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**Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee**

**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting  
held at the Conference Room A  
on Thursday, 21 February 2008, at 9:00 am**

**Members present:**

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Margaret NG  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP

**Members absent:**

Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP  
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS  
Hon KWONG Chi-kin

**Public Officers attending:**

Miss Amy TSE, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mrs Sarah KWOK, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service
Mr Alfred FOK	Principal Executive Officer (General),

Miss Janet WONG, JP Mr Patrick LAU	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch) Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) <sup>1</sup> Principal Executive Officer (Works), Development Bureau
Mr WONG Ming-to	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) <sup>2</sup>
Mrs Elizabeth CHENG	Assistant Director (Architectural), Architectural Services Department

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Debbie YAU	Senior Council Secretary (1) <sup>1</sup>
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**Staff in attendance:**

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Justin TAM	Council Secretary (1) <sup>3</sup>
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1) <sup>1</sup>
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1) <sup>2</sup>

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Mr WONG Kwok-hing, the Deputy Chairman of the Establishment Subcommittee, chaired the meeting as Ms LI Fung-ying, the Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting.

2. The Deputy Chairman drew members' attention to an information paper (ECI(2007-08)12) provided by the Administration before the meeting, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002.

**EC(2007-08)16**      **Proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Works Branch of Development Bureau of Government Secretariat as Commissioner for Heritage to cope with the additional work arising from implementation of the policy on heritage conservation and the associated new initiatives**

3. The Deputy Chairman informed members that the Panel on Home Affairs (the HA Panel) was consulted on the proposal at the meeting on 2 January 2008.

4. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that Members of the Democratic Party (DP) supported the proposal as heritage conservation involved many new areas of work for which a lot needed to be done. There was also wide public concern about the

subject matter.

### Conservation of historic buildings

5. Ms Emily LAU expressed support for the staffing proposal but considered that the proposed post of Commissioner for Heritage (C for H) should have been created long time ago to implement the Government's policy on heritage conservation. Given that King Yin Lei at 45 Stubbs Road had already been declared as a proposed monument in September 2007, Ms LAU was disappointed that the Government was still unable to prevent the demolition works carried out there. The incident had reflected that there was much room for improvement to the existing heritage conservation mechanism. She was concerned how the mechanism could be improved with the creation of the proposed C for H.

6. Dr KWOK Ka-ki echoed support for the proposal, and also expressed his disappointment about the Government's policy or the lack of it on heritage conservation. Sharing Ms Emily LAU's view on the King Yin Lei case, he urged the Administration to ensure that similar incidents would not recur in future, in particular after the creation of the proposed post of C for H.

7. In response, the Deputy Secretary for Development (Works)1 (DS(W)1) assured members that the King Yin Lei incident was an isolated case and the Administration did not wish to see any similar incident to recur in future. She pointed out that the demolition works in King Yin Lei were carried out before it was declared as a proposed monument. Subsequent to the declaration, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) engaged experts to assess the heritage value of the building and the scale of damage caused to it. According to the experts, the original appearance of King Yin Lei could be restored up to 80% while its heritage value could be preserved. Through the provision of economic incentives for conservation of privately-owned historic buildings, the Government had reached an understanding with the owner on a preservation option. Under the proposed arrangement, the owner would surrender the entire site of King Yin Lei to the Government, while the Government would make available an adjacent site to the owner as an exchange for new residential development. Following the discussions with the Government, the owner had already submitted an application to rezone the existing site for the consideration of the Town Planning Board. DS(W)1 said that the good progress in preserving King Yin Lei had been made possible as a result of the closer interface of policies relating to development and heritage following the setting up of the Development Bureau (DEVB) on 1 July 2007 to take over the policy responsibility on heritage conservation work from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB).

8. Drawing on the lesson of the King Yin Lei incident, DS(W)1 acknowledged that there was a need to further enhance the heritage conservation mechanism. In fact, the Administration had already adopted a more systematic and comprehensive approach in grading historic buildings. In the past, the task was conducted in a relatively ad-hoc manner. Some 1 440 historic buildings had been selected from around 8 800 buildings, mainly those built prior to 1950, for heritage assessment by

an expert panel under the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) since March 2005. The exercise was expected to be completed by end 2008 and the assessment results would provide a better basis for considering how many heritage buildings should be conserved and in what form.

9. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was concerned about the slow progress of the heritage assessment exercise. In particular, he learnt that the Hospital Authority planned to demolish Block A of the Nursing Quarter in Queen Mary (QM) Hospital in 2008 for the construction of an integrated centre for accident, emergency, trauma and cardiac care services. Quite a number of staff from the hospital and conservationists considered that the 70-year-old building should be preserved. However, the Government had yet to assess the heritage value of the building. In this connection, Dr KWOK requested the Administration to provide information on the target timeframe for completing the heritage assessment of the 1 440 historical buildings and for conducting the conservation works for those historic buildings identified with heritage value. Dr KWOK also requested information on the financial arrangement in undertaking the relevant works, including the provision of economic incentives to privately-owned buildings.

10. On the progress of the heritage assessment for the historic buildings, DS(W)1 advised that it had not been able to speed up the pace of the assessment due to the capacity constraint of the expert panel. Consideration had been given to speed up the process by increasing resources but there was the important need to ensure consistency in adopting the same standard. As the heritage assessment of the 1 440 buildings was still underway, the Administration was unable to advise at this stage the timeframe for preserving those historic buildings identified with the heritage value. Nevertheless, she assured members that the Administration would draw up priorities in conducting the conservation works having regard to the number, types and value of buildings to be involved and the financial implications.

11. Mr WONG Yung-kan said that Members of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported the proposal. He was also concerned whether measures would be introduced to facilitate conserving village houses of cultural heritage in the New Territories. DS(W)1 advised that the Administration would rationalize its policy on heritage conservation and map out its strategy and workflow systematically. For example, for village houses in the New Territories, the Administration would, like other historic buildings, first conduct heritage assessment and based on the nature and value of the subject site, develop its plan to preserve the village houses or revitalize it for adaptive re-use.

12. Ms Emily LAU asked about the scope and financial implications of extending financial assistance on maintenance to privately-owned graded historic buildings. DS(W)1 said that as this was a new area of work, it would be necessary to assess the magnitude of demand, how the demand could be best met within resources available and how works could be implemented in the most efficient manner. There was also the need to ensure the buildings would not be demolished shortly after they had been renovated with public funds. The Administration was working out the implementation details with the Department of Justice, etc.

13. Dr KWOK Ka-ki noted that the proposal of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) for revitalizing the Central Police Station (CPS) Compound into a heritage site had met with strong opposition from the community. They were mainly concerned about the height of the proposed 160-meter scaffolding-like tower at the CPS Compound. He was therefore concerned how the project could be taken forward with the creation of the proposed C for H. In response, DS(W)1 said that HKJC would continue the six-month public engagement exercise for the CPS Compound project until April 2008. It would consolidate a response after the exercise. The DEVB and the future C for H would act as a coordinator bridging HKJC and stakeholders in taking forward the project. For example, the Bureau had already arranged HKJC to discuss the matter with members of the Central and Western District Council in March 2008.

#### Revitalizing Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme

14. Members noted that the Finance Committee (FC) had approved on 1 February 2008 a new non-recurrent commitment of \$100 million to meet the non-works related expenditure in implementing the Revitalizing Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalization Scheme) for five years. A multi-disciplinary Revitalization Scheme Secretariat would be set up to implement the Scheme.

15. In response to Prof Patrick LAU's enquiry, DS(W)1 confirmed that the administration of the Revitalization Scheme would be one of the main duties of the proposed C for H and his office. She elaborated that the Revitalization Scheme aimed at encouraging adaptive re-use of government-owned historic buildings (or privately-owned buildings donated to the Government as gifts) in the form of social enterprises. Subject to the success of the first batch of seven buildings, the Administration would launch subsequent batches to include more historic buildings under the Revitalization Scheme.

16. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was concerned whether the establishment of the Revitalization Scheme Secretariat would be expanded when the Scheme launched subsequent batches to include more historic buildings.

