立法會 Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 35th meeting held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Saturday, 12 July 2014, at 4:42 pm

Members present:

Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP

Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP

Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH

Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP

Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP

Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP

Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP

Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP

Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH

Hon YIU Si-wing

Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP

Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok

Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Hon IP Kin-yuen

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP

Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP

Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent:

Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP Hon WONG Yuk-man

Hon Claudia MO

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Hon Dennis KWOK

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public officers attending:

Ms Elizabeth TSE Man-yee, JP Permanent Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury (Treasury)

Ms Esther LEUNG, JP Deputy Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury

(Treasury) 1

Mr Alfred ZHI Jian-hong Principal Executive Officer (General),

Financial Services and the Treasury

Bureau (The Treasury Branch)

Mr Eric HUI Kwok-sun, JP Acting Deputy Director of Home

Affairs (1)

Mr Alan LO Ying-ki, JP District Officer (Kwai Tsing),

Home Affairs Department

Mr CHOW Yick-hay, BBS, JP Member,

Kwai Tsing District Council

Mr Dennis LEUNG Member.

Kwai Tsing District Council

Ms Shirley KWAN Principal Assistant Secretary for

Financial Services and the Treasury

(Treasury)(Revenue)

Mr David FONG, CMSM Assistant Commissioner of Customs

and Excise (Excise and Strategic

Support)

Mr Isaac CHUNG Senior Systems Manager (ROCARS

Maintenance and Development),

Customs and Excise Department

Miss Patricia SO Principal Assistant Secretary for

Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and

Industry)

Mr Frederick WONG Acting Director of Intellectual Property, **Intellectual Property Department** Miss Magdalene LING Principal Intellectual **Property** Examiner, **Intellectual Property Department** Project Manager (Feasibility Study), Mr Lawrence CHOW Intellectual Property Department Commissioner for Rehabilitation. Mr Stephen SUI, JP Labour and Welfare Bureau Deputy Director of Social Welfare Mr LAM Ka-tai, JP (Services) Assistant Director of Social Welfare Mr FONG Kai-leung (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services) Mr Simon KONG Ha-wing Senior Architect, Social Welfare Department Miss Bella MUI Bun-ngar Assistant Principal Secretary for Security (B) Commissioner Mr LAM Kwok-leung Assistant of **Correctional Services (Operations)** Senior Engineer, Mr Sunny PANG Kwok-keung Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Mr Steven LAM Assistant Director (Operations) 3, Independent Commission **Against** Corruption Assistant Director (Administration), Mr Raymond NG Independent Commission **Against** Corruption Principal Investigator (Engineering), Mr Ricky TSUI Independent Commission **Against** Corruption Ms Cordelia LAM Wai-ki Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) 2 Assistant Commissioner for Transport Mr LEUNG Tak-fai (Technical Service) Mr LI Chi-chiu Chief Engineer (Traffic Control), **Transport Department**

Clerk in attendance:

Mr Andy LAU Assistant Secretary General 1

Staff in attendance:

Mr Derek LO
Mr Daniel SIN
Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Mr Ken WOO
Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Mr Frankie WOO
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3

Ms Christy YAU Legislative Assistant (1)7

Action

Item No. 18 – FCR(2014-15)21

HEAD 63 – HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New Item "Signature Project Scheme (Kwai Tsing District) –

Enhancement of Community Healthcare"

The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval to create a new commitment of \$86.8 million for "Signature Project Scheme (Kwai Tsing District) – Enhancement of Community Healthcare" ("SPS"). The Panel on Home Affairs was consulted on the proposal on 10 January 2014.

- 2. <u>Miss Alice MAK</u> said that she was a K&TDC member and she supported the proposal. She appealed to Committee members for their support of the proposal, and suggested the Administration implement similar initiatives in other districts to provide community healthcare services (in particular dental care services) to eligible residents therein. Sharing similar views, <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> said that the Administration should consider providing dental care services for the elderly with dedicated and recurrent funding instead of one-off provision from SPS in future.
- 3. Mr Albert CHAN expressed support for the proposal and commended K&TDC on its initiative to enhance the dental and ophthalmic services in the district for the elderly under the SPS. He urged the Administration to monitor implementation of the project to ensure a fair and transparent operation, in particular to avoid according priority or privilege to K&TDC members in getting application forms or making registration/referral

for residents to obtain the healthcare services in question lest the mechanism would be abused for canvassing votes from service users.

