

立法會
Legislative Council

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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 8th meeting
held in Conference Room A of Legislative Council Building
on Wednesday, 17 June 2009, at 9:00 am

Members present:

Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Margaret NG (Deputy Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

Member attending:

Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

Members absent:

Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP

Public Officers attending:

Ms Bernadette LINN, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mrs Ingrid YEUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service
Ms Gracie FOO Siu-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)1
Mr Raymond WONG Wai-man	Deputy Director of Planning/Territorial, Planning Department (Acting)
Dr York CHOW Yat-ngok, SBS, JP	Secretary for Food and Health
Ms Sandra LEE Suk-yea, JP	Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health)
Mr Thomas CHAN Chung-ching	Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Health)2
Mr Alan SIU Yu-bun, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Ms Ida LEE Bik-sai	Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications & Technology)B
Ms Maisie CHENG Mei-sze, JP	Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Rosalind MA	Chief Council Secretary (1)5
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Noel SUNG	Senior Council Secretary (1)4
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

Action

The Chairman drew members' attention to an information paper (ECI(2009-10)3) provided by the Administration, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002.

EC(2009-10)5 **Proposed deletion of two permanent posts of Chief Town Planner (D1) in Planning Department and consequently revision and redistribution of duties and responsibilities of some directorate posts in the Territorial Planning Branch and the District Planning Branch to rationalise the directorate structure with immediate effect**

2. The Chairman informed members that an information paper on the staffing proposal was issued to members of the Panel on Development on 26 May 2009.

3. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2009-10)9 **Proposed creation of two supernumerary posts of one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) for four years and creation of one permanent post of Chief Systems Manager (D1) in the Health Branch of Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau in the third quarter of 2009 to facilitate the establishment of a new Electronic Health Record Office**

4. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Health Services (HS Panel) was consulted on the staffing proposal on 9 March 2009. Some Panel members queried the justifications for creating four directorate posts in the proposed Electronic Health Record Office (eHR Office). The HS Panel had scheduled a special meeting on 19 June 2009 to receive public views on the development of the territory-wide eHR sharing system.

5. Dr Margaret NG said while Members belonging to the Civic Party supported the staffing proposal in principle, they requested the Administration to provide a comprehensive and clear picture on the additional manpower resources required and the financial implications for the development and implementation of the eHR sharing system.

6. Secretary for Food and Health (SFH) advised that the whole setup of the eHR Office including the support teams would involve about 200 to 300 staff in total. The full development of the eHR sharing system would be taken forward over a ten year period at the estimated total costs of about \$1.12 billion. The estimated capital costs involved for the first stage development of the eHR sharing system over the five-year period from 2009-2010 to 2013-2014 was about \$702 million. At the request of Dr Margaret NG, SFH undertook to provide, before the relevant meeting of the Finance Committee (FC), further information on the staffing and structure and the annual staff cost of the proposed eHR Office, in particular the breakdown on staff cost to be incurred in the first stage of eHR development programme.

7. Dr Margaret NG expressed concern about the protection of personal data privacy in implementation of the eHR sharing system. She sought information on the measures to safeguard data privacy and asked whether legislative work would be required. In response, SFH said that a key role of the eHR Office would be to proceed with legislative work needed for the protection of data privacy of the eHR sharing system, having regard to relevant legal issues including record ownership, access of patient data and authentication of doctors, health services providers and patients in the system. SFH further said that the Administration would take ample measures in terms of technical design and operational controls to safeguard data privacy.

8. The item was voted on and endorsed. Dr Margaret NG requested that this item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

EC(2009-10)8 Proposed retention of a non-civil service position of Secretary-General of the Film Development Council at the equivalent rank of D2 in the Communications and Technology Branch of Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau for a period of two years after the expiry of the current term in November 2009 to strengthen the support for the work of Hong Kong Film Development Council and the administration of the Film Development Fund

9. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (ITB Panel) was consulted on the staffing proposal on 11 May 2009. While members supported the staffing proposal in principle, they called on the Administration to complete the review on the operation of the Film Development Fund (FDF) as soon as possible, with a view to streamlining the application procedures and meeting the needs of the film industry.

10. Referring to the latest plan of the Shenzhen government to promote creative culture, Mr LAU Kong-wah asked whether the extension of the Secretary-General of the Film Development Council (SG/FDC) post (which was also the Assistant Head (2) of the Create Hong Kong (CreateHK)) under the current proposal would help enhance the co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen in the development of creative industry.

