

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1193/12-13

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 15 April 2013, at 8:30 am in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Deputy Chairman)
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

Members attending : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon TANG Ka-piu

**Members
absent** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP

**Public Officers
attending** : Item IV

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, SBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Mrs Avia LAI WONG Shuk-han, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Ms Winsome CHOW
Assistant Director (Performing Arts)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr FAN Yung-kai
Assistant Director (Operations) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr FUNG Man-chung
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Mr SAT Sing-hin
Senior Project Manager 335
Architectural Services Department

Item V

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, SBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting)

Miss Petty LAI Chun-yee
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport)

Mr Bobby CHENG Kam-wing, JP
Deputy Director (Leisure Services)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Miss Margrit LI Lai-fan
Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Clerk in attendance : Ms Alice LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Mr Bonny LOO
Assistant Legal Adviser 3

Miss Josephine SO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes
(LC Paper No. CB(2)893/12-13)

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2013 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting
(LC Paper No. CB(2)924/12-13(01) and CB(2)949/12-13(01))

2. Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting -

- (a) Administration's information paper on the provision of public facilities for playing cricket and other sports; and
- (b) Administration's information paper on issues relating to the use of three wheeled carts and golf carts within parks managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD").

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)936/12-13(01) & (02) and CB(2)957/12-13(01))

Regular meeting in May 2013

3. Members agreed to discuss the following two items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting scheduled for 10 May 2013, at 8:30 am -

Action

- (a) Provision of funding for acquisition of artworks; and
- (b) Interim Report of the Review Committee on the Building Management Ordinance and other new building management initiatives.

(Post-meeting note: To avoid clashing with the anticipated continuation of the Council meeting commencing on 8 May 2013, with the concurrence of the Panel Chairman, the meeting was re-scheduled to Tuesday, 28 May 2013 at 10:45 am.)

4. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that "Matters relating to building management" proposed by Mr WU Chi-wai (i.e. item 11 of the list of outstanding items for discussion) should be discussed under the Administration's proposed discussion item "Interim Report of the Review Committee on the Building Management Ordinance and other new building management initiatives" as referred to in paragraph 3(b) above.

(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Panel Chairman, the item was subsequently rephrased as "Interim Report of the Review Committee on the Building Management Ordinance and other building management initiatives".)

Issues relating to the operation of Tin Sau Bazaar

5. The Chairman said that Mr Michael TIEN, a non-Panel member, had written in on 8 April 2013, requesting the Panel to discuss issues relating to the review and enhancement of Tin Sau Bazaar in Tin Shui Wai. He invited members' views on how the matter should be followed up.

6. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung suggested that the Administration should be requested to report on the progress of operation of Tin Sau Bazaar and provide a written response to concerns raised in Mr Michael TIEN's letter, in order to facilitate members' consideration of whether the subject should be discussed at a Panel meeting. Members agreed.

IV. Relocation of Shanghai Street Refuse Collection Point and Street Sleepers' Shelter and Yau Ma Tei Theatre Phase II Development
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)936/12-13(03) and (04))

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Home Affairs (Acting) ("SHA(Atg)") gave a briefing on the Administration's proposal to re-provision the Shanghai Street refuse collection point ("RCP") and street sleepers'

Action

services units ("SSSU") to a site at Hau Cheung Street, Yau Ma Tei to facilitate the implementation of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre ("YMTT") Phase II project, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper.

Phase II development of YMTT

8. The Chairman, Mr YIU Si-wing, Mr Tony TSE and Mr Christopher CHUNG expressed support for the proposed reprovisioning of RCP and SSSU to facilitate the Phase II development of YMTT. They were concerned whether the Phase II development of YMTT could address the existing space shortage problem of YMTT, so as to enable it to serve its functions as a territory-wide performing arts venue designated for promoting Cantonese opera. Noting that Hong Kong Tourism Board had been promoting YMTT as one of the cultural and heritage attractions in Hong Kong, Mr YIU and Mr TSE suggested that consideration should be given to enhancing attractions in the vicinity of YMTT, such as the Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market, as this could attract more tourists and local visitors to YMTT.

