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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 8th meeting
held in the Conference Room A of Legislative Council Building
on Wednesday, 18 April 2007, at 8:30 am**

Members present:

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP (Chairman)
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, 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 Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH, JP
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Heung-man

Member absent:

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Member attending:

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Public officers attending:

Mr Joe C C WONG	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Mr MAK Chai-kwong, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)
Mrs Rita LAU, JP	Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)
Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)
Mr Davey CHUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)
Mr John S V CHAI, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr Eddy YAU, JP	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) ³ , Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr YEUNG Wing-tsan	Chief Engineer (Tseung Kwan O and Sai Kung), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr Kenneth WONG Hung-keung	Chief Civil Engineer, Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Housing)
Mr Andy LEUNG Yiu-chung	Chief Architect (1), Housing Department
Mr KAN Tat-sing	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) ² , Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr C H YUE, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mr C K WONG, JP	Director of Drainage Services
Mr K K CHAN	Chief Engineer (Drainage Projects), Drainage Services Department
Mr WAI Chi-sing, JP	Director of Highways
Mr Norman MAK Wai-pui	Deputy Project Manager (Major Works) (1), Highways Department
Mr Elvis AU Wai-kwong	Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment), Environmental Protection Department
Mr CHAN Kwong-wei, JP	Director of Water Supplies (Acting)
Mr NG Chi-ho	Assistant Director (New Works) (Acting), Water Supplies Department
Dr Ellen CHAN Ying-lung	Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), Environmental Protection Department
Mr LUI Ping-hon	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Infrastructure Planning), Environmental Protection Department
Ms Ernestina WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health) ²

Mr CHAN Wing-tak	Chief Technical Adviser (Subvented Projects), Architectural Services Department
Dr Helen TINSLEY	Hospital Chief Executive (Caritas Medical Centre), Hospital Authority
Dr Raymond CHEN	Chief Manager (Strategy and Service Planning), Hospital Authority
Mr Donald LI	Senior Architect (Facility Planning), Hospital Authority
Mr Kirk YIP	Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health) ⁵
Dr David CHENG	Hospital Chief Executive (Yan Chai Hospital) Hospital Authority

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Rosalind MA	Senior Council Secretary (1) ⁸
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Staff in attendance:

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Anthony CHU	Council Secretary (1) ²
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1) ¹
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1) ²

Action

Head 711 - Housing

**PWSC(2007-08)7 416RO Local open space adjoining Tseung Kwan O
Area 73B public housing development**

The Chairman advised members that the Panel on Housing had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 5 February 2007. Members supported the proposal and urged the Administration to expedite the relevant works for early completion.

2. Mr Daniel LAM supported the proposal of providing more open space for public enjoyment. Moreover, he opined that the Administration should provide clear signs to alert users of the smoking areas designated in the open space, if any, so that the public, in particular residents of the adjoining public housing estates, would not breach the smoking ban inadvertently.

3. The Assistant Director (Leisure Services)³, Leisure and Cultural Services Department advised that the local open space would provide both active and passive recreational facilities to cater for different needs of residents in the area. Given the relatively small site area, there was no plan to designate any smoking

areas in the open space and suitable signs would be displayed at prominent locations to draw the attention of users to the smoking ban.

4. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2007-08)6 725CL Demolition of Cheung Sha Wan police married quarters, a school and a medical clinic

5. Miss TAM Heung-man expressed concern about the land use planning for the vacated site. The Chairman said that as the scope of the present proposal only covered demolition of the existing buildings, other issues such as planning and land use would have to be examined at the relevant Panel.

6. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 704 – Drainage

PWSC(2007-08)1 102CD Drainage improvement in Tuen Mun and Sham Tseng - package B

7. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the proposal had been circulated to the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (PLW Panel) on 16 January 2007.

