 2005. The survey results will be announced in the first quarter of 2006. The Administration will submit a report on the survey to the Panel.

March 2006

16. Implementation of recommendations made in the Report of the Independent Panel of Inquiry on the Incidents Relating to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and the recommendations made in two other reports of the internal reviews conducted by EOC

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The item was proposed by Hon TAM Heung-man at the meeting on 13 October 2005.

January 2006

17. Central Police Station Compound Project (the Project)

At the meeting on 13 October 2005, Hon CHOY So-yuk expressed concern whether the Administration had already finalised the tender arrangements for the Project and proposed that this Panel should discuss it as soon as possible. Members agreed that this Panel and the Panel on Economic Services should discuss the subject.

To be confirmed

18. Functions taken up by the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) upon the abolition of estate duty for probate administrative purpose

During the scrutiny of the Revenue (Abolition of Estate Duty) Bill 2005, the relevant Bills Committee discussed the functions to be taken up by SHA upon the abolition of estate duty for probate administrative purpose and whether fees should be charged for the functions to be taken up by SHA. HAB informed the Bills Committee that it did not propose to charge any fees on the functions to be performed by SHA. However, it would review the situation after the system had been in operation for one year and to consult this Panel in due course.

To be confirmed

19. Indoor Recreation Centre (Type C) cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung

The project comprises the construction of an indoor recreation centre (including a secondary hall that can be used as a community hall), a district library, and office accommodation for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department staff in Area 17, Tung Chung, Lantau, and has been scheduled for submission to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) in April 2006. The project serves to meet the demand for various recreation, community and library services in Tung Chung, Lantau. Joint users include a residential care home for the elderly to be developed by the Social Welfare Department.

March 2006

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

20. Renovation of Libraries Phase II

The project comprises the renovation of six libraries, namely, Sha Tin Public Library (PL), Fa Yuen Street PL, Shui Wo Street PL, To Kwa Wan PL, Quarry Bay PL and Lockhart Road PL. The District Councils concerned would be consulted on the project from January to March 2006.

April 2006

21. Sham Shui Po Park Stage II

The project is scheduled for submission to PWSC meeting in May 2006.

April 2006

22. District Open Space in Area 40A, Tseund Kwan O

The project is scheduled for submission to PWSC meeting in May 2006.

April 2006

23. Proposed Race Discrimination Legislation

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. When the Panel received a briefing on the outcome of the consultation exercise at its meeting on 8 July 2005, members requested the Administration to provide a paper setting out details of the proposals to be included in the Bill for consultation with the Panel.

February 2006