

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. FC91/09-10  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/F/1/2

**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 3rd meeting  
held at the Legislative Council Chamber  
on Friday, 4 December 2009, at 3:00 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)  
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Margaret NG  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP  
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yea, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

Hon LEE Wing-tat  
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

**Members absent:**

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun

**Public officers attending:**

Professor K C CHAN, SBS, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Stanley YING, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Bernadette LINN, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1

Ms Elsie YUEN	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Miss Denise YUE, GBS, JP	Secretary for the Civil Service
Mr Brian LO	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service (2)
Mr Chris SUN	Principal Assistant Secretary for the Civil Service (Pay and Leave)
Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, JP	Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr David LEUNG Chun-wing, JP	Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2)
Miss Dora FU Ha-man, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3)

**Clerk in attendance:**

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT	Chief Council Secretary (1)4
Mr Simon CHEUNG	Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)1

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**Item No. 1 - FCR(2009-10)42**

**GRADE STRUCTURE REVIEWS ON THE CIVILIAN DIRECTORATE, THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND SPECIFIC NON-DIRECTORATE CIVILIAN GRADES**

Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Chairman of the Panel on Public Service, reported that the Administration had briefed the Panel at its meeting on 2 November 2009 on the three grade structure reviews (GSRs). The Panel also listened to the views of the six civil service staff associations present at the meeting. Panel members noted that except for the Hong Kong Fire Services Department Ambulancemen's Union (FSDAU), other staff associations in general accepted the Administration's proposals. FSDAU had expressed disappointment that notwithstanding the increased responsibilities of the Ambulanceman grade over the years, there had neither been a fair assessment of the pay structure and pay scales nor a recommendation by the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service (SCDS) to incorporate the paramedic allowance into the pay scale of the Ambulanceman grade. The Administration had undertaken to follow up FSDAU's concerns with the management of the Fire Services Department (FSD). Some Panel members called upon the Administration to attend to the unresolved requests from the

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staff associations, including standardization of the pay and grade structures across the disciplined services, reduction of conditioned hours of work for the five general disciplined services and extension of the "through scale arrangement" to the officer grades in the Correctional Services Department, the Customs and Excise Department, the Immigration Department, the Government Flying Service and the Ambulance Officer grade in FSD. Mr LEE enquired how the Administration would follow up the requests of the staff associations, and whether the Administration would conduct GSRs on a regular basis in future.

2. The Secretary for the Civil Service (SCS) advised that SCDS had duly examined the requests of the staff associations and had submitted its recommendations to the Chief Executive on 27 November 2008. While SCDS might not have accepted all the requests from the staff associations (i.e. what the staff associations described as "unresolved" requests), it had considered all of them thoroughly and had made its position clear with justifications in the reports. The Administration would continue to communicate with staff associations under the existing staff consultation mechanism. As for the paramedic allowance for the Ambulanceman grade, the management of FSD would soon carry out a review, as recommended by SCDS. The Administration would consult SCDS on the review findings as necessary. On the frequency of conducting GSRs, the CE-in-Council was of the view that if there were major changes in the work nature and level of responsibilities of individual grades, or if the concerned grades were facing genuine recruitment and retention problems, GSRs might be conducted. The staff sides, among others, could request the conduct of GSRs and seek SCDS's advice. Having regard to the advice of SCDS and other considerations, the CE-in-Council would decide whether GSRs should be conducted.

3. Dr LEUNG Ka-lau enquired whether the revised Directorate Pay Scale would apply to directorate employees in the subvented sector. He was concerned that notwithstanding supplementary provisions from the Government, subvented organizations might decide not to increase the salaries of their employees, and some organizations might still seek to reduce the pay of some employees.

4. Referring to paragraph 26 of the Administration's paper, SCS advised that as a result of the general delinking policy, except in the context of the annual civil service pay adjustment exercise, other civil service pay-related reviews would not necessitate a general adjustment in Government's funding for the subvented sector. GSRs and the annual civil service pay adjustment exercise were separate exercises. Implementing the recommendations arising from the GSRs would have no direct impact on the salaries of employees in the subvented sector. In the case of a pay rise in the context of the annual civil service pay adjustment exercise, subvented organizations would normally get additional funding from the Government. However, as the Government did not have direct employer-employee relationships with staff in the subvented sector, it would be up to the subvented organizations concerned to decide whether, and if so, how to adjust the salary of their staff.