8. Referring to the unsatisfactory design of the Tuen Mun River Channel, Mr TAM Yiu-chung expressed concern about the use of concrete for the drainage channel in So Kwun Wat. He opined that suitable measures should be put in place, including reducing the use of concrete and more greening works, to make the proposed drainage channel coherent with the natural environment. In response, the Director for Drainage Services (DDS) said that the Administration would endeavour to adopt a natural theme in the design of the drainage channel. Referring to the drawing of the typical section of the channel in So Kwun Wat in Enclosure 1 to the Administration's paper, DDS pointed out that gabion walls and rip-rap bedding instead of concrete would be used for the drainage channel. The Administration would also incorporate planting proposal as part of the project, including estimated quantities of 4 672 trees, 11 465 shrubs and 10 622 square metres of grassed area.

9. In response to Miss TAM Heung-man's concern about the process of land resumption for the proposed works, DDS advised that land resumption had been conducted smoothly with all compensation and rehousing arrangements made in accordance with the prevailing Government policy.

10. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2007-08)2 119CD Drainage improvement in Northern New Territories - package C

11. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the proposal had been circulated to the PLW Panel on 14 February 2007.

12. Noting that the drainage systems in Lung Yeuk Tau, Kwan Tei South and Leng Tsai to be improved under the proposed works would withstand rainstorms with a return period of one in 10 years (instead of a return period of one in 50 or one in 100 years for other drainage systems), Mr TAM Yiu-chung was concerned that the capacity of the improved systems might still be inadequate to cope with heavy rainstorms. He enquired about the prevailing standards for the capacity of the drainage systems.

13. DDS explained that for stormwater drainage systems in the urban area, the trunk system and the branch system were designed to withstand rainstorms with a return period of one in 200 years and one in 50 years respectively. For drainage systems in the rural areas under this project, the systems would be designed with a capacity of withstanding rainstorms with a return period of one in 10 years.

14. Noting that one objection about the environmental impacts was received after the gazettal of the proposed works, Miss TAM Heung-man sought information on the details of the objection. In response, DDS said that the objector was concerned that the noise, dust and site runoff during the construction period would have an adverse impact on the environment. Upon the Administration's clarification of the mitigation measures to reduce the environmental impacts, the objector had withdrawn the objection.

15. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming noted that the land resumption and clearance under this project would affect 11 households, involving, among others, 29 temporary domestic structures. Mr CHEUNG enquired whether public housing would be offered to all affected households irrespective of the terms and conditions of the leases of the land where the structures were located. In response, DDS said that under the prevailing Government policy, the Director of Housing would offer eligible families of the affected structures with public housing.

16. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2007-08)3 128CD Drainage improvement in Southern Lantau

17. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the proposal had been circulated to the PLW Panel on 16 January 2007.

18. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 706 – Highways

PWSC(2007-08)4	764TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan approaches
	765TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Tseung Kwan O Road
	776TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Yuen Shin Road, Tai Po

19. The Chairman advised members that the Panel on Environmental Affairs (EA Panel) had been consulted on the proposed retrofitting works at the meeting on 26 February 2007.

Progress and effectiveness of retrofitting noise barriers on existing roads

20. Mr Albert CHAN pointed out that mitigation measures to alleviate the noise impact of existing roads on neighbouring residents had remained an issue of concern of Members of the Legislative Council for quite a long time. He recalled that the Administration had promulgated a policy in 2000 for retrofitting of noise barriers on existing roads and had identified a number of existing road sections the preliminary investigation for which had shown that retrofitting of noise barriers were technically feasible. Mr CHAN was of the view that the Administration should provide an overall picture on the progress of retrofitting works for existing roads in submitting the current proposal, including whether all of the three retrofitting projects under the current proposal (i.e. Tseung Kwan O Road, Tsing Tsuen Bridge and Yuen Shin Road) were among the road sections identified in its earlier study, and the schedule for retrofitting of noise barriers for the remaining road sections.

