

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

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

**Minutes of the 12th meeting
held in the Conference Room A of Legislative Council Building
on Friday, 15 June 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-ye, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, 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
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Heung-man

Members absent:

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP

Member attending:

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

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)
Miss Annie Tam, JP	Deputy Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) ¹
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 YUE Chi-hang, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mr Daniel SIN Pak-wing	Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport)
Mr Paul CHEUNG Kwok-kee	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) ¹ , Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mrs Karen YUEN CHAU Oi-wah	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) ¹ , Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Eddy YAU Kwok-yin, JP	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) ³ , Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Peter KAN Tat-sing	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) ² , Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Bernadette LINN Hon-ho, JP	Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower (2)
Mr LO Man-fai	Senior Education Officer (School Building), Education and Manpower Bureau
Mr WONG Chee-keung, JP	Director of Drainage Services
Dr M J BROOM	Assistant Director (Water Policy), Environmental Protection Department
Mr CHUI Wing-wah	Chief Engineer (Harbour Area Treatment Scheme), Drainage Services Department
Mr LEE Tai-kwan	Chief Engineer (Sewerage Projects), Drainage Services Department
Mr CHAN Chi-chiu, JP	Director of Water Supplies
Mr NG Chi-ho	Assistant Director (New Works), Water Supplies Department
Miss WONG Yuet-wah	Principal Assistant Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) ²
Mr John CHAI Sung-veng, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr KWAN Chi-wai	Chief Engineer (Tai Po and North), Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr CHAN Yiu-ming

Chief Engineer (Pak Shek Kok), Civil
Engineering and Development Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Rosalind MA

Senior Council Secretary (1)8

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

The Chairman advised members that the Administration had submitted ten items for this meeting as well as the next meeting scheduled for 20 June 2007. If the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) could complete the scrutiny of all the items at the two meetings, the meeting scheduled for 27 June 2007 would not be held.

Head 703 – Buildings

PWSC(2007-08)27

406RO

**District open space at Po Kong Village
Road, Wong Tai Sin**

2. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) on 16 April 2007.

3. Mr CHAN Kam-lam supported the project as the local residents had been longing for recreational amenities in the area. He expressed concern about the provision of adequate rain shelters in the proposed open space and the aesthetic design of the shelters. In response, the Director of Architectural Services (D Arch S) said that adequate shelters/pavilions would be provided in the open space and attention would be given to the aesthetic design of these shelters/pavilions in the detailed design of the project.

4. Prof Patrick LAU appreciated the long duration of the proposed works due to the large site area part of which was on a slope. Noting that a cycling track and cycling areas would be provided in the open space, Prof LAU suggested the Administration to make good use of the topography of the site in the design of the facilities.

5. D Arch S said that the project site covered a large area of 9.5 hectares with the western part of the site being a valley. Since the cycling track had to be built

with a suitable gradient limit, it would be elevated and it was not feasible to make use of the terrain. Nevertheless, he understood that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had planned to make use of the topography of the site for the provision of a training venue for BMX cyclists. Responding to Prof Patrick LAU's enquiry on the phased-delivery of the project, D Arch S said that the portion of works under phase 1 of the project included the two soccer cum rugby pitches and the landscape garden area in the eastern part of the site. The works would take about 24 months to complete. The second phase of the project included works for the cycling areas/track in the remaining part of the site which involved slope and geotechnical works and would take about 34 months to complete.

6. In response to Prof Patrick LAU's enquiry on the use of the facilities in the open space by schools in the neighboring area, the Assistant Director (Leisure Services)¹, LCSD said that all public recreational facilities were available for hire by schools according to the prevailing policy. He further said that the Administration had consulted the neighboring schools on the proposed project and got their support for the preliminary project design.

7. While stating support for the project and welcoming the provision of two soccer cum rugby pitches, Mr Fred LI enquired whether the pitches could be designed with flexibility for use as gate ball courts to meet the demand of the ageing population in the nearby estates. He called on the Administration to take this into consideration as well as to expedite the delivery of the project. In response, D Arch S said that it was technically feasible to allow flexible use of the pitches as gate ball courts by providing the appropriate markings on the pitches. The suggestion would be further examined in consultation with LCSD having regard to local demand.

8. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**PWSC(2007-08)33 238RS Recreational facilities on Jordan Valley
former landfill, Kwun Tong**

9. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the HA Panel on 16 April 2007.

10. Noting that the proposed works would be carried out at a former landfill, Prof Patrick LAU expressed concern about the ecological/environmental impact of the works and enquired whether any environment impact assessment or study had been conducted for the proposed project, in particular on soil quality and landfill gas hazard assessment.

11. D Arch S said that the sites of the current proposal and that under **PWSC(2007-08)34** were both on former landfills. To ensure that the proposed works on these former landfill sites would not give rise to adverse environmental impacts, the Administration had carried out preliminary environmental reviews

(PER) before working out the project designs. PER for the project had concluded that there was no insurmountable environmental impact during the construction and operation phases of the project. Preventive measures recommended by the PER had been incorporated into the building design (e.g. adoption of raised floor building) to minimize potential landfill gas hazard.

12. Prof Patrick LAU enquired whether the Administration had considered the reuse of landfill gas as an alternative source of energy. In reply, D Arch S advised that gas would be extracted through a network system to a nearby plant set up by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for energy generation, where practicable.

13. Pointing out that the proposed project was located at a distance from the residential estates in the area, Mr CHAN Kam-lam was concerned about public access to the site. Moreover, he noted with concern that the park entrance would be provided at the New Clear Water Bay Road, which was a road with heavy traffic. In this connection, Mr CHAN enquired whether footbridges would be constructed, say, under a separate project to provide safe and convenient access to the park. Sharing similar views, Mr Fred LI expressed concern that about the absence of convenient access for residents from the public housing estates nearby, such as Shun Tin Estate and Shun On Estate. Noting that a substantial area of the former landfill surrounding the proposed park was under close monitoring of EPD due to environmental impact concerns, Mr LI urged the relevant works department to explore further with EPD the feasibility of opening up more areas of the former landfill for the provision of additional park entrances. The Administration took note of members' concerns and undertook to examine further measures to facilitate public access to the park.

Admin

14. While supporting the design of the proposed works to provide more landscaping and greening works, Mr Albert CHAN considered the estimated capital cost of the project on the high side. He doubted whether the high project cost was attributable to the substantial provision of \$52.8 million for the external works and sought detailed information in this regard. In reply, D Arch S said that the external works mainly included road works, provision of fence wall, etc. At Mr CHAN's request, the Administration undertook to provide detailed breakdown on the estimated provision of \$52.8 million for the external works under the proposed works before the relevant Finance Committee (FC) meeting. The Chairman also commented that the Administration should provide more information such as detailed breakdown on major expenditure items in future submissions to facilitate members' consideration.

15. Referring to the installation of vent pipes at the closed Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill for release of the landfill gas underground, Mr Albert CHAN expressed concern about the visual impact of the vent pipes and enquired whether similar devices would be installed in the proposed park, and if so, the Administration should consider incorporating suitable planting and greening measures to mitigate the visual impact. D Arch S advised that given the low level of landfill gas at the project site, installation of vent pipes would not be required. Instead, any landfill

gas would be extracted within the existing monitoring wells below ground for further processing and energy generation. Suitable plants would be planted around the monitoring wells to enhance the visual effect of the garden.

Admin

16. Referring to paragraphs 16 and 17 of the discussion paper, Prof Patrick LAU sought the Administration's explanation on the disposal of the construction and demolition (C&D) materials/waste and the cost for the disposal at the public fill reception facilities and landfills. In response, D Arch S said that the C&D materials/waste would be disposed of at designated landfills and the notional cost of the disposal of C&D materials/waste would be calculated based on the charges applicable under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354). Upon Prof LAU's request, the Administration undertook to provide, before the relevant FC meeting, supplementary information to explain the arrangements for the disposal of C&D materials/waste in public works projects to public fill reception facilities and landfills, including the process for designation of the landfills and the cost for the disposal.

17. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**PWSC(2007-08)34 411RO Ngau Chi Wan Recreation Ground,
Wong Tai Sin**

18. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the HA Panel on 16 April 2007.