- 4. <u>District Officer (Kwai Tsing), Home Affairs Department ("HAD")</u> advised that HAD had discussed with K&TDC the implementation details of SPS to ensure openness and fairness in operation. Application forms for the proposed healthcare services would be made available at the relevant websites and collected by HAD which would determine the results by drawing lots.
- 5. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 19 – FCR(2014-15)22
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND
HEAD 710 – COMPUTERISATION
Customs and Excise Department
New Subhead "Development of Dutiable Commodities System"

- 6. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of a new commitment of \$33 million for the development of the Dutiable Commodities System of the Customs and Excise Department. The Panel on Financial Affairs was consulted on the proposal on 6 January 2014.
- 7. There being no questions from members, <u>the Chairman</u> put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 20 – FCR(2014-15)23
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND
HEAD 710 – COMPUTERISATION
Intellectual Property Department
New Subhead "Redevelopment of the Electronic Processing Systems,
E-filing System and Online Search System of the Intellectual Property
Department"

8. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought a new commitment of \$67,114,000 for the development of the Electronic Processing Systems, E-filing System and Online Search System of the Intellectual Property Department.

- 9. <u>Mr Vincent FANG</u>, Chairman of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("C&I Panel"), reported that the C&I Panel discussed the proposal on 20 May 2014 and Panel members generally supported the proposal. <u>Mr FANG</u> said that some Panel members expressed concern about the long lead time required for the design and development of the systems and that the systems might become obsolete by the time Phase 1 of the systems was implemented in 2017. Panel members also discussed other issues of concern including privacy protection and information security under the new systems.
- 10. There being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 21 – FCR(2014-15)24 LOTTERIES FUND HEAD 341 – NON-RECURRENT GRANTS

- 11. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval to allocate \$22,948,000 from the Lotteries Fund for fitting-out works and acquisition of furniture and equipment for a new Day Activity Centre ("DAC") cum Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons ("HSMH") and Supported Hostel for Mentally Handicapped Persons ("SHOS") at Cheung Sha Wan Estate, Sham Shui Po.
- Miss CHAN Yuen-han, Chairman of the Panel on Welfare Services ("WS Panel"), reported that the Administration consulted the Panel on the proposal on 12 May 2014. While the WS Panel supported the proposal, it urged the Administration to formulate long-term plan and targets (e.g. average waiting time targets) to meet the substantial demand for residential care services ("RCS") for persons with intellectual disabilities, and to reserve sites in new public housing development/re-development projects for provision of HSMHs, etc.

Reserving sites in public housing development/re-development projects for providing HSMHs and other residential care homes

13. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung queried whether the 50 HSMH places, 50 DAC places and 20 SHOS places to be provided under the proposal would be sufficient to address the substantial demand and shorten the waiting lists. He also enquired about the sites reserved/to be reserved in public housing development/re-development projects for increasing the provision.

- Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) ("DDSW(S)") said 14. that the number of persons waiting for places in HSMHs, DACs and SHOSs were 2 200, 1 308 and 1 373 respectively. To meet the keen demand, the Administration had earmarked sites to provide an additional 896 HSMH places and 1 036 DAC places during this term of Government by 2017-2018. Most of the 896 HSMH places to be provided were located in public housing estates. At the same time, the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") and the social welfare sector had been actively taking forward the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("the Special Scheme") funded by the Lotteries Fund to encourage social welfare organizations to use their land through in-situ expansion or redevelopment for providing additional facilities for elderly and rehabilitation services. Based on the estimate of the applicant organizations under the Special Scheme, if all the proposals received could be implemented smoothly, it was envisaged that about 600 HSMH places and 1 200 DAC places would be provided under the Special Scheme in phases after Together with the Special Scheme, it is anticipated that a total of about 4 870 residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") and 2 230 DAC places would be newly provided.
- 15. <u>DDSW(S)</u> further said that the Administration had been actively identifying suitable premises for setting up RCHDs. In the long term, the Administration would reserve sites for the purpose in new public housing development or re-development projects (e.g. the redevelopment programme of Shek Kip Mei Estate) as far as practicable. In the medium term, it would bid for vacant premises at government buildings and vacant school premises. And in the short term, vacant sites/spaces at existing public housing units would be identified for conversion into RCHDs.
- 16. Mr WU Chi-wai queried about the efforts made by the identifying in sites public housing Administration in new development/re-development projects for provision of RCHDs or elderly Mr WU pointed out that SWD had not requested for reservation of sites for such purposes in the re-development project of the former Tai Hom He requested the Administration to provide information about the sites in new public housing development/re-development projects reserved for providing welfare services. DDSW(S) undertook to provide the requested information.