21. The Director of Highways (DHy) gave an account on the position of retrofitting works for the 35 existing road sections identified. In brief, apart from the three retrofitting projects under the current proposal, construction works had been completed for two road sections along the Fanling Highway and the works for another section was in progress. Works for four road sections in Shatin might have to be withheld due to opposition from residents. Works for seven road sections in Tuen Mun Road would be included under the Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road with works scheduled to commence by phases in 2007-08 and 2008-09. As for works for road section along the Kwun Tong Bypass, the Administration was making effort to resolve the objection received after gazettal. The Administration was conducting consultation on works for three other road sections, which had received favourable response from local residents. The funding requirements for the remaining road sections had been included in the 2006 Resource Allocation Exercise and preliminary investigation would be conducted accordingly. At the request of Mr Albert CHAN, DHy undertook to

Admin provide supplementary information on the work progress in respect of the 35 existing road sections before the relevant Finance Committee (FC) meeting.

Traffic impact of the construction works

22. Mrs Selina CHOW expressed concern about the impact of the interim traffic arrangement during the construction works for **764 TH**, under which both eastbound and westbound carriageways of Tsing Tsuen Bridge would be temporarily reduced from two lanes to one lane when necessary during the construction period. In this regard, Mrs CHOW recapitulated the request and concern of the Kwai Tsing District Council (KTDC) for flexibility in the implementation of the traffic arrangement, in particular, to maintain two lanes opened for traffic during morning peak hours from 7:00 am to 10:00 am, instead of 7:00 am to 9:00 am only as undertaken by the Administration. Mrs CHOW urged the Administration to respond positively to KTDC's concern through monitoring closely the impact of the works on traffic flow and allowing flexibility for adjusting the exact opening time of the lanes subject to traffic conditions during the construction period.

23. DHy said that the Administration was mindful of the concern shared by the Legislative Council and DC about the interim traffic arrangement to be introduced on Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tam Kon Shan Interchange. The Administration planned to allow flexibility in the introduction of traffic arrangement by stipulating in the contract that lane reduction should not be undertaken from 7:00 am to 10:00 am, while allowing flexibility for adjustment of the duration subject to actual impact of the works on traffic flow.

24. Mr LEE Wing-tat appreciated the Administration's positive response in taking forward the request of KTDC for flexible traffic arrangement. Moreover, he pointed out that the works departments and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) should work in collaboration for special traffic arrangements during busy days (such as the working day following long holidays) to relieve heavy traffic arising from increased number of container trucks on the Tsing Tsuen Bridge. In reply, DHy said that the works departments would closely monitor the impact of the construction works on traffic and maintain close liaison with parties concerned for necessary traffic arrangements.

Aesthetic design of noise barriers

25. Referring to the perspective view to the proposed noise barriers in Enclosures 5 to 7 to the Administration's paper, Mrs Selina CHOW highlighted that the aesthetic design of the noise barriers should be improved to blend well with the surrounding environment. She called on the Administration to do away with the monotonous design and bring in more innovation to give the noise barriers a lively appearance. Prof Patrick LAU expressed similar concern and pointed out that noise barriers should be designed with special characteristics coherent with those of the district where they were located. In this connection, Prof LAU suggested that designs from professionals and the public could be

invited through open competitions.

26. DHy said that the Administration appreciated the need to improve the aesthetic design of noise barriers so that the design would be compatible with the environment. Whilst revising the aesthetic design of the noise barriers under the current proposal at this late stage might have an impact on the schedule of works, the Administration would try to improve the aesthetic design of future retrofitting projects through consulting experts in aesthetic design of the noise barriers before proceeding to the structural design.

27. Prof Patrick LAU expressed appreciation about the greening measures proposed for the noise barriers in Tseung Kwan O. He enquired about the application of Government's greening policy in the design of noise barriers, including the greening measures for the other two retrofitting projects under the current proposal.

28. DHy said that in line with the prevailing greening policy of the Government, greening measures had been incorporated in the retrofitting projects, where practicable. For example, green wall with embedded plants for the lower part of a section of noise barrier was proposed for **764 TH** in Tsuen Wan and **765 TH** in Tseung Kwan O. For **765 TH**, the Administration also proposed to convert a portion of the footpath of Tseung Kwan O Road into planter. Planters would also be provided on the top of the noise barriers, where practicable. Responding to Prof Patrick LAU's further concern about future maintenance of the plants, DHy said that arrangements would be made with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in this regard, with plant watering to be done through automatic devices such as auto-sprinkler, where feasible.