9. In response, SHA(Atg) said that the Administration shared Members' views that YMTT could further help foster a better cultural ambience in the surrounding area. However, due to the constraints posed by the preservation of YMTT and Red Brick Building (both of which were graded historic buildings), the size of the foyer space and the side stage of the current YMTT was not adequate. To enable YMTT to serve its functions as a centre for nurturing new talents for Cantonese opera more effectively, it was necessary to relocate the existing RCP and SSSU adjoining YMTT to provide space for expanding the foyer and the side stage of the theatre and to provide rehearsal facilities at the venue. While LCSD and the Architectural Services Department ("ASD") were working on the detailed design and project planning of the YMTT Phase II development, Members' views and suggestions would be taken into consideration.

10. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether the Administration would consult the tourism sector on the YMTT Phase II development during the project planning and design stage. SHA(Atg) replied in the affirmative, adding that the current proposal that RCP and SSSU be reprovisioned to a site at Hau Cheung Street to pave way for the Phase II development of YMTT was drawn up after consultation with the relevant stakeholders including residents in the district.

11. The Chairman expressed concern about the impact of the demolition and construction works during the implementation of the Phase II development of YMTT on the daily operation of the theatre, and the shortage of parking spaces for coaches in the vicinity YMTT. He asked about the

Action

arrangements that would be worked out by the Administration to address the above issues.

12. SHA(Atg) advised that subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council ("LegCo"), construction of the reprovisioned RCP and SSSU and the subsequent demolition of the cleared premises on the site at Shanghai Street were expected to commence in November 2013 for completion in April 2016. As the phase II development of YMTT would not commence in the near future, the operation of YMTT in the next few years would unlikely be affected. Regarding the Chairman's concern about the shortage of parking facilities in the area of YMTT, SHA(Atg) said that the Administration would follow up on the matter with the Transport Department, with a view to complementing the future development of YMTT.

Reprovisioning of RCP and SSSU at Hau Cheung Street

13. Mr WU Chi-wai said that while he had no particular view on the proposed expansion of YMTT, he was concerned about the scale of development and design of the reprovisioned SSSU at Hau Cheung Street. Pointing out that there was an acute shortage of temporary accommodation places for street sleepers in the district, he wondered whether the new facility would provide more shelter places to alleviate the problem. He was of the view that the Administration's support to street sleepers should be strengthened. His view was echoed by Ms Claudia MO and Mr IP Kin-yuen.

14. Mr IP Kin-yuen asked whether the reprovisioning proposal was agreeable to the current operators of the Shanghai Street SSSU. Given the fact that the new site was relatively far away from the existing site which was in the residential areas and the core business areas of Yau Ma Tei and Mongkok, Mr IP and Dr Helena WONG expressed concern about the ease of access to the reprovisioned SSSU.

15. SHA(Atg) and Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare) of the Social Welfare Department advised that the purpose of the proposed reprovisioning project was to make available the existing site for the Phase II development of YMTT. The Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had consulted and worked closely with the two operators of the Shanghai Street SSSU, namely the Street Sleepers' Shelter Society Trustees Incorporated and the Salvation Army, on the proposed reprovisioning of SSSU. While the proposal was agreeable to both sides, they had undertaken to continue the existing dedicated supportive services for street sleepers on the new premises at Hau Cheung Street.

Action

16. As regards the site proposed for relocating the two facilities, SHA(Atg) said that taking into account the need for maintaining the existing services of RCP and SSSU in the district, the selected site at Hau Cheung Street was not too far away from the existing RCP and SSSU. The Administration noted Members' concerns about the overall support services for street sleepers. She would relay the concerns to the relevant policy bureaux/department.

