

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

District Minor Works Programme and Rural Public Works Programme

INTRODUCTION

At the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 14 October 2010, Members requested the Administration to give a briefing on the District Minor Works (DMW) Programme and the Rural Public Works (RPW) Programme funded under two block allocations under Head 707 of the Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRP). Members were also concerned about the impact of district minor works, the consultation process of rural minor works and the design of pavilions in the rural areas.

HEAD 707 SUBHEAD 7016CX - DISTRICT MINOR WORKS PROGRAMME

Ambit

2. The 2006 District Council (DC) Review recommended, inter alia, that DCs should have greater involvement and more resources to initiate and implement minor works in the districts, particularly those district facilities the management of which involved DCs. A dedicated block allocation, the DMW block allocation, was set up under CWRP in April 2007 for district-based works projects implemented by DCs costing up to \$21 million¹ each to improve local facilities, living environment and hygienic conditions in the territory. It covers minor building works, fitting out works and minor alterations, additions and improvement works including furniture and equipment replacement incidental to such works, and slope inspections and minor slope improvement works in respect of all the district facilities under the purview of the DCs. It also covers all costs to be incurred in the planning of the above projects, such as consultant fees, feasibility studies, site investigation and other studies.

/3.

¹ On 2 November 2007, the Finance Committee approved an increase in the financial ceiling on the delegation of authority for approving works-related block allocation items from \$15 million to \$21 million.

3. From 2008-09 onwards, the annual provision for the DMW block allocation is \$300 million. In general, the Home affairs Department (HAD) will be the lead department to work with DCs in implementing minor works related to community halls and other projects which improve the living environment and hygienic conditions of the district; while the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will be the lead department to work with DCs in implementing minor works related to leisure, cultural, sports, soft landscaping works and recreation types of facilities. Apart from carrying out works by in-house staff, the lead departments will invite other works agents e.g. Architectural Services Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Highways Department, etc to assist in works implementation. Architect-led term consultants and a quantity surveying term consultant are also engaged for the delivery of projects of larger scale or greater complexity requiring architectural services inputs.

HEAD 707 SUBHEAD 7014CX – RURAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

Ambit

4. The RPW Programme was established in April 1999 following the completion of the 10-year Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (RPIS) Minor Works Programme. The RPW block allocation was set up under CWRP for small scale works projects costing up to \$21 million² each to upgrade the infrastructure and improve the living environment of the rural areas in the New Territories.

5. The 2010-11 provision for the RPW block allocation is \$120 million.

EXPENDITURE CONTROL

6. Expenditure under the two block allocations are strictly controlled. The Financial Secretary has delegated to the following officers the power to authorize expenditure from the two block allocations –

<i>Officers</i>	<i>In respect of</i>
Director of Home Affairs	Minor works under block allocation 7014CX (up to \$14 million each)

/Officers.....

² On 2 November 2007, the Finance Committee approved an increase in the financial ceiling on the delegation of authority for approving works-related block allocation items from \$15 million to \$21 million.

<i>Officers</i>	<i>In respect of</i>
Director of Home Affairs/Director of Leisure and Cultural Services	Minor works under block allocation 7016CX (up to \$14 million each)
Permanent Secretary Home Affairs	Minor works under block allocations 7014CX and 7016CX

7. Internally, funding approval for minor works projects under the two block allocations is delegated to officers not below the directorate rank of D2.

OPERATION

The DMW Programme

8. The 18 DCs play a pivotal role in the planning and implementation of the DMW Programme. The DCs or the District Facilities Management Committees (DFMC) set up under the DCs are responsible for –

- (a) initiating projects and collating views and district aspiration;
- (b) endorsing projects proposed by government departments;
- (c) deciding on the scope and scale of projects;
- (d) setting the relative priorities of projects;
- (e) determining the timetable for implementation; and
- (f) monitoring the progress of implementation through regular progress reports submitted by the Administration/works agents.

9. Relevant government departments are represented at the meetings of the DCs or the DFMC to respond to concerns raised about the projects.