17. In response, DS(W)1 confirmed that the Revitalization Scheme Secretariat would provide support to the first and subsequent batches of the Scheme. She elaborated that upon receiving an application from a non-profit-making organization (NPO), the Secretariat would assess the viability of the proposal. Apart from screening the proposals and making recommendations to the Vetting Committee, the Revitalization Scheme Secretariat would also monitor the operation of the social enterprises closely to ensure their compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreements they had entered with the Government and that they had achieved their intended objectives.

18. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern over the restrictive scope of social enterprises that were eligible to submit proposals under the Revitalization Scheme.

DS(W)1 advised that social enterprises were businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses were mostly re-invested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximize profit for shareholders and owners. Under the Revitalization Scheme, eligible applicants must be NPOs that had acquired charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112). To accommodate interested organizations that might not already possess the requisite charitable status, the Administration allowed NPOs that had formally submitted an application to the Inland Revenue Department to apply but their application might only be taken forward into the next stage, roughly a few months after the closure of application, if by then they had received approval for the requisite charitable status. In response to Ms LAU's further enquiry, DS(W)1 said that the building of Peak Café was a historic building and the site was currently operated by a private enterprise. Although it was not part of the Revitalization Scheme, the Government would monitor its operation to ensure that the historic building would be properly preserved.

#### Implementation of work on heritage conservation

19. Dr KWOK Ka-ki noted with concern that the new Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) would be established under DEVB while the AMO would continue to come under HAB despite it remained as the executive arm of Antiquities Authority (i.e. the Secretary for Development) in the implementation of heritage conservation policies. He was concerned about the effectiveness of this arrangement. In response, DS(W)1 said that while the Assistant Director in AMO would continue to oversee the operation of all Government museums under the purview of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of HAB, he was required to report to DEVB since 1 July 2007 in respect of the responsibility for implementing heritage conservation policies and providing secretarial and executive support to AAB.

20. While expressing the support of Members of the Liberal Party in principle to the proposal, Mr James TIEN was concerned whether and how far the works on heritage conservation, such as conducting heritage assessment, could be carried out more expeditiously with the creation of the proposed C for H. Noting that the owner of King Yin Lei had received no response from the Government on his enquiry made more than a year about the preservation of the subject site, Mr TIEN considered that the new CHO should, like other Government departments, devise its performance pledges for the reference of the public. For example, it should pledge to provide a response to public enquiries within a reasonable timeframe.

21. DS(W)1 highlighted that prior to the re-organization on 1 July 2007, manpower resources allocated to HAB for undertaking initiatives related to heritage conservation were limited. Consequent upon the transfer of heritage policy responsibility from HAB to DEVB on 1 July 2007, only five non-directorate posts had been transferred to Works Branch for taking on the related work. At present, there was no dedicated officer at the directorate level to take charge of heritage conservation duties and officers, i.e. Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), Deputy Secretary for Development (Works)1 and Principal Assistant Secretary for

Development (Works)1, were undertaking these duties on top of their existing portfolios. As a result, heritage conservation work could not be accorded the priority and focus as it should be. Moreover, as the duties concerning heritage conservation were scattered among various officers in DEVB, there was a lack of focal point of contact resulting in inadequate profile and visibility on heritage conservation. DS(W)1 remarked that with the creation of the post of C for H, dedicated support at the directorate level would be provided in implementing the policy on heritage conservation, taking forward new initiatives as well as serving as a focal point of contact both locally and overseas. Therefore, the Administration was confident that heritage conservation work would be carried out more expeditiously and effectively in future.

22. Dr KWOK Ka-ki understood from some members of AAB that Board meetings were now held less frequent than before. He was concerned whether more support could be provided to AAB by the new C for H and his office. Mr James TIEN said that he was also aware about the need for AAB to meet more frequently.

23. In response, DS(W)1 said that a AAB Retreat was successfully held on 16 February 2008 in which members had exchanged views on the operation and focus of AAB. She added that having fostered mutual understanding since the re-organization on 1 July 2007, the DEVB and AAB had built a closer working relationship now. At the request of Dr KWOK, DS(W)1 undertook to provide information on the new objectives and programme areas/initiatives that had been drawn up by AAB at its Retreat having regard to the proposed creation of the position of C for H.