17. Expressing concern about the possible odour and noise nuisance as well as environmental impact brought about by the reprovisioned RCP, Ms Claudia MO enquired about the coordination between relevant departments and the mitigating measures to be taken by the Administration. SHA(Atg) and Assistant Director (Operations) 2 of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department responded that -

- (a) the proposed reprovisioning project was drawn up with the concerted efforts of relevant government departments, including ASD, SWD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD");
- (b) the Administration had consulted the Community Building Committee of Yau Tsim Mong District Council ("DC") on the reprovisioning project at four of its meetings. DC members supported the proposal and requested for its early implementation; and
- (c) FEHD had always been working closely with the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") on solid waste management and recycling technologies and approaches. FEHD would collaborate with EPD to follow up on the possible odour and noise nuisance and environmental impact that might be brought about by the reprovisioned RCP and appropriate mitigating measures would be implemented where necessary.

18. In response to Mr Tony TSE's enquiry, SHA(Atg) advised that the new RCP would be equipped with modernized odour control system, such as water scrubber system to deodorize exhausted air, to control the emission of unpleasant odour and avoid causing nuisance to the users of SSSU as far as possible.

19. Responding to Ms Claudia MO's and Mr IP Kin-yuen's enquiries on whether it was a Government policy to co-locate RCP and SSSU, SHA(Atg) explained the background against which the Administration put forward the proposal to reprovision RCP and SSSU adjoining YMTT to facilitate the implementation of the Phase II development of YMTT. She advised that

Action

since 2009 when the Phase I of YMTT was implemented, the Administration had been actively exploring suitable sites for relocating RCP and SSSU and eventually succeeded in identifying a suitable site at Hau Cheung Street, Yau Ma Tei. Owing to historical reasons and other constraints, including the availability of suitable sites in the district for relocating the two facilities, the proposal under discussion was to re-provision the two facilities to the same site at Hau Cheung Street and maintain the current scale of development of SSSU so that the same level of service could be provided to street sleepers.

Admin

20. Mr Tony TSE was concerned about the land use planning and the development parameters of the site at Hau Cheung Street for re-provisioning the existing RCP and SSSU, and whether the design of the re-provisioned RCP and SSSU would achieve maximum utilization of the site. In his view, flexibility for expanding the scale of development should be provided at the design stage of these facilities to cater for future needs. He requested the Administration to provide the Panel with more detailed information on these aspects before submitting the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC") for consideration.

21. Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Miss CHAN Yuen-han criticized the Administration for co-locating the new RCP and SSSU at the same site at Hau Cheung Street. In their view, the co-location arrangement of the two facilities was a form of discrimination against street sleepers. Dr CHEUNG and Dr KWOK held a strong view that the existing SSSU could be re-provisioned in-situ and incorporated in the Phase II development of YMTT. Dr KWOK said that the Administration should explore the feasibility of relaxing the plot ratio and height limit of the new building for the expansion of YMTT, so as to maximize the supply of gross floor area for the accommodation of the temporary shelter for street sleepers as well as provision of performance and rehearsal venues for arts practitioners and arts groups.

22. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and Dr Helena WONG shared the view that it was totally unacceptable for the Government to co-locate the re-provisioned RCP and SSSU at the same site. They strongly requested that the existing RCP and SSSU should be re-provisioned to separate sites, with the latter being easily accessible by users. They also held the view that the Government should review its policy regarding the provision of integrated services for street sleepers.

23. Mr James TO declared that he was a member of Yau Tsim Mong DC. He said that while he understood that Yau Tsim Mong DC supported the proposal and requested for its early implementation, he also considered it

Action

unacceptable that the reprovisioned RCP and SSSU were to be co-located at the same site.

24. SHA(Atg) explained that the Phase II development of YMTT could only commence after the reprovisioning of the existing RCP and SSSU to Hau Cheung Street. Reiterating the constraints faced by the Government in identifying suitable sites for relocating the two facilities, she stressed that the reprovisioning proposal was drawn up in response to Members' previous request for the relocation of the existing RCP and SSSU to improve the overall environment of YMTT. SHA(Atg) solicited Members' understanding that the Administration had difficulties in identifying and securing suitable sites in the district to reprovision RCP and SSSU and hoped that Members would support the current proposal.