10. As at end October 2010, over 2 400 DMW projects have been endorsed with estimated project cost totaling \$1,422 million. So far, over 1 600 items have been completed.

/Local.....

Local Consultation of DMW Projects

11. In addition to DCs which are vigorously engaged in the consultation of DMW projects from preliminary feasibility studies to design and planning, Area Committees (for urban areas), Rural Committees (for rural areas) and residents organizations such as Mutual Aid Committees/Owners Corporations will also be consulted on proposed projects at the planning stages. Whenever circumstances warrant, the scope and design of the projects will be refined to better cater for public demands and local needs.

The RPW Programme

12. The RPW Programme operates on a two-tier management structure involving a Steering Committee and a District Working Group (DWG) for each of the nine districts in the New Territories. At the district level, the DWG is chaired by a DC member with membership comprising other DC members, one representative from each Rural Committee and relevant government departments. The DWG Chairmen also sit on the RPW Programme Steering Committee chaired by the Director of Home Affairs.

13. As at end October 2010, over 1 700 RPW projects have been endorsed with estimated project cost totaling \$1,585 million. So far, over 1 500 items have been completed.

Local Consultation of RPW Projects

14. The District Offices consult the local communities on RPW works projects through the following channels before the projects are implemented –

- (a) posting notices at project sites, with the assistance of the District Lands Office (DLO), and on the concerned village notice boards for the information of all villagers;
- (b) sending notices about the projects to the Village Representatives (VRs) and/or Rural Committees for posting at RC and village offices to allow for wider publicity of the proposed projects. VRs are also asked to inform the affected villagers of the proposed projects;
- (c) requesting VRs to conduct formal consultation sessions with villagers on projects which are controversial or may invite complaints. The District Offices will also consult the relevant interest groups where appropriate before project implementation; and

/(d)



- (d) putting forward the proposals to respective DWG for consideration and endorsement.

DESIGN OF PAVILIONS

15. Pavilions are constructed in rural areas in response to the public aspiration for leisure facilities for the local communities. Both architect-led term consultants and in-house resources have been engaged in projects involving the construction of pavilions. The former are usually responsible for projects with more design elements. Apart from pavilions, rain shelters are commonly constructed in response to public demands.

16. With professional inputs from consultants, more aesthetically pleasing designs for pavilions and rain shelters have been introduced in recent years. For projects designed in-house, reference will also be made to those well received pavilion and rain shelter designs adopted previously. As a general rule, the designs will also blend with the environment of the rural areas to ensure harmony and conformity in appearance. Some examples of pavilions and rain shelters are given at Annexes 1 and 2 respectively. The local communities will be consulted at an early stage so that local characteristics and aspirations are taken into account in the designing process and the choice of materials. The designs will also be presented to the DC, DFMC or DWG for refinements before finalization. To stimulate design ideas and foster appreciation of new designs of district facilities, including pavilions and rain shelters, in different districts, we will organize regular sharing sessions for the DCs commencing in the first quarter of 2011.

Pavilion (涼亭)

Chinese Style Pavilion (中式涼亭)	地點
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ping Yeung Village, Fanling (粉嶺坪洋 - 三鄉亭)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hang Mei Tsuen, Ping Shan (屏山坑尾村)

Pavilion of other designs(其他設計的涼亭)

地點



- Cheung Chau (長洲)



- Kei Lak Tsai (箕勒仔)

Pavilion of other designs(其他設計的涼亭)


地點





- Tung Chung (東涌)

Rainshelter (避雨亭)

	地點
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Southern District – Kau Wai Village (南區舊圍村)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sham Shui Po - Wai Chi Street (深水埗偉智街)

	地點
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wong Tai Sin - Diamond Hill (黃大仙鑽石山)

	地點
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wong Tai Sin - Sheung Fung Street (黃大仙雙鳳街)

	地點
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1106 262 1489 344">● Sham Shui Po – Tat Chee Avenue (深水埗達之路)