Admin

24. Mr James TIEN noted that the proposed C for H would be required to provide input on the financial aspect of the initiatives such as handling applications for grants under the Revitalization Scheme, providing economic incentives on conservation of privately-owned historic buildings and extending financial assistance on maintenance to privately-owned graded historic buildings. He was concerned that apart from heritage conservation, the proposed C for H would also be required to be well-versed in financial management. Mr TIEN cited the example of the land exchange arrangement for King Yin Lei and pointed out that it might not be appropriate for the proposed C for H to provide input as it involved the difficult issues of determining the land value and the development potential of the sites involved. He questioned whether the 25 supporting staff underpinning the proposed C for H would possess the required expertise in financial management. In this connection, Ms Emily LAU enquired whether these staff members were newly recruited.

25. DS(W)1 said that the proposed C for H and his office would mainly be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of policy on heritage conservation. While CHO would not be required to conduct land valuation or prepare financial statements, they would have to conduct a preliminary assessment of the financial capability of the proposed social enterprises under the Revitalization Scheme for making recommendations to the Vetting Committee. The Chief

Treasury Accountant of the DEVB would provide the necessary assistance. In the case of King Yin Lei, the assessment of the land value was conducted by the Lands Department whilst DEVB was only coordinating efforts for the land exchange arrangement. DS(W)1 further explained that among the 25 supporting staff in the CHO, 13 of them came from sources such as transferral from HAB, internal redeployment within the DEVB whereas about 12 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff would be employed for the implementation of the Revitalization Scheme.

26. Ms Emily LAU enquired further about the benefit of setting up a heritage trust in Hong Kong. DS(W)1 said that heritage conservation trust was set up in many overseas countries to undertake heritage conservation work. The Government would study their practices and consider their appropriateness to the local situation. Since there was a possibility that a heritage trust would be set up in the longer term, the Administration had proposed to fill the 12 posts in the Revitalization Scheme Secretariat by NCSC staff to allow flexibility for re-deploying them to work under the trust in future.

Admin

27. Members noted that according to the Administration, with the growing concern of the local community over heritage conservation, the number of enquiries and proposals regarding heritage conservation had increased significantly. Ms Emily LAU sought details about the number of such enquiries and proposals with breakdown by types received by the Administration in the past few years. DS(W)1 responded that she did not have the information in hand and would provide the figures after the meeting. She further advised that the Administration used to receive a lot of enquiries relating to heritage conservation, in particular after the announcement of introduction of the Revitalization Scheme in the 2007-08 Policy Address. Ms LAU expressed concern that in future, the Administration should provide in its information papers the exact figures of enquiries to reflect the extent of public interests on a subject matter.

28. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**EC(2007-08)17                      Proposed creation of a new rank and one permanent post of Chief Landscape Architect (D1) in Architectural Services Department to strengthen professional landscape architectural expertise within Government**

29. The Deputy Chairman informed members that the Panel on Development (the Development Panel) was consulted on the proposal at the meeting on 18 December 2007.

Role of the proposed Chief Landscape Architect

30. Mr James TIEN highlighted the importance of enhancing greening efforts so as to develop Hong Kong into a green model comparable to other metropolitan cities. Noting that the proposed Chief Landscape Architect (CLA) would provide strategic professional landscape architectural input in public works projects, he was

concerned whether problems like proliferation of climbing weeds on trees in the Peak which caused the trees to wither would also be handled by the proposed CLA.

31. DS(W)1 responded that the Government had in recent years collaborated on an ad-hoc basis with the private sector and quasi-government organizations such as the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) in implementing greening projects. The streetscape improvement works in Des Voeux Road Central and Hollywood Road were good examples of such joint efforts. As such, in addition to providing input in public works projects, the proposed CLA would also be required to continue pursuing collaboration with the private sector. He/she would head a new Landscape Planning and Greening Division in Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to provide a focal point for meeting the operational needs of enhancing greening efforts. Therefore, if the proliferation of climbing weeds in the Peak or the spread of *Mikania micrantha* posed problems to existing plants, the CLA would look into the matter and draw up appropriate measures for implementation as appropriate.