Admin

Formulating policies and targets to meet demand for RCHDs and DACs

17. <u>Ms Cyd HO</u> said that Members belonging to the Labour Party welcomed the proposal. She considered that the Administration should prescribe targets for increasing the provision of and shortening the average

waiting time for HSMHs, with a view to achieving a seamless transfer of mentally handicapped students from special schools with boarding facilities to HSMHs after they left schools. Ms HO pointed out that people who were the breadwinners of their families might be forced to stay out of employment in order to take care of their children with intellectual disabilities and rely on payments under Comprehensive Social Security Assistance to support their families. This would result in a huge social cost to the society. She requested the Administration to study such financial implications on public expenditure vis-à-vis the resources for increasing the provision of HSMHs.

- DDSW(S) said that the average waiting time for admission to DAC 18. and HSMH was 57.6 months (or 4.4 years) and 105.6 months (or 8.8 years) respectively in 2013-2014. DDSW(S) and Commissioner for Rehabilitation, LWB ("C for R, LWB") explained that while the Administration was stepping up efforts to provide additional places of HSMH and other RCHDs in the next four years, it would take time to identify suitable premises due to constraints in Meanwhile, the Administration would continue to strengthen land resources. day care and training services for persons with disabilities to relieve the burden on their families/carers, and facilitate their stay in the community and full integration into society. For instance, the Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities was extended to the severely disabled in all districts in Hong Kong from March 2014 involving an annual recurrent funding of about \$200 million and expected to serve some 3 000 persons with severe disabilities Moreover, additional resources were deployed to enhance the community support services provided by District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, as well as regularizing the Community Care Fund Special Subsidy for persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment and purchasing related medical consumables, etc.
- 19. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung enquired whether the Administration had gauged the views of the families/carers of persons with disabilities with regard to the usefulness of home care services, so as to ascertain whether the services could relieve the pressure on the demand for RCHD places. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services) ("ADSW(R&MSS") said that as the three-year Pilot Scheme on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities launched in 2011 was well received and could meet the needs of persons with severe disabilities, SWD had made the service a regular one from March 2014 onwards and extended it to all districts in Hong Kong, irrespective of whether the persons concerned were on the waiting list for RCS or not. SWD would review the effectiveness of the services when more data were available after implementation.

- 20. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> said that there was an acute demand for the services of HSMHs and that the average waiting time for HSMH places could be longer than 8.8 years as the figure included allocation under urgent or special circumstances. Some applicants had waited for HSMH places for 15 years since 1999. He criticized that the Administration had not made sufficient efforts to expedite provision of more HSMHs and other social welfare services (e.g. subsidized elderly home places and support services for students with special educational needs). He observed that the situation had worsened over the years in spite of availability of public resources from the huge fiscal reserves, and repeated reassurances given by the Administration to address the services gap.
- 21. <u>Dr LAM Tai-fai</u> considered that the long waiting time for DAC and HSMH places was unacceptable in Hong Kong as a civilized and modern city, and the indicators reflected the ineffectiveness of relevant social welfare policies. He cautioned that the situation would only get worse unless appropriate policy and objective targets were put in place to address the shortage in a planned and timely manner. <u>Mr Tony TSE</u> shared similar views and suggested that the provision of welfare facilities should be prescribed as one of the planning criteria for new development/re-development projects as with other public facilities. <u>Mr CHAN Kin-por</u> considered that the Administration should explain the difficulties, if any, encountered in building more HSMHs, etc.
- 22. Mr Albert CHAN expressed support for the proposal but criticized that the Administration did not devise any policy, planning and timetable for increasing the provision of HSMHs and other welfare services. It appeared to him that the relevant initiatives had to hinge on the availability of land resources and not the needs of the vulnerable groups concerned. Mr CHAN urged the Administration to make reference to the recommendations of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee for formulating long-term social welfare policies.
- 23. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> considered that the Administration should draw up a long-term policy mandating that all new public housing developments (including sites for Home Ownership Scheme flats) should include sites for the provision of RCHDs or other welfare services units. She considered it ineffective to consult the Housing Department/Hong Kong Housing Authority and the local community for reserving sites on a case-by-case basis. <u>Ms LAU</u> also requested the Administration to provide information on the relevant policy and planning, if any, to meet the demand for these facilities/services in similar funding proposals to be submitted to the Finance Committee in future.