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5. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung considered it unfair to employees in the subvented sector that subvented organizations had the discretion not to grant any salary increase even if additional funding was provided in the context of the annual civil service pay adjustment exercise. He urged the Administration to review the policy. SCS reiterated that the Administration had no intention to interfere with the employer-employee relationship within the subvented sector. Nonetheless, in the context of the annual pay adjustment exercise, the Administration had issued letters to subvented organizations to advise them that the additional subventions were meant for pay adjustments and they were expected to make corresponding adjustment to their employees' salaries using the additional subvention.

6. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

**Item No. 2 - FCR(2009-10)43**

**HEAD 63 – HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

• **Subhead 700 General non-recurrent**

**New Item "Enhancing Diversified Community Activities"**

7. Mr IP Kwok-him, Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs, reported that the Administration had briefed the Panel on the funding proposal at its meeting on 13 November 2009. Panel members noted that the one-off funding of \$180 million was proposed for launching diversified community activities under the four themes of "Sports for All", "Arts for All", "Cultural/Ecological Tourism for All" and "Care for All" to foster social cohesion, promote cultural and sports activities and local tourism. To monitor the use of funds, the Administration would devise a set of guidelines modelled on the current Manual on the Use of District Council Funds. At the Panel meeting, members who supported the proposal considered that the diversified community activities could promote cultural development at the district level, and facilitate districts to organise cultural, sports and local tourism activities to benefit the general public especially the underprivileged. They hoped that the Administration could continue to support these activities beyond the 15-month period. Some of these members opined that the funds should also be used for supporting the development of small and medium arts groups to stage performance at local community halls and schools. As regards the additional work arising from the community activities, some Panel members urged the Administration to step up communication with frontline staff of the concerned Government departments, and take appropriate measures to ease their work pressure. Mr IP further reported that Panel members who expressed reservation about the funding proposal requested the Administration to set out clearer guidelines on the allocation and use of funds by District Councils (DCs), and propose a wider scope of thematic community activities for DCs to consider. They also urged for tighter control and vetting of the professional standard, experience and capacity of the local organizations applying for funds, and that cross-district collaboration should be encouraged for staging community activities of a larger-scale.

### Funding arrangements

8. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan commented that the proposal was too broad-brushed, lacking focus and without a clear target group in mind. As the DCs already had funds for organising community activities, he considered that the proposed one-off funding of \$180 million should be used to support more worthwhile activities, such as household clean-up for the singleton elderly, assistance to the underprivileged groups and creation of employment opportunities at the district level.

9. The Under Secretary for Home Affairs (USHA) advised that the allocation of 25% of the proposed fund (\$45 million) would be for government departments, in consultation with the DCs concerned where necessary, to centrally coordinate the launching of territory-wide or cross-district community programmes based on the four themes of "Sports for All", "Arts for All", "Cultural/Ecological Tourism for All" and "Care for All". As for the remaining 60% of the fund (\$108 million), the amounts would be distributed to DCs for allocation to local organisations to organize community activities according to the three guiding principles of continuity, professionalism and inclusiveness. On the intended target groups, she said that priority would be given to the underprivileged including the singleton elderly, the disabled, new arrivals and ethnic minorities.

10. Mr CHAN Kam-lam expressed support for the proposal, and enquired whether it was possible to distribute the \$108 million to the 18 DCs based on the population size of each district. USHA and the Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2) (DDHA) explained that DC Chairmen had agreed the \$108 million be shared equally among the 18 districts. Nevertheless, in making use of the \$45 million for centrally coordinated programmes, HAD would give due regard to the needs of larger districts in organizing large-scale, cross-district or cross-sector programmes.

11. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung considered that the one-off funding arrangements could not achieve the purpose of community building which would require on-going efforts. He doubted whether the additional funding would have impact on the work programme of the DCs. USHA explained that "continuity" was one of the guiding principles in approving funds for activities under the current proposal. Citing the promotion of cultural and ecological tourism as an example, she considered that the launching of training courses on eco-tourism would have sustained effects on the development of local tourism.

12. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that, with the enhancement of role and functions of DCs since 1 January 2008, DCs were in general short of funds for carrying out community activities. The Administration's proposal to allocate \$108 million for diversified community activities would relieve the shortage of funds of DCs. He considered that all along, the Administration's efforts in promoting arts and cultural activities at the district level were inadequate, and urged the Administration to provide regular funding for such activities, if the activities launched with the \$108

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million funding proved to be useful in promoting arts and cultural developments at the district level. USHA said that while the proposed funding was one-off in nature, the Administration was willing to gauge views from the community about future funding proposals.

