

Panel on Home Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(as at 12 October 2009)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Additional funding for district events and activities

This item is proposed by the Administration to brief Panel members on the government's proposal to allocate \$180 million to the 18 districts to foster community building, promote cultural and sports activities, and provide more community tours and local tourism.

Nov 2009

2. Future development of museum services

When the Panel discussed the future development of private museums at its meeting on 11 January 2008, the Panel agreed to follow up on (a) the establishment of a standard mechanism for supporting the operation of private museums; and (b) the progress made by the Administration in the establishment of a statutory Museums Board and consultation with museum staff on the proposed changes in mode of governance.

Nov 2009

At the meeting on 8 May 2009, Hon IP Kwok-him requested the Administration to consider advancing the discussion on the future development of museum services, in view of the concern expressed by members of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project as well as the curatorial profession on this issue.

3. Monitoring of unlicensed hotels and guesthouses

The Panel agreed at its meeting on 10 July 2009 that issues relating to the monitoring of unlicensed hotels and guesthouses should be discussed at the first regular meeting in the 2009-2010 legislative session, as suggested by Hon Paul TSE. The Administration suggested to discuss the item in December 2009.

Dec 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Development of public library services

At the Panel meeting on 17 April 2009, Hon KAM Lai-wai expressed concern about the inadequate provision of public library facilities at district level. Pursuant to the meeting, an information paper on the additional public libraries requested by the 18 districts in comparison to the provision of libraries under planning by the Administration was circulated to members on 8 July 2009.

Jan 2010

The Panel agreed at its meeting on 10 July 2009 that issues relating to the development of public library services should be further discussed at the first regular meeting in the 2009-2010 legislative session, as suggested by Hon KAM Lai-wai. After careful review of the situation, the Administration proposed to schedule the discussion in January 2010 as more time was required to prepare the information for deliberation.

5. Strengthening the arts and cultural software of Hong Kong

The Panel discussed the subject at the Panel meeting on 12 June 2009. Members noted that the Administration would (a) commission a study in 2009 to review the funding mechanism and assessment criteria for the major performing arts groups and to examine, among other things, an "entry and exit" mechanism to the league of majors and an articulation ladder for the second tier arts groups to become majors; and (b) set up a steering group in 2009 to coordinate cross-bureaux and inter-departmental efforts in further developing the cultural software in Hong Kong. As advised by the Administration, the study is expected to be commissioned in the 4th quarter of 2009, and the first meeting of the steering group was held on 10 September 2009.

End of 2009/early
2010

At a meeting held between LegCo Members and Kowloon City District Council members on 2 July 2009, a district council member suggested the revitalization of Ma Tau Kok Cattle Depot Artist Village into a cultural and tourist attraction. Members attending the meeting agreed that the

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

matter should be referred to this Panel for follow up.

6. Implementation of recommendations of the 2006 District Council (DC) Review

Following a preliminary review on the subject at the Panel meeting on 13 February 2009, members considered that the implementation of recommendations of the 2006 DC Review (including the progress of the District Minor Works projects) should be further discussed towards the end of 2009, i.e. two years after the full implementation of the recommendation of the Review. Hon IP Kwok-him suggested that senior officials of the relevant Bureaux should be invited to attend the meeting. At the Panel meeting on 20 March 2009, members agreed that the opportunity might also be taken to discuss issues relating to the construction of civic centres, such as the new Tai Po Civic Centre, as deemed necessary.

Early 2010
(Note)

Note: The Administration has advised that both the term consultants and HAD have strengthened staffing support so as to enhance the implementation of the District Minor Works projects. The issue of having a new civic centre in Tai Po was followed up by the District Facilities Management Committee under the Tai Po District Council (TPDC(DFMC)). As a new cross-district civic centre would be constructed in the North District which would also serve Tai Po, the proposal of constructing a new Tai Po Civic Centre at Plover Cove Road, Area 1, was shelved. The site has been earmarked for the provisioning of "G, I/C" facilities including a community hall, a sports centre (with a 25m x 25m indoor heated swimming pool) and two 7-1-side soccer pitches in consultation with TPDC(DFMC). LCSD is the lead department and has also agreed to upgrade the existing Tai Po Civic Centre.

7. Promotion of sports development

At the policy briefing given by SHA to the Panel on 20 October 2008, members expressed concerns about the Administration's failure to promote the development of local football, the lack of concrete long-term plan for sports development, the inadequacy of support for young athletes with potential, and the shortage of community sports

Early 2010

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

facilities.

The Panel met with the Administration on 8 May 2009 to discuss the promotion and development of local football. Members noted that the Administration would commission a consultancy study on football development in Hong Kong in 2009, and revert to the Panel on outcome of the study in early 2010.

8. The Role of Home Affairs Department in dealing with disputes under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344)

At the LegCo Members' meeting with members of the Eastern District Council held on 12 March 2009, a district council member suggested the Administration to review the role of the Home Affairs Department under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) in dealing with disputes between owners and the Owners' Corporations. Members attending the meeting agreed that the matter should be referred to this Panel for follow up. The Administration suggested to discuss the item in the second quarter of 2010.