25. While understanding that the Administration might have difficulties in finding suitable sites to reprovision RCP and SSSU in the district, Mr Christopher CHUNG considered that the proposed co-location arrangement was indeed unsatisfactory. He suggested that the Administration should follow up with SWD and FEHD on the propriety of reprovisioning the existing RCP and SSSU to the same site, and consider identifying other sites, e.g. vacated offices in multi-storey market complex originally occupied by FEHD, for relocating SSSU.

26. Mr Frankie YICK suggested that if another site could not be identified for reprovisioning SSSU, the Government should examine the feasibility of constructing two separate building blocks on the site at Hau Cheung Street, to accommodate the reprovisioned RCP and SSSU. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for the suggestion. SHA(Atg) undertook to refer Mr YICK's suggestion to the relevant policy bureaux/departments for consideration.

Motion

27. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che moved a motion, seconded by Mr WU Chi-wai and amended by Dr Helena WONG, as follows -

"本會促請政府在重建油麻地戲院和重置露宿者之家及垃圾站的過程，要尊重露宿者的尊嚴並以人為本，將垃圾站與露宿者之家分隔開於不同地段，並方便露宿者出入。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel calls on the Government to respect the dignity of street sleepers in the course of redeveloping the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and relocating the nearby street sleepers' shelter and refuse collection point,

Action

and to uphold the people-oriented principle by reprovisioning RCP and SSSU to separate sites as well as facilitating the access by street sleepers."

28. The Chairman put Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's motion, as amended by Dr Helena WONG, to vote. Seven members voted in favour of the motion, and no member voted against it. The Chairman declared that Mr CHEUNG's motion, as amended by Dr WONG, was carried.

Conclusion

29. As there were diverse views among members, the Chairman proposed and members agreed to put to vote the question of whether the Panel would support the Administration's submission of the project proposal to PWSC and FC for consideration in May and June 2013 respectively. The result was that one member voted in favour of the submission, six members voted against it and one member abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that Panel members did not support for the Administration's submission of the proposal to PWSC and FC for consideration.

Admin

30. The Chairman concluded that in view of members' grave concerns over the co-location arrangement, the Administration should seriously reconsider its proposal to reprovision RCP and SSSU to the same site and provide the Panel with a written response to the motion passed at this meeting before submitting the funding proposal to PWSC and FC for consideration.

V. Alignment of fees and charges of municipal facilities and services under the policy purview of the Secretary for Home Affairs
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)936/12-13(05) and (06))

31. SHA(Atg) briefed Members on the Administration's proposal to align the fees and charges of the municipal facilities and services under the policy purview of SHA, as detailed in the Administration's paper.

Alignment of fees and charges

32. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr YIU Si-wing, Mr Frankie YICK and Dr Helena WONG said that they were supportive of the proposal to align the fees and charges for the same types of municipal facilities and services in the urban area and the New Territories based on the lower of the two levels. Mr CHAN, however, wondered why the Administration had to introduce non-peak hour rates to facilities, in particular swimming pools, in the urban area. He said that if it was the objective of the Administration to encourage

Action

wider public participation in sports, consideration should be given to maintaining the lowest rate at present (i.e. \$17) as the future admission fee for public swimming pools in both the urban area and the New Territories without demarcating peak and non-peak hours. He pointed out that the fee difference of \$2 for admission to public swimming pools between peak and non-peak hours might not be able to achieve the effect of encouraging more swimmers to swim in the public swimming pools at non-peak hours.

33. Mr YIU Si-wing supported introducing non-peak hour rates to facilities in the urban area, as it was a measure to relieve the pressure on service demand during peak hours. He suggested that in its future review of the charging arrangements for peak and non-peak hours, the Administration should consider setting a meaningful difference between the two levels of fees, say, at least 10%.

