

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)364/11-12
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 14 October 2011, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

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

Public Officers : Agenda item III
attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Raymond YOUNG, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Home Affairs Department

Mrs Pamela TAN, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Clerk in : Mr Thomas WONG
attendance Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in : Ms Alice LEUNG
attendance Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Jasmine TAM
Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

Ms Carol LAM
Clerical Assistant (2)2

Action

I. Information paper(s) issued since the last regular meeting on 8 July 2011

Members noted the following papers issued since the last regular meeting on 8 July 2011-

LC Paper No. CB(2)2397/10-11(01) -- The Administration's response to a submission from a sports organization on the monitoring of Private Recreational Leases and the granting of short-term land leases for the purpose of sports and leisure activities

LC Paper No. CB(2)2469/10-11(01) -- The Administration's letter dated 28 July 2011 to the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") on the latest development of the relocation project concerning the public toilets, refuse collection point and street sleepers' shelters adjacent to the Yau Ma Tei Theatre

LC Paper No. CB(2)2487/10-11(01) -- Referral from Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members' meeting with Sai Kung District Council ("DC") members on 5 May 2011 on the progress of works projects for leisure and recreational facilities in the Sai Kung district

LC Paper No. CB(2)2488/10-11(01) -- Referral from LegCo Members' meeting with North DC members on 26 May 2011 on the progress of library services in the North District

Action

LC Paper No. CB(2)2634/10-11(01) -- Referral from LegCo Members' meeting with North DC members on 26 May 2011

LC Paper No. CB(2)2666/10-11(01) -- The Administration's paper on a list of outstanding ex-Municipal Council ("MC") leisure and cultural services ("LCS") projects and non-ex-MC LCS projects for which the Administration has completed all the planning/preparatory works and obtained support from DCs

LC Paper No. CB(2)2673/10-11(01) -- The Administration's paper on reasons for the continued decrease in the total number of hours of use of major sports facilities by schools from 2008-2009 to 2010-2011 and a breakdown of the number by the 18 Districts in Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(2)18/11-12(01) -- The Administration's supplementary information on the nomination of representatives of Arts Interests for the Hong Kong Arts Development

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)54/11-12(01) and (02)]

2. The Chairman advised that the next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, 15 November 2011, at 8:30 am to discuss the Administration's proposed item on the creation of a supernumerary directorate post in the Home Affairs Department to support the initiatives

Action

of regulation of the property management industry and review of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344).

3. The Chairman informed members that he and the Deputy Chairman would hold an informal meeting with the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2011-2012 session, including the other items for discussion at the regular meeting in November 2011.

[Post-meeting note: The list of outstanding items for discussion and the list of follow-up actions, which were tabled at the meeting, were circulated to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)54/11-12(01) and (02) dated 14 October 2011].

III. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2011-2012

[LC Paper No. CB(2)54/11-13(03)]

4. SHA briefed members on the new initiatives relating to the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") in the 2011-2012 Policy Agenda. At members' request, a copy of SHA's speaking note was tabled at the meeting and issued to members after the meeting vide LC Paper No. CB(2)74/11-12(01) dated 14 October 2011.

Promotion of sports

5. Mr WONG Kwok-hing welcomed the Administration's positive response to the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions' request for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") to introduce a monthly ticket scheme for users of public swimming pools. He sought clarification on whether the monthly tickets stated in paragraph 20 of the Administration's paper would be available to all members of the public. SHA responded in the affirmative.

6. In response to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's enquiry on whether the monthly ticket scheme would offer concessionary rates to the elderly, people with disabilities, students and children and its commencement date, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") advised that a 50% discount in admission fees to LCSD-managed swimming pools were available to these groups of users. It was the Administration's plan that they would enjoy the same concessionary rate under the monthly ticket scheme. The Administration would brief the Panel on the details of the scheme in due course before submitting the legislative proposal to LegCo

Action

for negative vetting within the 2011-2012 session. In response to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's suggestion to lower the age of the elderly eligible for the concessionary rate from 65 to 60, DLCS advised that elderly people who were aged 60 or above were currently eligible for the concessionary rate. She envisaged that the same arrangement would apply under the monthly ticket scheme.