13. Mr Ronny TONG said that while he supported the idea of promoting diversified community activities, he considered that the Administration could achieve the "Care for All" objective in a more direct way through the provision of transport allowance for the disabled, increase in the residential places for the elderly and improved services for the mentally ill. He doubted that the present proposal was intended to pave way for the Administration's proposal for constitutional reforms in 2012, and to promote the popularity of the pro-government camp at the district level.

14. USHA advised that the proposal was one of the relief measures announced by the Financial Secretary in May 2009. The objective of the proposed funding support for diversified community activities was to promote sports, culture and arts, cultural/ecological tourism, and to promote a caring and inclusive society. The general public would be the beneficiaries of these community activities. Mr Ronny TONG doubted the effectiveness of the proposal. As the economy was recovering, he urged the Administration to withdraw the proposal so that the funds could be channelled to meet other urgent needs.

Control and monitoring mechanism

15. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed support for the proposal and considered it necessary for the Administration to increase funding support for DCs, while there should be control measures to guard against misuse of public funds. He opined that there should be more stringent guidelines requiring the use of less costly and environmentally-friendly materials as souvenirs for community activities, such as giving out certificates of appreciation instead of souvenirs.

16. USHA noted Mr WONG's suggestion and assured members that the Administration would exercise vigilant control over the use of funds.

17. Miss Tanya CHAN said that the Civic Party was concerned about the fairness of the existing fund allocation mechanism under DCs, and enquired whether the Administration would review and improve the vetting mechanism. On the guiding principle of "continuity", she expressed concern that the application of this principle might result in certain local organizations becoming dominant in obtaining funding. As for the guiding principle of "professionalism", she opined that DCs should examine the track records of the local organizations seeking funding support to stage community activities. She opined that a complaint mechanism should be put in place, and there should be a mechanism to monitor the effects of the community activities launched. She enquired about the composition of the assessment panel to be appointed by the Secretary for Home Affairs.

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18. In response, USHA advised that the Administration would draw up a set of guidelines, modelled on the existing Manual on the Use of DC Funds with some modifications, to reflect the three guiding principles and four themes. She explained that the principle of "continuity" referred to project nature, and priority would be given to projects which sought to plant seeds for more activities of similar nature in future. As for the assessment panel, it would comprise non-official members with expertise in the sports, arts and culture and tourism fields. The Panel would be responsible for endorsing the vetting criteria, the broad allocation and also the thematic programmes submitted or referred by DCs. It would also monitor the progress of the approved programmes. USHA said that the Administration would continue to review and improve the fund allocation mechanism of DCs.

19. Dr Priscilla LEUNG considered that DCs served as a training ground for political talents. The Administration should increase the powers of DCs and expand their scope of responsibilities so that DCs could be actively engaged in the decision-making process of matters of importance such as major construction projects within the districts. While she saw the need to have an effective monitoring mechanism in place to prevent fraudulent use of public funds, she considered that the mechanism should not be rigid and bureaucratic. She also suggested introducing a system to deal with complaints about the use of funds by DCs.

20. USHA responded that the thematic community activities would bring substantial benefits to the community. The Administration would ensure that the monitoring mechanism would be effective in striking a balance between prudent use of public funds and fulfilment of the objectives.

21. Ms LI Fung-ying expressed support for the proposal which she considered would enable DCs to launch community activities best serving the needs of individual districts. She concurred that it was necessary to set up an effective control and monitoring mechanism to ensure effective use of public funds free from favouritism and malpractices. As for the guiding principle of "professionalism", she commented that the explanation in the Administration's paper was vague, and urged the Administration to draw up more concrete criteria for DCs to follow.

22. DDHA responded that DCs would consider the backgrounds and track records of the local organisations applying for funds, to ensure that they had the required expertise, ability, experience and resources to organise the proposed community activities. As part of the monitoring mechanism, grantees would have to submit a report on completion on the project to the DC Secretariats. DC members or HAD staff might also conduct visits to the programmes/activities funded by DCs. He advised members that the existing application and selection processes for DC funds were transparent.

23. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung opined that the proposed allocation of \$108 million to DCs might only worsen the longstanding problem of unfair distribution of resources in favour of certain groups of local organisations. USHA reiterated that



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the resource allocation mechanism would be modelled on the existing funding mechanism for DCs, and based on the three guiding principles of continuity, professionalism and inclusiveness and the four main themes.

