

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)175/08-09  
(These minutes have been cleared  
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

**Panel on Home Affairs**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 14 October 2008, at 10:20 am**  
**in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon CHAN Tanya (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP  
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP  
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun

**Member absent** : Hon WONG Yuk-man

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Betty FONG  
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

**Staff in attendance** : Mrs Vivian KAM  
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Joanne MAK  
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Vivien POON  
Council Secretary (2)1

Ms Anna CHEUNG  
Legislative Assistant (2)2

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**I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

[Appendices II and III to LC Paper No. CB(2)27/08-09]

Election of Chairman

Mr James TO, member present who had the highest precedence presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel. He called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel. Mr IP Kwok-him was nominated by Mr WONG Yung-kan and the nomination was seconded by Ms Emily LAU. Mr IP Kwok-him accepted the nomination. As there was no other nomination, Mr James TO declared Mr IP Kwok-him elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2008-2009 session. Mr IP Kwok-him then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

2. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel. Miss CHAN Tanya was nominated by Ms Emily LAU and the nomination was seconded by Mr WONG Yung-kan. Miss CHAN Tanya accepted the nomination. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Miss CHAN Tanya elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2008-2009 session.

**II. Schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session**

3. Members agreed that the regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the second Friday of each month at 8:30 am, except for the regular meetings in March and April 2009. Members agreed to schedule the regular meeting in March 2009 on 20 March 2009. The meeting would be held at 10:45 am to avoid clashing with the regular meeting of the Transport Panel scheduled for 8:30 am on the same day. As for the April meeting, members agreed to schedule it on 17 April 2009 since the second Friday in April 2009 was a public holiday.

Action

**III. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)29/08-09(01) and (02)]

4. Members noted the "List of issues suggested to be considered" and the "List of follow-up actions" which were tabled at the meeting. Members agreed to adopt the lists as the "List of outstanding items for discussion" and the "List of follow-up actions" respectively for the Panel.

Next regular meeting scheduled for 14 November 2008 at 8:30 am

Clerk

5. Members agreed to discuss, at the next regular meeting, the item on "Village Representative Election (Amendment) Bill" (the Bill) as proposed by the Administration. At the suggestion of Ms Emily LAU, members agreed that opportunity should be taken to discuss the provision of an allowance for village representatives (item 9 on the "List of outstanding items for discussion") as well, since this issue and the Bill were both related to village representatives.

6. Prof Patrick LAU and Ms Emily LAU said that progress made by the Administration in the establishment of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA), as well as the work of WKCDA should be closely monitored. Ms Cyd HO considered that there was urgency for the issue to be discussed, given that development parameters for planning the use of the WKCD area would be formulated in the early phase of the WKCD project, and this process of work would have a profound impact on the long-term development of WKCD. Ms HO suggested that a joint meeting with the relevant Panels should be held. Members agreed that the Administration should be requested to brief the Panel on the latest development of the WKCD project, and to provide detailed information on the progress of the establishment of WKCDA.

Clerk

Other items proposed for discussion at future meetings

*Tree preservation and maintenance in Hong Kong*

7. Prof Patrick LAU suggested that the Panel should discuss the issue of tree preservation and maintenance in Hong Kong, given the public concern about the criteria adopted by government departments in the felling of trees. Mr KAM Nai-wai and Ms Emily LAU shared Prof LAU's view and considered that there was urgency to discuss this item. Ms LAU further suggested that it should be scheduled for discussion at the regular meeting in December 2008.

Clerk

*Implementation of relevant recommendations relating to the roles and functions of District Councils (DCs) arising from the 2006 Review*

8. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that the Administration had implemented the recommendations relating to the roles and functions of DCs arising from the 2006 DC Review in the 18 DCs starting from January 2008. He considered

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Clerk

that it was time for the Administration to review the operation of DCs in the light of experience gained, and take measures to address the difficulties encountered by DCs in discharging their enhanced functions including management of minor works projects. The Chairman and Ms Emily LAU shared Mr CHEUNG's view and considered that this item should be included for discussion at the regular meeting in December 2008.

*Procurement of third party risks insurance by owners' corporations (OCs) and other matters related to building management*

Clerk

9. Noting that the Administration had proposed to discuss the procurement of third party risks insurance by OCs in December 2008 (item 14 on the "List of outstanding items for discussion"), Mr KAM Nai-wai said that opportunity should be taken to discuss problems encountered by OCs in discharging their duties and exercising powers under the provisions of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) (BMO). He said that one example of such problems was that members of management committees (MCs) had found it difficult to meet the statutory requirement for a member to cease to be a member of the committee, unless he had complied with the self-declaration requirement. Mr KAM suggested that the Administration should be requested to consider if there was a need for review of BMO to refine relevant provisions. Members agreed.

*Centre on Youth Development (CYD)*

Clerk

10. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and the Deputy Chairman said that the superstructure work for CYD at Chai Wan was anticipated to be completed around the end of 2008, and the Administration was about to invite tender for provision of services for the Centre. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern as to how far the services of CYD would be able to serve the purpose of facilitating youth development. They considered that the Panel should discuss the latest development and delivery of services of CYD. Members agreed that this subject would be added to the list of outstanding items for discussion.

*Development of public library services*

Clerk

11. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that given the large demand for public library services at various districts, the Panel should discuss the development of public library services, including the opening hours and provision of public libraries. Members agreed that this subject would be added to the list of outstanding items for discussion.

*Setting up an intermediary body for the effective enforcement of maintenance orders*

12. Referring to item 1 on the "List of outstanding items for discussion", Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che expressed concern that the issue had been outstanding for a long time and little progress had been made. He suggested that the Panel

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should discuss this item in the current session.

Briefing on the Chief Executive's (CE's) Policy Address 2008-2009

13. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting had been scheduled for Monday, 20 October 2008, from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on CE's Policy Address 2008-2009 relating to the portfolios of home affairs.

14. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:40 am.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
30 October 2008