32. Prof Patrick LAU expressed support for the proposed creation of the CLA post and he noted that several professional institutes had also expressed similar support. He was concerned how the proposed CLA would facilitate the implementation of greening measures by the private sector, in particular in terms of the time required for vetting landscape and greening plans submitted by them. Prof LAU also relayed Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong's view that Members of the DP were in support of the staffing proposal.

33. In response, DS(W)1 remarked that the proposed CLA would act as a central coordinator in providing input in respect of greening initiatives to the private sector and she believed that the vetting of landscape and greening plans would be conducted in a more efficient manner. He/she would also explore more proactively opportunities for collaboration with the private sector in implementing greening measures.

34. Mr James TIEN noticed that unlike the quality cityscape of Shenzhen and Zhuhai, new trees planted alongside Government premises in Central had withered within a few years. He was concerned whether the proposed CLA post would be responsible for selecting the species of trees to be planted in Hong Kong.

35. Mr WONG Yung-kan shared Mr TIEN's view about the impressive greening landscape in Shenzhen. He was keen to ensure that with the creation of the proposed post, the greening measures in Hong Kong could be implemented more effectively. For example, a larger variety of tree species, in particular those flourishing in South China area, could be planted in Hong Kong.

36. DS(W)1 advised that selection of tree species to be planted in different areas of Hong Kong was made by the landscape experts in respective departments, including the Housing Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Highways Department etc. Also, in developing greening master plans (GMPs), views of District Councils would also be sought. The proposed CLA would be

required to coordinate strategic issue of landscape planning and greening, including the selection of tree species.

37. Mr WONG Yung-kan further pointed out that in recent years, there had been cases in which trees, mainly Buddhist pines and incense trees, were felled illegally. He was concerned how the problem could be tackled. Pointing out that felling of trees was a criminal act, DS(W)1 acknowledged the need to enhance greening efforts, including the protection of trees, in particular the rare species. The proposed CLA would coordinate efforts among bureaux/departments to develop strategic measures in undertaking the greening issues.

38. Ms Emily LAU indicated support for the proposal as it could meet the increasing public expectation on promoting greening in Hong Kong. However, despite some 35 million plants had been planted in the past five years, she was concerned about the bare of greening alongside the North Lantau Expressway (NLE) linking the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) to the city centre. Mr WONG Yung-kan shared her view. The Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works)2 said that the Administration was studying initiatives to enhance the greening work alongside NLE. After completion of the study and the design, the Administration would apply for funding to implement the greening programme. In the short-term, temporary greening measures had been implemented in critical locations. The Airport Authority Hong Kong had also enhanced the greening work of the Airport Island. Ms Emily LAU expressed grave concern about the slow progress of greening measures undertaken there as HKIA had been in operation for nearly 10 years but the Government still remained at the stage of conducting studies on enhanced greening work.

#### The proposed creation of the CLA under ArchSD

39. Ms Emily LAU noted that while the proposed CLA was created under ArchSD, he/she would contribute to the implementation of GMPs which was under Civil Engineering and Development Department's (CEDD) portfolio. Highlighting the lack of greening in Tseung Kwan O which was developed by CEDD, Ms LAU held the view that the formulation of GMPs should be entrusted to the ArchSD where the newly created CLA would be posted.

40. In response, DS(W)1 clarified that LAs were also deployed to CEDD to provide input on the implementation of GMPs. The proposed CLA post was put under ArchSD because it was in tradition responsible for steering strategic landscape planning and greening strategies. Moreover, ArchSD was also responsible for monitoring the overall architectural standards of projects in the department, promotion of quality architectural practices and management of Architect and Technical Officer (Architectural) grades. For example, ArchSD had incorporated rooftop and podium landscape designs in new government building projects wherever practicable but rooftop greening was at present not widely adopted in the private sector. Nevertheless, the CLA would contribute to the implementation of GMPs and facilitate experience sharing on landscape planning and greening with the LAs in CEDD and other departments.

41. Ms Emily LAU was unconvinced of the Administration's reply. She considered that CEDD was only an executive arm to implement GMPs which should be drawn up by LAs. She was worried that if the proposed post was created under the ArchSD, he/she might not be able to play an influential role in the formulation of GMPs. Ms LAU also pointed out that planting required land resources and it would help obviate the need for erecting noise barriers if sufficient lands were made available for planting between individual buildings in housing estates. As such, she requested the Administration to allocate more lands for greening purpose.