24. Citing his personal experience as a former DC member, Mr LEE Wing-tat commented that the current control and monitoring mechanism on the use of DC funds was lax and inadequate. He had serious doubt about the long-term effects of the community activities covered by the proposed project, and criticized that there were no objective criteria to measure the "continuity" and "professionalism" of these activities. He considered that if most members of a DC were from one political party, these members would dominate the fund allocation process, and this could result in favouritism. To ensure tighter control of the use of funds, he suggested that a major portion of the \$108 million should be reserved for central allocation by HAD rather than distributed to individual DCs.

25. USHA said that the Administration was fully aware of members' concern about the need for an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure fair allocation. The Administration and DCs would enhance the monitoring mechanism to ensure proper funding arrangements and to ensure the quality of the activities launched under the proposal. In vetting applications, DCs would ensure that the selected activities would meet the three guiding principles. She hoped that well-organised activities could serve as examples for future DC-funded activities. DDHA supplemented that information on successful programmes would be disseminated to all DCs for reference.

26. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung remarked that the proposed funding would only facilitate favouritism to pro-government political parties and organisations. USHA reiterated that the Administration would draw up a set of guidelines, modelled on the current Manual on the Use of DC Funds with suitable modifications, which would provide the framework for the administration and control on the use of the fund. She stressed that there would be four dimensions of the monitoring mechanism, namely the requirements set out in the funding guidelines including the submission of project completion reports to DC secretariats, visits of DC members to the programmes/activities, public scrutiny; and reporting to the Independent Commission Against Corruption where necessary.

27. Ms Cyd HO shared the worry of some members that the \$108 million for DCs might turn out to be a tool to offer favours to pro-government parties and organisations. She urged the Administration to step up control measures to ensure that funds would be allocated in a cautious and fair manner based on clearly-defined selection guidelines and subject to effective monitoring. In this regard, she referred to the practice of the Central & Western DC which would not allocate funds to any political parties or DC members for organising community activities. She said that there was favouritism in the allocation of funds in other DCs leading to wastage of public resources. She urged the Administration to eliminate favouritism by improving the control and monitoring mechanism.

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28. To facilitate members' consideration of the funding proposal, Ms Cyd HO requested the Administration to provide further information on how DCs had allocated funds for community activities in the past. The information should cover the categories, purposes, event organisers, major beneficiaries such as programme producers and pop singers, and the amounts involved. The Chairman advised that the Administration should also provide information on the existing review/appeal mechanism for DC funds, including the number of successful review/appeal cases in the past. The Administration noted the request.

*(Post meeting note: The relevant information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide FC28/09-10 on 17 December 2009.)*

29. Mr Alan LEONG expressed concern about the practice of favouritism in most DCs, and enquired whether it was possible for the Administration to set up an effective mechanism to objectively examine post-event reports of the activities supported through DCs to ascertain their effectiveness and that established guidelines had been followed. USHA responded that as mentioned in paragraph 12 of the Administration's paper, HAD would provide a summary of the community activities funded under the present proposal to the Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) at the end of the 2010-2011 financial year. Mr Alan LEONG was not satisfied with the answer and asked whether the assessment panel to be appointed by the Secretary for Home Affairs could also be tasked to assess the community activities supported through DCs. USHA clarified that the Panel would only assess the centrally-coordinated community activities which were to be funded by the \$45 million.

30. Referring to members' concerns about the fund allocation process, Mr Paul CHAN enquired whether DCs would give reasons for unsuccessful applications, and whether there would be an appeal mechanism to deal with appeals against the decisions of DCs. USHA and DDHA advised that DCs would provide reasons for unsuccessful applications, and complaints could be made to the relevant DC or HAD.

31. Mr Albert CHAN criticized that the proposal was a tool to encourage transfer of benefits and collusion between the Administration and the pro-government camp, such as the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB). Members belonging to the League of Social Democrats had decided not to support the proposal which in their view was to the detriment of the public interest.

32. Mrs Sophie LEUNG expressed support for the proposal. She said that the proposal had been thoroughly discussed by the HA Panel, and Panel members generally endorsed the setting of the four themes and three guiding principles for the community activities. The Administration had also undertaken to provide the Panel with a summary on the community activities at the end of the 2010-2011 financial year. She opined that members should have trust in the integrity of DCs, and should not seek to exert excessive control on the operation of DCs.