34. SHA(Atg) and Deputy Director (Leisure Services) ("DD(LS)") responded with the following points -

- (a) LCSD provided a wide range of leisure facilities and services, involving nearly 1 000 fee items. As a first step, the Administration proposed to align the some 130 items of fees and charges that required legislative amendments according to the two broad principles. Where the fee or charge for a leisure facility or service differed between the urban area and the New Territories, the lower rate would prevail. Non peak hour rates would be introduced to facilities in the urban area by making reference to the charging mode in the New Territories;
- (b) after the alignment of fees and charges, specific groups of users could continue to enjoy concessionary rates for different types of facilities; and
- (c) upon the implementation of the fee alignment exercise, the Administration would conduct a comprehensive review on the structures and levels of fees and charges for various leisure facilities and services later. Among others, it would also examine the charging arrangements for peak and non-peak hours with a view to better meeting the needs of different users.

35. In reply to Mr TANG Ka-piu's enquiry about the implementation schedule for the proposed alignment of fees and charges, DD(LS) advised that the alignment exercise would involve amendment to some 130 items of fees and charges which were subject to the negative vetting procedure as well as revision to several hundred items of fees and charges which did not require

Action

legislative amendments. It was the plan of the Administration to submit the subsidiary legislation to LegCo in May 2013. Upon the completion of scrutiny of the subsidiary legislation by LegCo, the Administration expected that the revised fees payable in respect of the licences for public bowling-alleys, public skating rinks and billiard establishments as well as for places of public entertainment could be introduced immediately, as these items did not involve the use of LCSD's Leisure Link System ("LLS") for facility booking and payment. For those items which required the use of LLS, the aligned fees and charges would take effect progressively from August 2013 onwards as time would be required for adjusting the large number of fees included in LLS.

36. In response to Mr Christopher CHUNG's concern about whether there would be any concessionary schemes for senior citizens, students and people with disabilities ("PWDs"), DD(LS) advised that -

- (a) the Government had all along been offering concessionary rates to those who might be in need such as elderly, PWDs and full-time students. This arrangement applied to a wide range of fee items of leisure facilities under the management of LCSD;
- (b) it was noteworthy that the monthly ticket scheme for users of public swimming pools was well received by the public, particularly the elderly, and admission to the facilities was not restricted to non-peak hours; and
- (c) the Administration would also review the concessionary arrangements and rates offered to members of the public for the use of LCSD's recreation and sports facilities at specific or off-peak hours in its comprehensive review on the structures and levels of fees and charges for various leisure facilities and services to be conducted later.

37. Mr WU Chi-wai suggested that to maximize the use of sports facilities during off-peak hours, the Administration should consider allowing the public to use the facilities without prior booking and charge (i.e. "casual play"). While agreeing to consider the suggestion during the review, SHA(Atg) and DD(LS) advised that it had always been the Government's policy that certain facilities, such as outdoor basketball courts/hard surfaced football pitches managed by LCSD, be open to the public free of charge and without prior booking, and more of such facilities would continue to be constructed in future. Besides, LCSD had been implementing the "Free Use Scheme" to allow schools, national sports associations, district sports associations and subvented non-governmental organizations to apply for free

Action

use of main arenas and activity rooms of indoor sports centres and squash courts under LCSD's management during non-peak hours from September to June of the following year for training and practising purposes.

38. In response to Mr WU Chi-wai's further enquiry, DD(LS) said that the Administration would conduct the comprehensive review after the alignment exercise, and would revert to the Panel on the outcome of the review when it was in a position to do so.

Management of sports facilities

39. Referring to the Administration's reply to a written question raised by the Panel Chairman at the Council meeting of 24 October 2012 on "Management of sports facilities under LCSD", Mr Frankie YICK noted that the Government had since last year put in place new measures to improve the booking arrangements for LCSD's recreation and sports facilities and to curb touting activities. He enquired about the effectiveness of the measures implemented so far.