29. Mr Albert CHAN said that it was imperative that the Administration should include in the contract a clear provision on the greening requirement for the noise barriers. Referring to Enclosure 5 to the Administration's proposal, Mr CHAN considered it unacceptable for the non-provision of greening works along the whole section of noise barriers on the Tsing Tsuen Bridge. He therefore urged the Administration and its consultant to review the greening works for the noise barriers on Tsing Tsuen Bridge.

30. In response, DHy advised that the Administration would include the requirements for greening works in the tender documents for all works projects. DHy and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) (PS(W)) pointed out that green wall embedded with plants would be used for the lower part of a section of noise barriers near Riviera Gardens under **764 TH** as a trial scheme. Subject to the success of the trial scheme, the Administration would expand the use of green wall to future noise barriers, where possible. DHy further advised that the Administration encountered space and site constraints in the provision of greening for the noise barriers on Tsing Tsuen Bridge. Noting members' concern about greening, he undertook to consider extending the length of the green wall under the trial scheme on Tsing Tsuen Bridge, subject to structural feasibility.

Admin

31. Mr Albert CHAN did not subscribe to the Administration's explanation and opined that the space constraints at the site could be overcome by adopting innovative design and a suitable choice of plant species, such as climbers. At Mr CHAN's request, the Administration undertook to make arrangement for Mr CHAN to meet with its consultant to examine the feasibility of incorporating more greening measures for the proposed noise barriers on Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan Approaches before the relevant FC meeting.

32. Mr LEE Wing-tat enquired about measures to minimize the risk of birds' death due to collision with the transparent panels of noise barriers, in particular in rural areas. Prof Patrick LAU said that the Administration could make reference to the successful experience of the Housing Authority in using shiny and reflective materials on a footbridge to reduce death hazard of transparent panels on birds. Mr Albert CHAN echoed and called on the Administration to put in place measures to improve the visibility of transparent noise barrier panels to birds.

33. In reply, DHy said that with the advice of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Highways Department had introduced a trial scheme adding falcon stickers on a section of transparent noise barrier panels along Kam Tin Bypass since June 2006. Initial assessment showed that the trial scheme was effective in reducing the number of dead birds found near the noise barrier. The Administration planned to expand the scheme to other transparent noise barrier panels. He also took note of Prof Patrick LAU's suggestion on the use of reflective materials.

34. Mr Andrew CHENG pointed out that the colour tone of the noise barriers for Yuen Shin Road in Tai Po lacked coherence with the extensive greening in the surrounding environment. He said that the concern was shared by local residents and members of the Tai Po DC. In this connection, Mr CHENG enquired whether the noise barrier materials to be used for Yuen Shin Road were those recovered from the Tolo Highway Widening Project, and if so, whether the Administration would re-consider using transparent type materials for the noise barriers and the recovered materials in other suitable retrofitting projects where the colour scheme would match better with the surrounding environment.

Admin

35. DHy advised that part of the noise barrier materials recovered from the Tolo Highway Widening Project had been used in two retrofitting projects in Sheung Shui and Fanling. The remaining recovered materials would be used in **776 TH** for Yuen Shin Road. As such, there was limitation in the choice of colour but efforts would be made to improve the appearance of the noise barriers as a whole through better combinations of the coloured panels. He pointed out that the use of the recovered material on Yuen Shin Road was supported by some members during the earlier consultation with Tai Po DC and the EA Panel. Nevertheless, DHy noted the concern of some Tai Po DC members about the colour of the noise barrier materials. At the request of Mr Andrew CHENG, the Administration undertook to re-consider the proposed use of the noise barriers materials recovered from the Tolo Highway Widening Project for Yuen Shin Road in Tai Po, including

the use of more transparent materials, so that the barriers could blend well with the environment, and provide further information to the Public Works Subcommittee before the relevant FC meeting.

