

Implementation of minor works projects by the Home Affairs Department

The Committee noted that the Audit Commission had conducted a review on the implementation of minor works projects by the Home Affairs Department (HAD).

2. The Committee did not hold any public hearing on this subject. Instead, it asked for a written response to its enquiries.

3. The Committee noted the audit recommendations in paragraph 2.24(c) and (d) of the Director of Audit's Report (Audit Report) that the HAD should keep the District Working Groups (DWGs) and Steering Committees (SCs) informed of any significant project cost increase and the reasons thereof, and provide full, relevant and significant information to the DWGs and SCs when submitting project proposals for their consideration. In response, the HAD had undertaken to consider revising the format of the progress report to show both the original and the revised estimated cost of a project, and to apprise members of the DWGs and SCs of any projects having significant cost increases with reasons. The Committee also noted from paragraph 2.25(c) of the Audit Report that for projects such as footpaths, access roads and piers, the HAD would consider providing information on the expected utilisation of the facilities and the availability of similar facilities in the vicinity for members' reference. The Committee enquired about the latest progress in this regard.

4. Noting that the HAD had agreed with the audit recommendations in paragraph 3.25 of the Audit Report concerning the new pier in Sham Tseng, the Committee asked for an update of the progress made so far, particularly on the need to maintain two piers at Angler's Beach, taking into account the views from the Civil Engineering and Development Department and the Transport Department.

5. The Committee also enquired whether remedial action had already been taken by the Islands District Office to remove the sand from the footpath at Shek Pai Wan to ensure safe passage of pedestrians and emergency vehicles, as mentioned in paragraph 5.15(c) of the Audit Report.

6. The **Director of Home Affairs** responded to the Committee's enquiries in her letter of 20 December 2006, in *Appendix 41*. The Committee took note of the information provided therein.