42. DS(W)1 said that greening and development of GMPs did not only entail growing of plants wherever possible. Development of GMPs involved three levels: short, medium and long term measures. Short term measures were those conforming to district layout, posing no conflict with land use and/or traffic arrangements. As for medium and long term measures, they were usually associated with urban renewal or redevelopment when opportunities arose to re-shape the area for enhanced greening such as introduction of tree corridors along thoroughfares. The proposed CLA, for example, was required to liaise with URA in the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment with a view to ensuring that there was a good interface between greenery works undertaken by different parties under a holistic approach. Moreover, while CEDD would continue to spearhead the development and implementation of GMPs, the proposed CLA would liaise and coordinate among relevant parties cutting across planning, land use and project delivery fronts to achieve smooth sail of these medium and long term measures. At the request of Ms Emily LAU, DS(W)1 undertook to provide information on whether and how far the proposed CLA created in ArchSD could effectively coordinate efforts across Government bureaux and departments in providing strategic professional landscape architectural input in public works projects, providing support in the formulation of policies as well as serving as a focal point for coordinating amongst departments and parties concerned on landscape planning and greening.

Admin

43. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed support for the staffing proposal and considered that landscape planning and greening in Hong Kong had lagged behind many Mainland cities. He was very concerned about the lack of a greening policy in Hong Kong, as evidenced by the fact that LA posts were separately established in various departments. Dr KWOK urged the Administration to consider creating the proposed post under the policy bureau with a view to, inter alia, providing better support in the formulation of greening policy measures as well as serving as a focal point for coordinating efforts amongst departments and parties concerned on landscape planning and greening. As the CLA post to be created was to provide dedicated support on greening, Dr KWOK enquired about the greening works to be undertaken in terms of quantity.

44. DS(W)1 said that given the difficulties in finding space for planting in built-up areas, the Administration were shifting its attention from "quantity" to "quality", i.e. to go for quality planting which could create much greater visual impact by adopting new techniques and planting at open water channels. The proposed CLA would spearhead research into greening techniques which were

presently not widely adopted in Hong Kong such as vertical greening, rooftop greening, greening on highways etc. He/she would also be heavily involved in other strategic aspects including giving steer and maintaining quality of landscape architectural services in the Government as well as pursuing cross sector collaboration under ArchSD's portfolio. In reply to Dr KWOK's further enquiry on the working relationship between the proposed post and the policy bureau, DS(W)1 advised that to strengthen coordination of work among various departments, a high-level Steering Committee on Greening (Steering Committee) had been established to set the strategic direction and oversee the implementation of major greening programmes. The CLA would be serving the Steering Committee which was chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works).

45. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the proposal. He shared members' concerns that Hong Kong had lagged behind Shenzhen and Zhuhai in terms of greening achievements, which in his opinion was due to the lack of a capable officer to steer local greening work. Therefore, he was concerned about the job requirement for the CLA post and stressed that the future incumbent must possess the necessary expertise in horticulture in order to take forward the greening measures. To ensure the best suitable candidate could be identified to take up the new post, he urged the Administration to consider conducting an open recruitment exercise under which internal and outside candidates would be considered simultaneously.

46. In response, DS(W)1 agreed that the candidate should possess the necessary expertise and extensive experience, as well as good coordination skills. The Assistant Director (Architectural), ArchSD supplemented that like other professional grades in the Government, LAs must possess professional membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA), or equivalent. The professional qualification was granted to candidates who had passed the Professional Practice Examination of HKILA or equivalent after obtaining a degree in Landscape Architecture and completing two years' practical working experience in landscape architecture. At the request of the Deputy Chairman, DS(W)1 undertook to provide information on the job requirements and selection criteria for the proposed post after the meeting.

Admin

47. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Deputy Chairman suggested and members agreed that the item be voted separately at the FC meeting to be held on 25 April 2008.

48. The Subcommittee was adjourned at 10:25 am.