19. Pointing out that there were a number of residential estates in the vicinity of the proposed recreation ground, Mr CHAN Kam-lam expressed concern about measures to facilitate access by local residents to the site, in particular to the archery field. Referring to the design of the project with three elderly fitness corners and Tai Chi areas, Mr CHAN considered that the Administration should provide more sports facilities for the youth in the nearby estates, in addition to the basketball court in the preliminary design.

20. D Arch S said that the archery field was located on a raised platform and could be accessed either through the vehicular access or the stairway from Fung Shing Street. The sports facilities would be provided on this platform while passive amenities would be provided on the other platforms at the other side of Fung Shing Street. The Administration had consulted the respective District Council (DC) on facilities to be provided in the recreation ground to meet the needs of the local residents. Nevertheless, given the site constraints, there were technical difficulties in designing large scale sports facilities at the site. Responding to Mr CHAN Kam-lam's suggestion of converting the open lawn adjacent to the archery field into a badminton court, D Arch S said that this would have to be considered in consultation with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the respective DC.

21. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2007-08)26 260RS Swimming pool complex in Area 2, Tung Chung, Lantau

22. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the HA Panel on 16 April 2007.

23. Mr TAM Yiu-chung considered that the provision of a public swimming pool in Tung Chung had been long overdue. Pointing out that residents of Tung Chung would have to travel a long way to use the swimming pool at Mui Wo despite that the two areas were both on the Lantau Island, Mr TAM said that there was a mismatch between the established planning standards and guidelines and the geographical distribution of the population in the Islands District. He urged the Administration to expedite the implementation of the project and to exercise flexibility in future planning of leisure facilities for the Islands District. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed similar concern about early commissioning of the project and enquired whether the Administration could expedite project delivery so that the swimming pool could be opened to the public before the swimming season in 2010.

24. Mrs Selina CHOW commended the Administration for advancing the submission of the current proposal in response to the repeated requests of Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) at various occasions. She sought confirmation from the Administration on the commissioning of the pool before the swimming season in 2010.

25. In response, D Arch S said that to meet the imminent demand of the local residents in Tung Chung for swimming facilities, the Administration had taken forward the proposal expeditiously. Subject to funding approval, tender would be awarded in August 2007 for commencement of piling works (which would take about 10 months) and the construction of superstructure would follow after completion of the piling works. He advised that according to the Administration's plan, the swimming pool would be open for the swimming season in 2010.

26. Mr WONG Kwok-hing pointed out that the lack of swimming facilities in Tung Chung area had resulted in tragedies of children drowned when swimming in the sea or the streams. He suggested that the Administration should put up warning signs at the waterfront to remind children of the dangers of swimming in these places. Noting that there would be three swimming seasons before the completion of the project, Mr WONG enquired about measures/programmes to meet the demand of children in Tung Chung for swimming facilities. Mr Albert CHAN expressed similar concern and suggested that the Administration could consider designating temporary swimming areas at suitable sites along the waterfront in Tung Chung.

27. The Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3, LCSD (AD(LS)3, LCSD) advised that before the completion of the proposed swimming pool complex in 2010, LCSD would organize aquatic events and swimming classes for children in Tung Chung during the swimming seasons at beaches or swimming pools, such as

the Silvermine Bay Beach.

28. In response to Mr TAM Yiu-chung's enquiry on the opening hours of the swimming pool and the entrance fee for the elderly, AD(LS)3, LCSD said that the swimming pool would be opened to the public in three sessions daily with summer opening hours from 6:30 am to 10 pm while the heated pool would be opened from 6:30 am to 9:30 pm in winter. Under the concessionary scheme for the elderly, the entrance fee would be \$8 on weekdays and \$9 on weekends and public holidays.

29. Referring to the location plan of the swimming pool complex at Enclosure 1 to the discussion paper, Mrs Selina CHOW enquired whether footbridges or pedestrian subways would be provided for public access to the complex, in addition to at-grade road crossings facilities. Prof Patrick LAU shared Mrs CHOW's concern about the provision of convenient pedestrian crossings. Noting that there was a subway for pedestrians to cross Tat Tung Road to the Tung Chung Crescent, Prof LAU doubted why the pedestrian access of the proposed complex was not designed at a more convenient location near the subway to facilitate pedestrian crossing.