2nd quarter of
2010

9. Regulation of property management companies

The Panel received a briefing by the Administration on the findings of the first phase of a consultancy study on the regulation of property management companies at its meeting on 4 July 2008. A motion was passed at the meeting urging the Administration to expeditiously introduce licensing control of property management companies. The Panel agreed to follow up on this issue.

To be confirmed
(Note)

Note: The Administration has advised that it is conducting the second phase consultancy study to examine the detailed arrangements and the pros and cons of possible models for the regulation of property management companies, and will report to the Panel upon completion of the study. At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman/Deputy Chairman and SHA on 3 November 2008, the Administration agreed to provide the Panel with an interim report on the progress of the consultancy study in 2010.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10. Government policy on youth development

At the Panel meeting on 12 June 2009, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che proposed and the Panel agreed that issues relating to Government policy on youth development should be discussed in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

To be confirmed

11. Provision of arts and cultural facilities in Hong Kong

At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman and SHA on 30 October 2007, the Administration agreed that it would report to the Panel on its overall review of the provision of arts and cultural facilities in Hong Kong.

To be confirmed
(Note)

Note: The Administration agreed to provide a written response to the Panel on the subject at the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman/Deputy Chairman and SHA on 3 November 2008.

12. Provision of an allowance for village representatives

At the meeting on 11 October 2007, Hon Andrew CHENG suggested that the Administration should explain its considerations of the proposal to provide an allowance for village representatives, as well as whether the same arrangement should be made for other holders of public offices and the criteria.

To be confirmed
(Note)

Note: At the Panel meeting on 14 November 2008, in which the Administration briefed members of the proposed amendments to the Village Representative Election Ordinance (Cap. 576) and related subsidiary legislation, the Administration advised that it would need more time to study the issue. In February 2009, the Administration further advised that the relevant proposal had been forwarded to Heung Yee Kuk for deliberation.

13. Review of advisory and statutory bodies

The Panel discussed 14 interim reports and a progress report

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

on the review during the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 sessions, and the interim report No. 15 on 13 January 2006. The Administration has undertaken to submit interim reports on various topics concerning the review to this Panel.

(Note)

When the Bills Committee on Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2005 discussed a proposed amendment to the Legal Aid Services Council (LASC) Ordinance (Cap. 489) on extending the deadline for LASC to submit its annual report, some members expressed concern that there should be consistency in the time limit within which statutory bodies should submit their annual reports. HAB has then agreed to include a review of the time limit for submission of annual reports by statutory bodies in its review of advisory and statutory bodies.

Note: At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman/Deputy Chairman and SHA on 3 November 2008, the Administration agreed to provide a written response to the Panel on the issue. The Administration's response was circulated to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2631/08-09(01) on 12 October 2009.

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

This item was last discussed on 13 June 2008. Some members were of the view that instead of making piecemeal changes to the existing system of enforcement of maintenance orders, the Administration should consider the establishment of an intermediary body for the collection of maintenance payments and make reference to the successful experience of Australia. These members considered that such a body could assist the maintenance payees in handling the cumbersome legal procedures in collecting maintenance payments.

To be confirmed
(Note)

At the meeting on 14 October 2008, Hon 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 should revisit this item.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Note: At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman/Deputy Chairman and SHA held on 3 November 2008, the Administration maintained the view that an intermediary body per se would not bring significant benefits over and above those that could be achieved by improving the existing system through various legislative and administrative measures. The Administration did not consider that there were justifiable reasons to support the establishment of an intermediary body to help maintenance payees to collect maintenance payments. The Chairman suggested that the item be re-visited, as and when necessary.

15. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk (HYK)

At the meeting of the Duty Roster Members with representatives of the Association of the New Territories (NT) Indigenous Residents on 16 December 2002, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the Heung Yee Kuk (HYK) Ordinance (Cap. 1097) under which the NT Justices of the Peace (JPs) served as Ex-officio Councillors of the Full Council and Ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee of HYK. They considered that the NT JPs, and Special Councillors and Co-opted Councillors of HYK could not represent and protect the interests of the villagers and indigenous inhabitants of NT and requested that the HYK membership should be reviewed. Their views were referred to this Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

Not suggested for discussion in the near future
(Note)

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item in conjunction with the traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT (item 16).

Note: At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman/Deputy Chairman and SHA on 3 November 2008, the Administration did not suggest this item and item 16 for discussion in the near future as more research work would need to be conducted to make the discussion more fruitful.

16. Traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT

At the LegCo Members' meetings with HYK Councillors on

See item 15 above

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10 June 2003 and 2 March 2004, a proposal of enacting legislation to implement Article 40 of the Basic Law regarding the protection of lawful traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers as well as issues relating to the exemption from payment of Government rent were discussed. Members agreed that the issues involved policy consideration about the traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers in NT, and should be referred to this Panel for follow-up. Members also suggested that HYK Councillors should be invited to attend the relevant meeting(s) of this Panel to give views when the issues were discussed.

Note: The Administration has proposed to discuss this item in conjunction with item 15.

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