40. DD(LS) advised that in response to the Ombudsman's report on an investigation into the booking and use of recreation and sports facilities of LCSD, the Government had since mid-2012 introduced a series of measures in phases to improve the booking system with a view to addressing problems like touting activities and difficulties in booking LCSD's facilities. These included the requirement for applicants for Leisure Link membership to register with their Hong Kong identity cards, the strict enforcement of verification of identity documents when hirers sign in so as to prevent the transfer of the right to use the facilities, measures to tighten up the telephone reservation service to avoid abuse, and the introduction of online services to facilitate cancellation of bookings by hirers. DD(LS) further said that LCSD would introduce shortly further improvement measures, including shortening the advance booking period of recreation and sports facilities by individuals from the current 30 days to 10 days, to address the problems of abuse and touting.

41. Mr Frankie YICK expressed support for the Administration's plan to shorten the advance booking period, which, in his view, was an effective measure to address the problems. Mr IP Kwok-him sought details of the further measures to be implemented by LCSD for improving the booking and allocation of recreation and sports facilities and curbing touting activities.

42. DD(LS) advised that apart from the shortening of the advance booking period, LCSD would, starting from 18 June 2013, implement a six-month trial scheme during which the standby arrangement at football pitches would

Action

be cancelled. Taking into account the relatively high no-show rate for bookings of football pitches and the significant proportion of these unclaimed sessions being taken up by standby users afterwards, the Government had reasons to suspect that the standby arrangement had been abused. It thus proposed to implement the trial scheme to ascertain whether and to what extent cancellation of the standby arrangement at football pitches would help curb touting activities.

43. The Chairman held the view that the requirement on hirers to sign in and to produce identity documents for verification was a more effective measure to curb abuse and touting. He suggested that the Administration should tighten the monitoring of unauthorized transfer of booked facilities by asking hirers to sign in both before and after their use of the facilities. DD(LS) responded that identity checking had been strictly enforced for the use of the facilities and the Administration would closely monitor and review the effectiveness of the new measures to be taken to curb the problem of touting.

Other issues discussed

44. Dr Helena WONG asked whether the Administration had statistics on the usage of camp sites and holiday camps by Hong Kong residents as well as tourists, particularly those from the Mainland. Citing the incident which occurred during the National Day Golden Week in 2012 when Mainland tourists fought with Hong Kong people over the use of campsite facilities, she expressed concern about the adequacy of camp sites for use by Hong Kong residents and asked whether consideration would be given to charging non-Hong Kong permanent residents a fee for staying and using the facilities in LCSD's camp sites.

45. In response, DD(LS) advised that -

- (a) any person who had reached the age of 18 and held a valid identity document, no matter whether he or she was a resident of Hong Kong, or from the Mainland or a foreign country, could book places in holiday camps managed by LCSD in a personal capacity. With most of the holiday camps being not fully occupied, the overall provision level of holiday camps could still meet the demand;
- (b) most of the campers of LCSD's holiday camps/camp sites were Hong Kong residents, with only a very small number of tourists using the facilities;

Action

- (c) at present, camp bays managed by LCSD were for free use on a first-come, first-served basis, and no prior booking was required. Members of the public who wished to use the facility would just have to register at the campsite office; and
- (d) in order to avoid recurrence of similar overcrowding problems that occurred during the last National Day Golden Week and to allow holiday makers to better plan their schedules, and having regard to existing similar booking arrangements made for non-fee-charging leisure facilities and holiday camps, the Government had announced its decision to try out new booking arrangements at the Pui O Campsite for three popular Mainland long holidays, including the forthcoming Labour Day Golden Week holiday. During the three long holidays, Hong Kong residents could submit applications for the use of the camp bays one month in advance. If the number of bookings exceeded the camp bays available, LCSD would allocate the camp bays by drawing lots. Each applicant could book only one camp bay for a maximum of four consecutive nights. If the camp bays were unfilled, members of the public could register for use at the campsite office on a first-come, first-served basis.

46. Notwithstanding the Administration's response, Dr Helena WONG held a strong view that for the sake of protecting the interest of Hong Kong people, the Administration should charge/impose a higher fee on tourists for staying in LCSD's camp sites/holiday camps.

47. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:20 am.