30. In response, AD(LS)3, LCSD said that road crossing facilities were available for the local residents to access the swimming pool complex and LCSD would liaise with the Transport Department to examine the need for additional road crossing facilities to enhance pedestrian flow. D Arch S added that the pedestrian access of the swimming pool complex was designed at a location closer to Mei Tung Street to facilitate access of users traveling by MTR as the exit of Tung Chung Station was near Mei Tung Street. Moreover, the pedestrian access would be in proximity to the car park of the Tung Chung Cable Car Station and the bus terminus.

31. Responding to Prof Patrick LAU's enquiry on the work schedule for the landscaped area adjacent to the proposed complex, AD(LS)3, LCSD advised that this was part of the current proposal and the landscaping works would be carried out together with the works for the complex. The area could be used for developing additional pool facilities in the light of the future population growth and need of residents in Tung Chung New Town, where necessary.

32. Recalling that the former Municipal Councils (ex-MCs) had adopted a multi-pool design standard for swimming pool complex, Mr Albert CHAN expressed disappointment about the scale and the provision of the proposed complex, with only one main pool of 50 metres (m) by 25 m and one teaching pool of 25 m by 25 m. He considered the proposed complex as sub-standard and sought justifications from the Administration for the deviation from the design standard for swimming pools. In this connection, Mr CHAN was of the view that a diving pool should be provided under the current proposal to facilitate the promotion of the sports in Hong Kong.

33. In response, AD(LS)3, LCSD explained that the ex-MCs had adopted the multi-pool design for swimming pool complex projects in the past in the light of

the general shortage of such facilities in the territory at that time. Nevertheless, this did not represent the planning standard for the number of pools to be provided in a swimming pool complex. Now that there was a wider provision of swimming pool facilities in different districts, the Administration would take forward the design of new swimming pool complex projects having regard to the needs of residents in the district. AD(LS)3, LCSD said that the Islands District Council (IDC) supported the proposal of providing one main pool and one teaching pool under this project to meet the imminent demand of local residents for swimming facilities within a shorter timeframe. There was however no request from IDC for the provision of a diving pool under the project. He further advised that the great difference in depth for diving pool and teaching pool (with depth of 5 m and 0.9 to 1.2m respectively) would impose difficulties in the co-use of the pool facility for the two purposes. He reiterated that the landscaped area could be used for developing additional pool facilities in the light of the future population growth and need of residents in Tung Chung New Town. The Administration would examine the necessary facilities to be provided in consultation with IDC at a later stage when need arose.

34. Mr Albert CHAN did not subscribe to the Administration's explanation and maintained his view that there was established standard for the number of pools to be provided in a swimming pool complex. While IDC had not requested for a diving pool, Mr CHAN pointed out that it did not raise objection to the provision of such facility in the proposed complex for promotion of this healthy sports. Referring to overseas experiences of the co-use of the same pool for both teaching and diving purposes, Mr CHAN queried why the Administration had refused to examine further the technical feasibility of his suggestion. Pointing out that he had received complaints from school principals on the lack of diving facilities for training, Mr CHAN strongly requested the Administration to maximize use of the resources under the current proposal for the provision of a diving pool.

35. Mrs Selina CHOW pointed out that IDC had urged for the early implementation of the project without putting forward any request for a diving pool. Given that IDC had given its support to the current proposal, Mrs CHOW was concerned that further consultation with IDC on the provision of a diving pool would inevitably delay project implementation which could be against the wish of IDC and local residents. In this connection, she said that only slight modifications to the proposal with no implication on the implementation schedule might be considered. As to the provision of multi-pool in some ex-MC projects, Mrs CHOW opined that the provision might not be applicable for all projects across-the-board as some of the pools had recorded low usage rates.