Efficacy of noise barriers

36. Miss TAM Heung-man enquired about the efficacy of the noise barriers under the present proposal. In reply, the Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment), Environmental Protection Department (AD(EA), EPD) highlighted the high efficacy of the noise barriers in the proposal with more than 5 000 dwellings expected to benefit from reduced traffic noise. By way of illustration, after the proposed noise barriers were retrofitted, there would be a reduction of between one to five dB(A) for 690 dwellings, six to 10 dB(A) for 180 dwellings and over 10 dB(A) for 50 dwellings in the Cheung On Estate. The Chairman remarked that as the decibel measurement was on an exponential scale, the reduction of a few decibels in traffic noise would mean a marked improvement to the residents.

37. Miss TAM Heung-man enquired whether the height of the noise barriers would limit their noise reduction efficacy for dwellings at the upper floors. AD(EA), EPD said the noise reduction performance of the noise barriers would depend on the location and view angle of receivers and their proximity to roads. Given the structural constraints, the proposed noise barriers were already built to the maximum height of seven metres. While the noise barriers would be more effective in reducing traffic noise for dwellings at the lower floors, those at the upper floors would still benefit from the effect of the noise barriers.

38. Noting that retrofitting works were technically not feasible for some existing road sections, Prof Patrick LAU enquired whether technical feasibility for the road sections under the current proposal was related to advance planning during construction of the road sections, such as whether foundations for noise barriers had been reserved.

39. In response, DHy said that advance planning for the retrofitting works had not been made during construction of road sections under the present proposal. Where there was a need to mitigate the traffic noise level, the Administration would review the technical feasibility of retrofitting of noise barriers for the road sections concerned and carried out detailed study for undertaking the retrofitting works if preliminary investigation had indicated the technical feasibility of the retrofitting works.

40. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 709 – Waterworks**PWSC(2007-08)5 76WC Improvement to Hong Kong Central mid-level and high level areas water supply - remaining works**

41. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the proposal had been circulated to the PLW Panel on 20 March 2007.

42. While expressing no objection against the proposal, Miss CHOY So-yuk was concerned about Hong Kong's over-reliance on the fresh water supply from Dongjiang. Miss CHOY was of the view that improvement in the efficiency of rainfall collection through the natural catchment network would reduce wastage of precious water resource and called on the Administration to devise efficient measures in this regard.

43. The Director of Water Supplies (Acting) (DWS) said that the scope of this proposal included, among others, the construction of new fresh water service reservoirs for the Hong Kong Central mid-level and high-level areas. The new service reservoirs would receive water supplied from the same sources as the existing ones. He advised that to facilitate water conservation, the Administration had commissioned a consultancy study to map out a comprehensive program for total water management.

44. Miss CHOY So-yuk noted that the three new fresh water service reservoirs to be constructed under the current proposal would have storage capacities ranging from 1 750 to 4 500 cubic metres. She enquired about the capability of these new reservoirs to cope with the demand resulting from population growth in Hong Kong Central mid-level and high-level areas for the coming years. In reply, DWS said that with the proposed construction of fresh water service reservoirs, the total storage capacity of the service reservoirs could meet the growth in demand for water supply to the areas for the next 15 years.

45. Miss CHOY So-yuk expressed concern about the wastage of water due to leakage from the water mains and enquired whether the current project would cover works to tackle the problem of water leakage. In response, DWS said that the Administration had launched a territory-wide rehabilitation and replacement program for existing water mains to tackle the leakage problem. Moreover, leakage problem would be alleviated through the laying of new water mains under the current project. In response to Miss CHOY's further enquiry, DWS advised that upon the completion of the rehabilitation and replacement program, it was envisaged that the overall leakage rate for the territory would be reduced to around 15%.

46. Referring to the traffic impact of water works in the Mid-levels East, Ms Miriam LAU expressed concern that the construction works under the present project would result in serious traffic congestion in Hong Kong Central mid-level and high-level areas and cause inconvenience to residents. She enquired about the

traffic management measures to mitigate the impact on the residents. Noting that trenchless method would be employed for the construction works under this proposal, Ms LAU urged the Administration to consider employing this method for most of the construction works in the areas so as to minimize the impact of works on traffic.

