

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)1082/09-10(06)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 17 March 2010

Staffing Proposal relating to the West Kowloon Cultural District Project

Purpose

Three supernumerary posts of one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3), one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) and one Chief Treasury Accountant (D1) created for the dedicated West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Office in the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to coordinate efforts to implement the WKCD project will lapse on 1 July 2010. The Administration will consult the Panel on a new staffing proposal relating to the WKCD project at the meeting on 17 March 2010. This paper summarises the views and concerns of Legislative Council (LegCo) Members in their deliberations of the Administration's proposal on the aforesaid posts.

Background

2. To facilitate the early and effective implementation of the WKCD project, the Administration proposed in May 2008 the setting up of a dedicated WKCD Office in HAB, and the creation of the three supernumerary posts to provide directorate support to the WKCD Office for a period of two years. The main duties of the WKCD Office include: (a) preparing the legislation for the WKCD Authority and facilitating the legislative process in LegCo; (b) establishing the WKCD Authority and facilitating the operation of the Authority during its initial period; (c) facilitating LegCo in scrutinizing the financial analysis, assisting the WKCD Authority in establishing its financial management system, setting up and implementing the control, monitoring and reporting procedures on financial matters for compliance by the Authority; (d) facilitating the Authority's preparation of a Development Plan for the WKCD site; (e) facilitating the planning, design and construction of the facilities under the Authority's purview; (f) handling all major matters and issues relating to the interface and collaborations between the Government and the Authority; and (g) preparing for the setting up of an interim M+. The Administration's proposal was

endorsed by the Establishment Subcommittee (ESC) and the Finance Committee (FC) on 28 May 2008 and 13 June 2008 respectively.

Consultation on the staffing proposal

Views and concerns of the Panel

3. In its original staffing proposal presented to the Panel for consultation at its meeting on 11 April 2008, the Administration recommended that the dedicated WKCD Office and the three supernumerary posts be created for a period of three years initially. During the deliberation of the proposal, some members took the view that the proposed duration for the posts was rather long, and were concerned that it might in one way or the other interfere too much with the work of the WKCD Authority. Other members requested the Administration to explain the work of the WKCD Office vis-à-vis the role of the Authority during the proposed three-year duration of the supernumerary posts.

4. The Administration explained that the primary responsibility of the WKCD Office was to oversee and co-ordinate efforts of all relevant parties (especially within the Government) in taking forward the WKCD project, and facilitate the work of the WKCD Authority during the initial period. It further assured members that the WKCD Office would not do anything which would unduly interfere with, or pre-empt the decision of, the WKCD Authority in exercising its power and carrying out its functions in accordance with the enabling legislation.

5. To address the concerns raised by members about the role of the WKCD Office and the duration of the posts involved, the Administration subsequently revised the duration of the WKCD Office and the three posts from the originally proposed three years to two years. The Administration further advised that it would review the need for the continued operation of the WKCD Office and if so, the staffing composition required, before the end of the two-year period in early 2010, taking into account the implementation progress of the WKCD project.

Views and concerns of ESC and FC

6. During the deliberation of the staffing proposal at the meetings of ESC and FC in May and June 2008 respectively, members generally considered it justifiable to set up a dedicated team in HAB to facilitate early and effective implementation of the WKCD project. Some members, however, expressed concern about the adequacy of the manpower support in the proposed WKCD Office for implementing all of its prescribed duties, particularly in ensuring the transparency and fairness of the recruitment procedure for the WKCDA Board and the Chief Executive Officer. Other members considered that apart from administrative and accounting staff, the WKCD Office should also comprise professional staff, such as engineers, planners

and architects to provide the necessary support for the drawing up of the Development Plan, and that professional posts in the relevant government works bureaux/departments should also be created to enable better co-ordination of those works which required professional monitoring in the implementation of the project.

7. The Administration assured members that the WKCD Office would provide the necessary administrative support to facilitate the operation of the WKCD Authority, including the appointment of the WKCD Board, its Chief Executive Officer and senior executives, in accordance with the statutory requirements. It would also put in place a control and monitoring system for enforcing the relevant legislative provisions governing the operation of the Authority. The Administration further advised that other non-directorate posts and staff in various government departments would render assistance to the WKCD Office as appropriate and, where necessary, the departments concerned would propose to create additional posts in accordance with the established mechanism.

Relevant papers

8. A list of relevant papers with their hyperlinks at the LegCo website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 March 2010

Appendix

Relevant Papers/Documents on Staffing Proposal relating to the West Kowloon Cultural District Project in the Home Affairs Bureau

Committee	Date of meeting	Minutes/Paper/ Council question or motion	LC Paper No.
Panel on Home Affairs	11 April 2008	Administration's papers	CB(2)1517/07-08(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0411cb2-1517-3-e.pdf
			CB(2)1933/07-08(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0411cb2-1933-1-e.pdf
		Minutes of meeting	CB(2)2722/07-08 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha080411.pdf
Establishment Subcommittee	28 May 2008	Administration's paper	EC(2008-09)6 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/fc/esc/papers/e08-06e.pdf
		Minutes of meeting	ESC36/07-08 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/fc/esc/minutes/es080528.pdf
Finance Committee	13 June 2008	Minutes of meeting	FC31/08-09 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/fc/fc/minutes/fc080613.pdf

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 March 2010

J:\cb2\cb2\BC\TEAM2\HA\09-10\100317\softcopy\cb2-1082-6-e.doc