36. Mr CHAN Kam-lam was of the view that the need or otherwise of a diving pool should be examined from the practical perspective on the basis of the demand of local residents. As Tung Chung residents had been longing for the swimming pool and IDC supported the current proposal, Mr CHAN expressed support to the proposal for the provision of a main pool and a teaching pool. He further said that where technical feasibility was confirmed and the additional

works would not cause undue delay to the project delivery, he would not object to the provision of additional pool facility to provide more choices for the local residents.

37. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that IDC had reiterated their request for the provision of a main pool and a teaching pool in the meetings with LegCo Members. Noting that the landscaped area could be used for developing additional pool facilities in the future, Mr WONG requested to put on record the call for the Administration to explore the feasibility of providing diving pool facility in the next phase of development of the swimming pool complex.

38. Noting the comments of other members, Mr Albert CHAN stressed that he had no intention to delay the implementation of the current project and considered that his suggestion of using the teaching pool for diving purpose should not have any impact on the project implementation schedule.

39. In response, AD(LS)3, LCSD said that the Administration had an open-mind to Mr CHAN's suggestion and was willing to examine the use of the teaching pool for diving purpose if members so wished, provided that the delivery schedule of the proposed works would not be adversely affected.

40. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2007-08)25 343EF A 24-classroom primary school at development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley, Kwun Tong

41. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the Panel on Education on 9 May 2007.

42. Referring to Enclosure 2 to the Administration's proposal, Miss CHAN Yuen-han sought details on the vegetation on the rooftop of the school building and the planting proposal under the proposed project. In response, D Arch S said that the design of the proposed school included a green rooftop on the multi-purpose assembly hall where suitable tree species and other plants would be provided where feasible. He further confirmed that the planting proposals as set out in the Administration's proposal had incorporated plants for the green rooftop. Miss CHAN supported the Administration's proposal and urged it to provide more green areas in future school projects as far as practicable.

43. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 704 - Drainage

PWSC(2007-08)28 351DS Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A - planning and design of the upgrading works of Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works and the preliminary treatment works

44. The Chairman advised members that the Panel on Environmental Affairs (EA Panel) had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 28 May 2007. Members raised no objection for the Administration to submit the proposal to PWSC but requested the Administration to provide supplementary information about the scope and cost breakdown of the proposed planning and design consultancy; whether there was any overlapping of the proposed consultancy with the on-going Environmental Impact Assessment consultancies; and the reasons for using a single consultancy. The requested information provided by the Administration was circulated to members of the Panel on 6 June 2007.

45. Noting that the Administration had consulted relevant DCs on the construction of tunnel conveyance system of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2A, Miss CHAN Yuen-han sought information on the major concerns of members of the relevant DCs. In reply, the Chief Engineer (Harbour Area Treatment Scheme), Drainage Services Department (CE/HATS, DSD) advised that members of DCs generally supported the proposal and were mainly concerned about the disturbance to the nearby residents during the project implementation. Responding to Miss CHAN's concern about further consultation with the relevant DCs, CE/HATS, DSD said that the Administration would adopt an interactive approach under which the relevant DCs would be consulted and their concerns responded to timely both before and during project implementation.

46. Mr Albert CHAN referred to the deterioration in the quality of the western waters due to the discharge of undisinfected effluent after the commissioning of HATS Stage 1 which had resulted in the closure of beaches in the Tsuen Wan area. In this connection, Mr CHAN was concerned about the environmental impact of HATS Stage 2A, particularly the impact on the date of re-opening of the closed beaches in Tsuen Wan.

47. In response, the Director of Drainage Services (DDS) advised that the commissioning of HATS Stage 2A would not have any adverse impact on the quality of the western waters. He said that the advanced disinfection facilities under HATS Stage 2A which were scheduled for commissioning in 2009 would improve the beach water quality and enable re-opening of some of the closed beaches in Tsuen Wan.

48. Mr LEE Wing-tat also expressed concern about the adverse impact of HATS Stage 1 to the western waters. He doubted whether such environmental impact had been predicted in the planning of HATS Stage 1 and whether the Administration had conducted a review in this regard. In reply, the Assistant

Director (Water Policy), Environmental Protection Department (AD(WP), EPD) advised that apart from impact of the undisinfected effluent from the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW) after commissioning of HATS Stage 1, the water quality of the Tsuen Wan beaches was also subject to local pollution from the unsewered villages in the beach hinterland. AD(WP), EPD advised that the Administration had been taking active measures to tackle local pollution sources, including the local sewerage programmes in progress at Sham Tseng and Ting Kau. These programmes together with the advanced disinfection facilities under HATS Stage 2A would help to improve the beach water quality upon their commissioning.