Creation of employment opportunities and impact on economy

33. Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired about the numbers of jobs that would be created directly or indirectly by the community activities supported by the proposal. USHA replied that the community programmes/activities would be able to create some 3,000 employment opportunities in various sectors.

34. Mr Vincent FANG expressed support for the proposal but commented that the objective of stimulating local economic activities, as set out in paragraph 3 of the Administration's paper, was rather vague and unrealistic. He doubted whether the proposed diversified community programmes could actually have the effect of stimulating personal consumption and domestic demand.

35. USHA responded that through the implementation of diversified community activities by the 18 DCs, there would be positive impact on local economy. The community activities would promote consumption in transport, food catering and retail businesses, etc. Some community activities such as cultural/ecological tours would also encourage cross-district interactions. Further, with the training of local tour guides, the long-term impact on local tourism would persist. The annual provision of \$300 million to DCs for launching community involvement activities would help continue to sustain these work efforts.

36. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming cited the successful experience of Tai Po DC that tour guides trained for the 2008 Olympic Equestrian were subsequently engaged for the 2009 East Asian Game. He believed that these tour guides would have a continuing role to promote cultural, historical and ecological tourism in different districts.

Pressure on frontline staff

37. Ms LI Fung-ying expressed concern that with the additional funding for community activities in different districts, this would inevitably increase the pressure on the staff of HAD. She said that the Liaison Officers (LOs) of HAD had recently complained about excessively workload and had contemplated industrial actions. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed similar concern, and pointed out that as the Village Representative Elections would soon be held, the staging of diversified community activities would generate greater pressure to the staff. He asked how the Administration would address the workload problem.

38. DDHA advised that the workload problem of LOs had been solved through active staff-management communications. The staff side had been consulted on the present proposal, and they were in general satisfied with the arrangements. A Work Smart Programme was implemented to help staff of HAD to critically review the work procedures for enhanced productivity. Improvement measures aiming at reducing pressure of frontline staff would also be rolled out shortly. He pointed out

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that part of the funding would be used to engage part-time contract staff to relieve the pressure of the frontline staff, and the Administration would continue to closely monitor their workload. USHA added that to ease the pressure on frontline staff, the Administration would make endeavours to improve the work flow and prioritize different work items according to their urgency and importance.

Extension of meeting

39. As the meeting was approaching the appointed ending time, i.e. 5:00 pm, the Chairman informed members that some members had registered to speak and she believed that another meeting would be required to continue the discussion even if she exercised the discretion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Mr WONG Kwok-hing supported extending the meeting by 15 minutes, and requested the Chairman to put the item to vote before the end of the meeting.

40. The Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes.

41. Mr Ronny TONG said that discussion of the item should be carried over to the next meeting, as the Administration had been asked to provide information on past fund allocations by DCs to facilitate members' consideration of the item. He considered that there was no real urgency in the Administration's proposal, and members belonging to the Civic Party would have to study the information to be provided by the Administration before taking a decision on the proposal. Mr LEE Wing-tat, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Miss Tanya CHAN expressed similar views.

42. Mr TAM Yiu-chung opined that there had been adequate discussion on the item and the Chairman should put the item to vote before the end of the meeting. Mr IP Kwok-him said that he was disappointed that the discussion had taken place in an unfair manner, subjecting DAB, the party he belonged to, to unfounded criticisms and attacks.

43. In response to the Chairman, USHA and DDHA expressed reservation about some members' suggestion of deferring the decision on the item to the next FC meeting. They considered that there had been adequate discussion on the proposal, first in the HA Panel meeting on 13 November 2009 and then at the current meeting. They said there was some urgency for the Administration to start off the preparatory work, such as the hiring of temporary contract staff, so that benefits of these diversified community activities could be brought to the community as soon as possible.

44. Mr LEE Wing-tat and Mr Albert HO disagreed with the Administration. They said that as FC still had to examine further information from the Administration, it would be justified for FC to continue its consideration of the item at the next FC meeting on 18 December 2009.

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45. The Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) advised that although representatives from the Administration had expressed a view on the meeting arrangement, it was for FC Members to decide whether this agenda item should be carried over to the next meeting. If Members decided to discuss the item at another meeting, the Administration would make use of the time before the next discussion to try and compile the information as requested by Members.

46. The Chairman directed that the Committee would continue the discussion of the item at the FC meeting on 18 December 2009.

47. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
7 April 2010