7. Dr LAM Tai-fai expressed support for the scheme and suggested that it might be extended to the use of LCSD-managed facilities for other popular sports (e.g. football), with a view to encouraging non-swimmers to take part in sports.

8. In response to Dr LAM Tai-fai's enquiry about aligning the fees for using LCSD facilities and services in urban areas and the New Territories, SHA advised that the objective of the exercise was to align fees for the same types of facilities and services in urban areas and the New Territories to the same level. Dr LAM opined that if a fee for using a public LCSD facility in urban areas was higher than that in the New Territories or vice versa, it should be adjusted downward.

Provision of sports facilities

9. While supporting the Administration's continuation of the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex ("MPSC") at Kai Tak, the Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the public access to it and arrangement for crowd management. He sought information on –

- (a) the commencement and completion dates of MPSC;
- (b) whether it would be connected with the proposed Environmentally Friendly Linkage System ("EFLS") in East Kowloon; and
- (c) in connection with paragraph 27 of the Administration's paper, whether the study commissioned by HAB to identify the preferred procurement strategy and financing option for MPSC would cover the issue relating to the utility of MPSC, when the study would be completed and its report submitted to LegCo, and the cost of the study.

10. SHA and Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs ("PSHA") advised that -

- (a) Hong Kong needed a MPSC with a seating capacity of

Action

about 50 000 for the long-term development of both elite and popular sports. The site for MPSC had been included in the approved Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan and would be connected with EFLS according to the latest plan for EFLS. MPSC was expected to be completed in 2019 and would have a main stadium, a secondary stadium and a range of auxiliary facilities to meet international standards; and

- (b) the study commissioned by HAB would look into the possible procurement strategies and financing options of MPSC. It was a preliminary study scheduled for completion around end 2011 and would cost around \$1.4 million. The Administration had planned to revert to the Panel on the findings of the study and a proposal to seek LegCo's funding support for the next stage of work of the MPSC project.

11. Noting the Administration's plan to seek LegCo's funding for the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po, Mr WONG Yung-kan called on the Administration to expedite the implementation of the project, which had been discussed for a decade. SHA advised that the environmental impact assessment of the project in Lung Mei had been completed. The Administration was preparing a financial proposal for submission to the Finance Committee ("FC") for consideration and approval. The project would commence upon FC's approval.

12. Mr WONG Yung-kan also expressed concern about the lack of an implementation timetable for the proposed sports centre in Plover Cove Road, Area 1 in Tai Po. SHA advised that given the limited resources, the Administration had to set priorities in implementing various sports projects. Over the past five years, the Administration had already spent a lot of money on the construction of new sports and recreational facilities in various districts.

Promotion of arts

13. Ms Cyd HO noted that the Administration would provide additional resources to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council ("HKADC") to offer arts spaces in industrial premises for lease to arts groups and arts workers at concessionary rates. She pointed out that industrial premises had provided budding artists and small arts groups with relatively low-rent units for their arts pursuits. However, she expressed worry that the Government's initiative to revitalize industrial premises would result in significant rent increases for such premises,

Action

which might become unaffordable to budding artists and small arts groups. She called on the Administration to ensure that the resources allocated to HKADC would benefit budding artists and small arts groups and not just established ones.

14. PSHA advised that the Government had provided support to budding and small arts groups through various schemes. He noted that many local artists worked on a part time basis and it was quite common to see several artists or arts groups sharing a studio unit in industrial buildings. However, the Administration had not figured out an effective way to identify the number of amateur artists in Hong Kong and therefore had difficulty in assessing their needs for space for arts pursuits. Nevertheless, the Administration would exercise due care in using public funds to ensure that artists/arts groups in genuine need would be given appropriate support. After the implementation of HKADC's initiative of offering space to artists and arts groups, the Administration would consider the need for other measures to support arts pursuits.

15. Referring to paragraph 162 of the 2011-2012 Policy Address, Prof Patrick LAU welcomed the Administration's plan to designate 2012 as "Hong Kong Design Year", which would encompass a number of mega events on design to consolidate Hong Kong's position as Asia's creative hub. As Architecture had been classified as one of the creative industries promoted in Hong Kong, he hoped that the Administration would follow the practice on the Mainland and in Europe to take the lead in organizing architectural design competitions for various large public works projects that were in the pipeline, and engage the winning designers in the implementation of their winning designs. In addition, he expressed concern about free pitching (i.e. the supply of designs without reward) in design competitions and called on the Administration to consider ways to offer due rewards to participants in such competitions.