49. Miss TAM Heung-man noted that the sewage from Hong Kong Island would be conveyed to SCISTW for chemically-enhanced primary treatment and disinfection under HATS Stage 2A. She was concerned about the timing and consultation arrangement for the implementation of biological treatment under HATS in the longer term. In reply, DDS advised that biological treatment was an integral part of HATS Stage 2, and a two-phase implementation strategy was adopted to expedite upgrading of the existing sewage treatment facilities and introducing disinfection under Stage 2A and to allow time for finalizing the land and planning issues related to the implementation of Stage 2B. DDS pointed out that the Administration would conduct a review on the timing for implementation of Stage 2B in 2010-11 while the commissioning of Stage 2A in 2014 would bring about enhanced treatment to sewage. Responding to Miss TAM Heung-man's further enquiry, DDS confirmed that inputs from relevant professionals and experts would be invited during the review of HATS Stage 2B to be conducted in 2010-11.

50. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**PWSC(2007-08)19 342DS Tai Po sewage treatment works, stage 5
phase 2A - disinfection**

51. The Chairman advised members that the EA Panel had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 23 April 2007. Members indicated support for the proposal to be submitted to PWSC for consideration. Some members requested the Administration to consult other interested parties, such as green groups, on the proposed works and to include the outcome of further consultation in the discussion paper to PWSC. Consideration should also be given to including green groups in the standing list of consultees in future. To facilitate future discussion on sewerage projects, the Administration was requested to include in its papers to the EA Panel information on various indicators, such as the levels of biological oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand etc. before and after sewage treatment.

52. Noting the Administration's statement in the discussion paper that it had updated the green groups on the latest proposal of the project and no adverse comments had been received, Miss CHAN Yuen-han queried what exactly the

comments of green groups were about. In reply, DDS said that the Administration had contacted a total of nine green groups upon the request of the EA Panel and they all expressed support for the proposed works. Among these green groups, the Tai Po Environmental Association had expressed strong support for the proposed disinfection facilities under the Tai Po sewage treatment works (TPSTW). The Administration noted Miss CHAN Yuen-han's further view that in future submissions to PWSC, it should set out clearly the support from the consultees instead of highlighting that no adverse comment was received.

53. Mr CHAN Kam-lam noted that the treated effluent from TPSTW and the Sha Tin sewage treatment works (STSTW) would be discharged into the Kai Tak Nullah. He was concerned about the effect of the proposed disinfection facilities for TPSTW in reducing the bacterial (*E. coli*) content in the treated effluent and sought information on whether the content would be reduced to the same extent as the treated effluent from STSTW.

54. In response, DDS said that the proposed disinfection facilities for TPSTW would significantly reduce the content of *E.coli* in the treated effluent from the present of 53 000 counts per 100 milliliters (ml) to about 1 000 counts per 100 ml, which was comparable to the expected effect of the disinfection facilities for STSTW, the installation of which was underway. Responding to Mr CHAN Kam-lam's further enquiry on the reference standards of *E.coli* content in waters, DDS advised that according to the water quality objectives formulated by EPD, the level of *E. coli* should not exceed 180 counts per 100 ml and 610 counts per 100 ml for bathing beaches and for secondary contact recreational areas respectively. The treated effluent from TPSTW and STSTW with *E. coli* content of 1000 counts per 100ml would maintain the water quality at the Kai Tak Nullah at a satisfactory level.

55. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 709 - Waterworks

PWSC(2007-08)35 45WS Salt water supply for Northwest New Territories

56. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (PLW Panel) on 14 May 2007.

