

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)104/07-08
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/FA/1

Panel on Financial Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 11 October 2007 at 2:40 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon TAM Heung-man

Members absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon CHIM Pui-chung

Clerk in attendance: Miss Polly YEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (1)5

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Annette LAM
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Rosalind MA
Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Mr Justin TAM
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Sharon CHAN
Legislative Assistant (1)8

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session. He invited nominations for the chairmanship.

2. Mr CHAN Kam-lam was nominated by Mr Andrew LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Ir Dr Raymond HO. Mr CHAN accepted the nomination. As Mr CHAN was nominated, Mr James TIEN, the member who had the highest precedence in the Council, presided over the election. There being no other nominations, Mr James TIEN declared that Mr CHAN Kam-lam was elected Chairman of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session. Mr CHAN then took over the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Mr Ronny TONG was nominated by Ms Emily LAU and the nomination was seconded by Miss TAM Heung-man. Miss TAM indicated that Mr TONG had accepted the nomination. Mr Bernard CHAN was nominated by Mr James TIEN and the nomination was seconded by Ir Dr Raymond HO. As Mr Bernard CHAN was not present at the meeting and had not indicated his acceptance or otherwise of the nomination, members agreed that the nomination would not be taken forward. There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared that Mr Ronny TONG was elected Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2007-2008 session

4. Members noted the proposed meeting schedule tabled at the meeting and agreed that regular meetings of the Panel for the 2007-2008 session be held in the morning on the first Monday of each month. As regards the starting time, members noted that as the Panel often had to deal with quite a number of items at each meeting, it had been the practice that where necessary, Panel meetings might need to start

earlier, say, at 8:30 am or 9:00 am. Members also agreed on the following arrangements for the regular meetings in February and April 2008:

(a) Meeting in February 2008

As the first Monday of February 2008 fell on 4 February which was three days before the first day of the Lunar New Year, the regular meeting for that month would be advanced to Friday, 1 February 2008.

(b) Meeting in April 2008

To avoid clashing with the special meetings of the Finance Committee, the regular meeting in April would be held on Tuesday, 8 April 2008.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of regular meetings for the 2007-2008 session was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)46/07-08 on 12 October 2007.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(List of outstanding items for discussion —Appendix V to LC Paper No. CB(1)11/07-08

List of follow-up actions —Appendix VI to LC Paper No. CB(1)11/07-08)

Special meeting on 12 October 2007

5. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting had been scheduled for Friday, 12 October 2007 from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm for the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury to brief Members on the relevant policy initiatives featuring in the Chief Executive's 2007-2008 Policy Address.

Regular meeting on 5 November 2007

6. The Chairman referred members to the "List of outstanding items for discussion" and advised that the Administration had proposed the following four items for discussion at the Panel meeting in November 2007:

- (a) The 2008-2009 Budget consultation;
- (b) Briefing on the work of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority;
- (c) Proposed amendments to the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485); and

- (d) Proposal to convert the Rating Adviser (D2) post from a one-rank specialist grade to the mainstream Valuation Surveyor grade.

7. To allow sufficient time for deliberation of the above four items, the Chairman sought members' views on advancing the starting time of the meeting on 5 November 2007 to 8:30 am. Ms Emily LAU pointed out that the Bills Committee on The English Schools Foundation (Amendment) Bill 2007 (the Bills Committee) had also scheduled its next meeting on 5 November 2007 at 8:30 am. As there was some overlapping membership between the Panel and the Bills Committee, Mr Abraham SHEK and Miss TAM Heung-man suggested to explore other meeting arrangements to avoid clashing with meeting of the Bills Committee. Noting members' concern, the Chairman said that he and the Clerk would make alternative arrangements for the meeting in November 2007 to deal with the four proposed items, most of which were time-critical. Members also agreed that where necessary, the ending time of the meeting on 5 November 2007 might be extended for some 30 minutes after 12:45 pm or that a special meeting be arranged.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, a special meeting was arranged on Thursday, 8 November 2007 at 8:30 am to deal with items (b) and (c) above. The regular meeting on Monday, 5 November 2007 would start at 10:45 am for discussion of items (a) and (d) above. Notices of the two meetings were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)58/07-08 on 15 October 2007.)

Operation of Octopus Cards and EPS payment system in Hong Kong

8. Referring to item 6 of the "List of outstanding items for discussion", Miss TAM Heung-man expressed concern about the timing to follow up the subject on the operation of Octopus Cards and EPS payment system in Hong Kong. The Chairman noted Miss TAM's letter dated 20 September 2007 requesting further discussion of the subject and drew members' attention that the Octopus Cards Limited (OCL) had provided the Panel with the report on the independent review of the incident of failed Octopus EPS add-value transactions. He said that the appropriate timing for discussion of the subject would be subject to members' views. Ms Emily LAU advised that OCL had recently informed her that follow-up actions taken by OCL in respect of the incident were expected to conclude by end November 2007. As such, members agreed that the Panel could arrange further discussion of the subject after conclusion of OCL's follow-up actions.

IV. Any other business

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:50 pm.