11. In response, Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (DS(CT)) said that the SG/FDC post assisted the Head of CreateHK to supervise the Secretariat of FDC for the development of film industry. Facilitating the co-operation of the film industry in Hong Kong with relevant parties in the Mainland and overseas was one of the major tasks of FDC. Responding to Mr LAU Kong-wah's further enquiry on the work of CreateHK, DS(CT) said that the Industry Support Section of the Office of CreateHK, which had about seven to eight staff, provided support for other creative industry such as comics. The Assistant Head (2)/CreateHK post sought to be extended under the

current proposal was overseeing the Film Section which provided support to the film industry.

12. Dr Margaret NG asked whether the current proposal was related to the proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to effect a transfer of statutory functions pursuant to the establishment of CreateHK, which members of the House Committee had considered at the meeting on 12 June 2009. Dr NG was concerned whether the endorsement of the current staffing proposal by the Establishment Subcommittee (ESC) would in any way pre-empt the decision of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed resolution.

13. DS(CT) advised that CreateHK, a dedicated office for supporting creative industries, was established on 1 June 2009 through the integration of resources scattered around different government departments. Establishment of CreateHK included, among others, the redeployment of the Special Effects and Licensing Unit (the Unit) from the Office of the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority to CreateHK. The Unit was responsible for regulating the use of special effects materials used in the production of entertainment special effects in films, television programmes and theatrical performances under the Entertainment Special Effects Ordinance (Cap. 560) (the Ordinance). The proposed resolution aimed to effect the transfer of the statutory functions of the Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing (C for TEL) under the Ordinance to the Head of CreateHK with the redeployment of the Unit to CreateHK. As no change was proposed for the work of the Unit, ESC's endorsement of the proposed extension of the Assistant Head(2)/CreateHK post would not affect the subsequent consideration of the proposed resolution by LegCo.

14. Referring to the organization chart of the Office of CreateHK at Enclosure 2 to the Administration's paper, Mr WONG Ting-kwong enquired about the arrangement for filling the Assistant Head (1) post. In response, DS(CT) advised that the redeployment plan of the Assistant Head (1)/CreateHK was being considered. Responding to Mr WONG's further enquiry on whether the Assistant Head(2) post would be turned permanent, DS(CT) said that the current proposal recommended the retention of the non-civil service position for a period of two years after the expiry of the current term in November 2009. As FDC and FDF were relatively new establishments, the effects and contributions of which had yet to be fully seen. The Administration would review the long-term need of the position in the light of operation of FDC and FDF, and would report to the ITB Panel on the staffing requirements after the review.

15. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that members of the film industry had expressed concern about the cumbersome application procedures and the difficulties they had encountered in applying for subsidies under FDF. Mr LAU opined that the Administration should try to strike a balance between simplifying the procedures to facilitate applications by the film industry and ensuring proper application procedures for FDF. Mr WONG Ting-kwong expressed similar concern and called on the Administration to fine-tune the application procedures.

16. DS(CT) said that during the initial operation of FDF, the film industry would need some time to familiarize with the application procedures. DS(CT) nevertheless agreed that there was room for improvement in the FDF Scheme, and FDC Secretariat was reviewing the operation of FDF in consultation with the film industry to ensure it met the needs of the industry, including streamlining the existing application procedures and the application form. Sample application forms would be provided to facilitate interested members of the film industry to submit their applications.

17. Noting that FDF had approved funds totalling \$42 million for film-related projects, Mr LAU Kong-wah sought information on these projects. As regards the 13 approved applications for film production, Mr LAU was concerned whether the subsidies allocated to these small productions had been put to optimal use. He enquired about the popularity of the films released.

18. DS(CT) advised that FDF had approved 26 film-related projects which were beneficial to the healthy and long-term development of the film industry, with total funding of over \$42 million. An example of the approved projects was the Hong Kong Film Awards. Moreover, FDF had processed 20 applications for financing film production, 13 of which had been approved with total funding of around \$35 million. Two of the 13 films had already been released while production of the rest was still in progress. C for TEL supplemented that the Government had yet got the final total box office revenue of the two films which had been released as they were currently being shown in the Mainland and would be shown in other places in the region. C for TEL pointed out that box office revenue for the two films was considered satisfactory so far having regard to the cost and scale of production, and the fact that they were productions of new directors.

19. DS(CT) advised that one of the two released films, titled "Give Love", so far had a box office revenue of \$21 million. DS(CT) added that of the 13 approved applications, the directors of six films were novices, and this was in line with one of the purposes of FDF to provide more opportunities to new generation talents of the film industry. At the request of Mr WONG Ting-kwong, the Administration agreed to provide, before the relevant FC meeting, supplementary information on the 13 approved applications, including the title, nature and box office revenue of the films concerned.

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20. The item was voted on and endorsed.

21. The Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 9:29 am.