57. Mrs Selina CHOW noted that the Administration had consulted the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee of the Tuen Mun DC on the proposed works and got the support of the Committee to the proposal. While not having particular views on the proposal, Mrs CHOW pointed out that she had received a written submission from the Aqua Blue Owners' Corporation (the Owners' Corporation) expressing grave concern about the implementation of the remainder of **45 WS**, i.e. stage 2 works of the salt water supply for Northwest

New Territories (NWNT). She sought information on the relation and interface between the two stages of works under **45WS** and the planned schedule for implementation of stage 2.

58. In reply, the Director of Water Supplies (DWS) said that the first stage of works under **45WS** in the current proposal mainly comprised laying of salt water mains along Castle Peak Road from Lok On Pai to Fu Tei and the construction of an intermediate booster chlorination plant at Tuen Mun water treatment works (TMWTW). The remaining works under the second stage of **45WS**, which the Administration planned to submit funding proposal in 2008, comprised mainly the construction of a salt water pumping station at Lok On Pai and the laying of salt water mains between TMWTW and Tin Shui Wai. He believed that the Owners' Corporation's major concern was about the construction of the pumping station at Lok On Pai and pointed out that the station would be necessary for the supply of salt water to the NWNT area.

59. Mrs Selina CHOW said that while the remaining works under stage 2 of **45WS** was not part of the current proposal, the works under stage 1 and stage 2 formed integral parts of the same project for salt water supply to NWNT. She therefore called on the Administration to discuss with the Owners' Corporation as soon as possible before the implementation of stage 2 with a view to addressing their concerns about the environmental nuisances and disturbances of the proposed works under stage 2.

60. Mr WONG Kwok-hing appreciated that the proposed works would provide a more economical flushing water supply using salt water for the NWNT area. He was however of the view that the provision of salt water supply should have been implemented earlier on during the town planning stage of the areas concerned. He also enquired whether the Administration could implement all the works under **45WS** in one go instead of in two stages.

61. DWS advised that as the detailed design of the works under stage 1 had been completed, the current proposal was submitted to PWSC for funding support to enable the early commencement of the proposed works. For the remaining works under stage 2, some more time would be required for completing tasks such as the detailed design, consultation and the necessary statutory procedures for implementation and was expected to be submitted to PWSC in 2008. As to the planning for the implementation of salt water supply system for the NWNT area, DWS advised that salt water mains network within the town centre of Tuen Mun had been constructed. Stage 1 and stage 2 of **45WS** would include laying of salt water mains connecting from Tsing Fat Street, Lok On Pai to Fu Tei, a salt water pumping station at Lok On Pai, a salt water service reservoir at Tan Kwai Tsuen and laying of approximately 8.4 kilometers of salt water mains between TMWTW and Tin Shui Wai.

62. Noting the various plans for provision of salt water supply system for the NWNT area in the pipeline, Mr WONG Kwok-hing urged the Administration to expedite its preparatory works for public works projects with a view to upgrading

projects to Category A for implementation at an earliest possible date.

63. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 707 - New Towns and Urban Area Development

PWSC(2007-08)31 713CL Tai Po development - formation and servicing of Areas 12 (part) and 39, phase 2A

64. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the PLW Panel on 23 May 2007.

65. The item was voted on and endorsed.

66. Whilst noting that the item had been endorsed, Miss CHAN Yuen-han and Mr Abraham SHEK both expressed concern about the large number of trees (854 trees in total) to be felled under the proposed works and sought information on the species and age of the affected trees.

67. In reply, the Director for Civil Engineering and Development (DCED) advised that the 854 trees to be felled were not important trees nor trees of rare species. Given the location of these trees in the project site, they could not be preserved during the construction of proposed carriageway under the proposed works. Responding to Miss CHAN Yuen-han's further enquiry on tree preservation, the Chief Engineer (Tai Po and North), Civil Engineering and Development Department advised that while the proposed works would involve the felling of 854 trees, the Administration would incorporate planting proposals as part of the project, including about 510 trees and over 10 000 tree seedlings. At the request of Miss CHAN Yuen-han, the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on the age of the 854 trees to be felled under the project.

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68. The Chairman advised members that an information paper on the project had been circulated to the PLW Panel on 17 May 2007.

69. The item was voted on and endorsed.

70. The meeting ended at 10:10 am.