47. DWS said that water works undertaken in the urban districts would inevitably have impact on traffic and hence cause inconvenience to residents to a certain extent. The Administration would set up a Traffic Management Liaison Group, comprising representatives from the Transport Department, HKPF, Highways Department, the relevant District Offices and public transport operators to work out temporary traffic management measures, the effectiveness of which would be tested through trial schemes before finalizing the arrangements. As regards the use of trenchless method, DWS said that digging of pits along the road sections would still be required for this method and the feasibility would have to be examined on a case-by-case basis. The Administration would consider expanding the use of trenchless method for the water works as far as practicable to minimize traffic impact.

48. Ms Miriam LAU urged the Administration to minimize disturbance to traffic through suspension of works during the morning and evening peak hours (say not to commence work before 9:30 am). The Administration should also consult the respective DC and residents on the traffic management measures.

49. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 705 - Civil Engineering

PWSC(2007-08)8 168DR Refurbishment and modification of the Island East Transfer Station

50. The Chairman advised members that the EA Panel was consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 26 February 2007. The Panel members raised no objection to the proposal in principle and supported the inclusion of pilot waste recycling facility in the Island East Transfer Station (IETS). Some members considered that the Administration should conduct a review shortly after the commissioning of the facility to decide whether it should be extended or alternative technologies should be employed. At members' request, the Administration had provided supplementary information on 2 April 2007 on overseas experience in operation of waste recycling facilities and their scale of operation, a comprehensive plan on waste recycling and the availability of space for extension of the pilot waste recycling facility.

51. Mr LEE Wing-tat relayed requests from the Eastern DC members on ensuring a clean environment in and near IETS. These included: washing of refuse collection trucks with high pressure water jet cleaners before departing from IETS, cleaning of IETS twice a day and cleaning of the street outside IETS daily during

summer. He enquired whether the Administration would accede to the above requests. In response, the Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), Environmental Protection Department (AD(EI), EPD) answered in the affirmative and assured members that the Administration would implement the cleaning measures accordingly.

52. Prof Patrick LAU suggested that noise barrier materials recovered from the Tolo Highways Widening Project could be used in the refurbishment of IETS. In reply, AD(EI), EPD said that measures to improve the aesthetic design of IETS would be taken into consideration, including the incorporation of greening measures.

53. Miss CHOY So-yuk enquired whether EPD would take the lead in introducing vertical greening and green roof tops for IETS. In response, AD(EI), EPD advised that while it might be practical to provide vertical greening on the facade of IETS, roof top greening might not be possible due to the building design with limited space on the roof top.

54. Miss CHOY So-yuk queried whether funds for refurbishment and modification of the IETS would be wasted if the waste recycling facility was found to be effective upon completion of the trial scheme and could be expanded to treat all the refuse collected to IETS. Miss CHOY also noted that the waste handling capacity of the waste recycling facility (about 30 tonnes per day) represented about 4% of the total refuse collected to IETS, which was similar to the target rate for waste recycling set out in the Administration's "Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Waste (2005-2014)" (the Policy Framework). In this connection, she was concerned that the Administration would be complacent with this low recycling rate. She considered that the waste recycling facility should be expanded to treat the entire waste load from IETS and urged the Administration to increase the recycling rate if the trial of the waste recycling facility was successful.

55. AD(EI), EPD advised that the pilot waste recycling facility would receive part of the mixed municipal solid waste that was delivered to IETS. The performance of the pilot facility would be closely monitored. If it was considered necessary and appropriate to increase the recycling capacity, the contractor would be required to extend the pilot facility, consideration would also be given to the installation of waste recycling facilities in other refuse transfer stations. She added that the target rate for waste recycling set out in the Policy Framework was by no means final and the Administration would strive to achieve a higher rate if the recycling facility was found to be effective. Responding to Miss TAM Heung-man's enquiry about the availability of space for extension of the pilot facility, AD(EI), EPD said that the layout of the pilot facility in IETS had already allowed space for possible extension.

56. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 708 - Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment**PWSC(2007-08)9 8MA Redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre,
phase 2**

57. The Chairman advised members that the Panel on Health Services (HS Panel) was consulted on the project on 8 January 2007. Panel members supported the early commencement of the redevelopment works in general though making enquiries on whether and how the redeveloped Caritas Medical Centre (CMC) could cope with the service demand from the growing population in the Sham Shui Po (SSP) district; the delineation of role and service provision of hospitals in the Kowloon West Cluster; and the additional manpower required for the redeveloped CMC. The Administration provided the required information to the HS Panel on 30 March 2007.

Provision of patient services

58. Miss TAM Heung-man enquired whether the redevelopment project had been worked out having regard to the increasing demand for medical services from the growing population in the neighbouring districts, notably SSP district. In reply, the Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health)2 (PAS(H)2, HWFB) advised that in the planning of the project, it was estimated that the increase in clinical space and facilities of CMC would be able to meet the demand of population growth of SSP district up to 2015. As to Miss TAM's further enquiry on the expansion of services to cope with further population growth beyond 2015, PAS(H)2, HWFB said that the Hospital Authority (HA) had plans to adjust the mode of service delivery to facilitate patient integration in the community with a view to reducing the period for hospitalization, through rehabilitation and medical care services in the local community. She assured members that the Administration and HA would monitor the changes in service demand and take necessary actions accordingly.

59. Miss TAM Heung-man expressed concern about the disturbance to patient services during the construction period of the proposed project and enquired about measures to minimize the disturbance. In reply, the Hospital Chief Executive (CMC), HA (HCE(CMC), HA) said that HA aimed to maintain normal service to patients during the construction works and clear requirements would be stipulated in the construction contract for minimizing disturbance of the works to patients, staff and the local community. Responding to Miss TAM's concern about improvement of access to the mentally handicap unit by wheelchair users, HCE(CMC), HA advised that while the unit was not within the project scope, the access route leading to Wai Yee Block where the unit was housed would be part of the proposed project and improvement for wheelchair access would be made under the project.

Consultation with patient groups

60. Mr LEE Wing-tat was of the view that patients as users of the medical

services should be consulted on the proposed redevelopment works. He therefore sought information on the organizations or groups consulted apart from the respective DC. In response, HCE(CMC), HA said that extensive consultation with focus groups involving patients and relevant non-governmental organizations had been conducted during the planning phase of the redevelopment project a few years ago.

61. Responding to Mr LEE's further enquiry on the patient groups consulted and the views collected, HCE(CMC), HA advised that the consultation was particularly targeted at chronic patients who were frequent users of CMC's services. The respondents generally welcomed the construction of a new ambulatory/rehabilitation block and expressed concern about improvements to access, hospital environment and provision of smooth and efficient services. She said that the redevelopment project had taken into account the views collected during the consultation, including those of patients with disability on barrier-free access. At the request of Mr LEE Wing-tat, HA/the Administration undertook to provide a summary record of the consultation exercises conducted with the patients' groups during the planning of the proposed project, with information on whether the views had/had not been taken forward as well as the explanations for not taking forward some of the views received.

Admin

Greening and energy conservation measures

62. Prof Patrick LAU expressed concern about the greening measures to be implemented for the hospital blocks, in particular on the roof top of the buildings. In reply, PAS(H)2, HWFB said that the requirements on greening measures would be taken into consideration in the preparation of the tender for the proposed works.

63. Miss CHOY So-yuk was of the view that the Administration should set out standard requirements on vertical greening and green roof tops for all capital works projects. Miss CHOY considered the implementation of greening measures particularly significant for hospital projects, including the redevelopment of CMC and the redevelopment of Yan Chai Hospital (**PWSC(2007-08)10**), as a green environment with plenty of fresh air would facilitate the recovery of patients. She suggested that greening be provided on the exterior wall and the roof top of the redeveloped block, as well as along the link bridges connecting the new block with other existing buildings at CMC.