16. SHA advised that the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority would conduct architectural design competitions for some of the arts and cultural facilities in the West Kowloon Cultural District. The issues of free pitching, such as whether and how participants in design competitions should be duly rewarded, was being studied by The CreateHK, an agency established under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau to co-ordinate various government efforts to drive the development of the creative economy in Hong Kong.

Hostels for single youths

17. Noting from paragraph 31 of the Administration's paper that a

Action

number of local non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") wished to use part of the "Government, Institution or Community" ("GIC") sites granted by the Government to build hostels for single youths who hoped to have their own living space, Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked whether the Government would undertake to build such hostels if it received no applications from NGOs for doing so.

18. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che pointed out that for various reasons such as running away from home, some single youths might be in urgent need of temporary lodging for a certain period of time. He asked whether the Administration would request NGOs to allocate a certain number of hostels for this group of youths, if such hostels were allowed to be built on GIC sites. He considered that counseling services should also be available in such hostels.

19. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed support for the provision of stable accommodation to youths in need, especially those who could only afford to live in sub-divided units. However, he opined that the proposed single-youth hostels might not solve the problem of how to meet the needs of youths for their own living space, if the occupants of such hostels would need to move out when married or after a certain period of time. The Administration might consider introducing a points system under which lodgers living in single-youth hostels for a longer period would be given more points and higher priority in the queue for public rental housing ("PRH"). He opined that the issues relating to the provision of accommodation to youths could not be handled by a single government bureau or relegated to NGOs. The Government should formulate a long-term policy to address the housing needs of youths.

20. SHA advised that while youth matters straddled various government bureaux, HAB had formulated the initiative of building single-youth hostels from a youth development perspective. Some NGOs had reflected the view that many working youths wished to have their own living space. HAB would communicate with NGOs which wished to build such hostels on GIC sites. The implementation of the initiative would depend on the degree of support from NGOs. NGOs would have more flexibility in the operation of such hostels if they did not rely on public funding. If they needed public funding to run such hostels, their operation would be subject to more conditions (such as eligibility criteria) set by the Administration.

21. SHA also advised that he was aware that the youth housing demand was an important matter that needed to be explored by the Administration and the Housing Authority. To cater for the housing

Action

needs of the elderly, there were several housing schemes that accorded priority to elderly PRH applicants. However, given the limited resources, there was still no consensus in the society on whether single youths should be given priority in the allocation of PRH flats.

22. Dr LAM Tai-fai expressed worry that the initiative of building single hostels for youths would give rise to various social problems if it was not clearly positioned and properly monitored. The Administration needed to carefully consider various aspects of the initiative, such as the definition of "single youths", eligibility criteria and hostel lodging fees.

23. Mr James TO raised no objection to the ideas of building hostels for single youths and of allowing NGOs to run such hostels, as they could help address part of the housing problems of young people. Nevertheless, he expressed concern about the lack of clear policy objectives of the initiative and called on the Administration to make clear whether it was to promote youth development or address the housing problems of young people.

24. SHA advised that some NGOs had been providing hostel services for single youths. The lodgers' length of stay in hostels was capped and they were requested to save some of their income for meeting their accommodation needs after leaving the hostels. SHA undertook to carefully formulate the details of the initiative with reference to the relevant experiences.

Progress report

25. Ms Cyd HO opined that at present, the reports submitted by individual bureaux to LegCo on their works usually covered the implementation of ongoing measures but did not provide the progress of the pledges they had made. She recalled that before the introduction of the Political Appointment System in July 2002, there had been good practice that the Chief Secretary for Administration published every year a comprehensive Progress Report on the Administration's pledges made in the previous year to enable the public to judge the Administration's performance according to its published targets. She called on the Administration to resume the practice to enhance transparency and public accountability.

26. Summing up, the Chairman advised that the Panel would follow up and monitor the development and implementation of various initiatives undertaken by HAB at its future meetings where necessary and appropriate.

Action

IV. Any other business

27. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:34am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
21 November 2011