64. In reply, PAS(H)2, HFWB said that whilst all capital works projects would be subject to greening requirements, details of the greening measures for individual projects would have to be worked out by the project consultant after awarding the tender. The Chief Technical Adviser (Subvented Projects), Architectural Services Department (CTA(SP), ArchSD) added that the incorporation of greening and landscaping had been taken into account in the design of the current project, where practicable. By way of illustration, CTA(SP), ArchSD advised that as part of the project, a rehabilitation garden would be constructed at the site after the demolition of three existing hospital blocks (Wai On Block, Wai Tak Block and Wai Yan Block) and considerable funding would be

allocated for the greening and landscaping works in this respect. As to the concern about green roof tops, CTA(SP), ArchSD explained that no space would be available for greening on the roof top of the proposed new block given that cooling towers of the air-conditioning system would be set up there. He however pointed out that where space permitted, the provision of greening had been incorporated in the project design, such as on podiums and terraces of the redeveloped block. HCE(CMC), HA added that HA had requested the architect to give thoughts to the implementation of greening measures, including the provision of vertical greening.

65. Miss CHOY So-yuk remained concerned that in addition to landscaping and gardens on the ground level, efforts should be made to utilize all space/surface available to enhance greening for capital works projects. As such, the provision of rehabilitation garden and greening on podiums could not replace the need for vertical greening and green roof tops. She doubted whether the Administration had set any standard greening requirements for capital works projects and urged the Administration to take forward her views if it had not already done so. Miss CHAN Yuen-han shared Miss CHOY So-yuk's concern about the importance of greening measures in the planning of capital works projects.

66. In response, PS(W) said that in accordance with the Government's greening policy, the works departments would incorporate greening measures as far as practicable in the design of the capital works projects. He drew members' attention to the site plan showing the proposed layout of CMC at Enclosure 2 to the Administration's paper and pointed out that the project covered a large site area, which would allow room for greening measures on the ground level as well as on the redeveloped block, compared with projects on small sites which involved the construction of a single building block only. He said that the Administration had taken note of members' concern about vertical greening and had been putting in place such measures in the design of some projects, where appropriate.

67. Mr LEE Wing-tat was concerned about the energy efficiency for the redeveloped hospital block. In this connection, Mr LEE enquired about the benchmarks for energy consumption and whether HA/the Administration had set any target for reducing energy consumption for the redeveloped block

68. In reply, HCE(CMC), HA said that while she did not have in hand the percentage of energy savings for the redeveloped block, HA had taken advantage of the latest energy conservation technologies in the project design. CTA(SP), ArchSD added that HA had required its consultant to work out the project design in accordance with the Government's prevailing policy on environmental protection and the highest standard for energy conservation. The Senior Architect (Facility Planning), HA said that the latest technologies for energy saving would be employed for the new hospital blocks, which could achieve about 20% energy saving compared with blocks developed earlier on when these technologies were not available. At the request of Mr LEE Wing-tat, HA/the Administration undertook to provide information on the energy efficiency facilities/measures to be installed/implemented in the proposed works and the extent to which these would

reduce energy consumption.

69. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2007-08)10 5MF Redevelopment of Yan Chai Hospital

70. The Chairman advised members that HS Panel was consulted on the project on 11 December 2006. Panel members supported the early commencement of the redevelopment works and requested for early completion of the proposed works. Moreover, in the light of the increasing demand for obstetric and gynaecology services by pregnant women from the Mainland, some members asked HA to consider providing such services in the redevelopment project of the Yan Chai Hospital (YCH). The Administration had provided the requested information on 30 March 2007.

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71. Noting that the Administration had briefed the Tsuen Wan DC (TWDC) on the project, Mr LEE Wing-tat pointed out that many residents of the Kwai Tsing district were using the service of YCH. At the request of Mr LEE, the Administration undertook that the KTDC would be consulted in addition to TWDC before submitting its funding proposal for the construction of the YCH redevelopment project in the future. Moreover, HA/the Administration also took note of Mr LEE's request for information on energy efficiency facilities/measures to be installed/implemented in the YCH project as requested for the CMC project in paragraph 68 above.

72. The item was voted on and endorsed.

73. The meeting ended at 10:25 am.