- Miss CHAN Yuen-han said that the Administration should allocate a 24. specified percentage of site areas in public housing development/re-development projects for the provision of RCHDs and other welfare services units. Mr Frederick FUNG pointed out that related issues had been discussed by the WS Panel time and again over the past years but to no avail. He urged LWB to discuss related issues with the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB"), and revert to the WS Panel about the outcome. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung suggested that LWB and THB might elevate the matter to the Chief Secretary for her decision if the two bureaux could not Dr LAM Tai-fai also urged the Administration to resolve issues concerned. put the matter to the highest authority concerned for consideration and taking actions early.
- 25. <u>DDSW(S)</u> said that he would relay members' views and suggestions to the relevant bureaux. <u>C for R, LWB</u> reiterated that the Administration had been making the best endeavours to identify suitable premises for increasing RCHD and DAC places in a multi-pronged approach. SWD would liaise with the Housing Department and other relevant government departments in the reservation of sites and improve the mechanism where appropriate in the light of members' suggestions.
- Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Administration should make reference to the allocation of public rental housing and undertake to allocate applicants a place in HSMH/SHOS/DAC within three years. DDSW(S) declined to give such undertaking having regard to changes in the number of applicants on the waiting lists and other circumstances. Nevertheless, he assured members that the Administration was committed to addressing the shortage of places and reducing the waiting time for the relevant services.

Consultation with the local community on public projects for providing social welfare services

- 27. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> expressed concern whether the Administration had given up or withdrawn some proposals for providing welfares services due to objection from local residents concerned, and requested the Administration to provide information if there were such cases. She considered that the Administration should bring these cases to the attention of the WS Panel or other relevant committees of the Legislative Council for discussion if necessary.
- 28. <u>DDSW(S)</u> said that the local communities generally supported the Government's initiatives to provide welfare facilities/services in the districts.

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Action

Admin

In the rare circumstances where objections were raised by local residents, the Administration would try to enhance their understanding of the needs of service users and in most cases managed to gain their support ultimately. He undertook to provide supplementary information as requested by Ms Emily LAU.

29. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 22 – FCR(2014-15)26
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND
HEAD 708 – CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS AND MAJOR
SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT
Correctional Services Department
New Subhead "Replacement and Enhancement of the Close-circuit Television Systems for Stanley Prison"

30. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval on a new commitment of \$162.68 million for the replacement and enhancement of the close-circuit television ("CCTV") systems for Stanley Prison. He said that the Panel on Security was consulted on the proposal on 8 April 2014.

Coverage and efficiency of the proposed new CCTV systems at Stanley Prison

- 31. Referring to the recent visit to Stanley Prison by the Panel on Security, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen observed that the existing CCTV systems at the institution were separately installed at different times with different modes of operation, recording and storage. Hence, he supported the current proposal to replace and enhance the systems to improve the security level and operational efficiency of Stanley Prison. Mr CHAN sought clarification whether all or only some of the sub-systems in question would be replaced under the proposal. Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services (Operations) ("AC of CS(O)") said that, owing to the extensive area of Stanley Prison, six sub-systems had been installed over the years at different locations to enhance the system coverage and efficiency in surveillance. The current proposal sought replacement of all the sub-systems as most of them had reached their serviceable life limits.
- 32. Referring to previous incidents where CCTV systems could not cover certain areas accessible by persons in custody thereby causing

difficulties in investigations into complaints about violence or abusive behaviours in correctional institutions, <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> and <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> enquired about the coverage and storage capacity of the proposed new system. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> enquired whether the existing or the proposed new CCTV systems would give alerts about system malfunctioning to staff in Stanley Prison for taking remedial action promptly.

- AC of CS(O) said that the video recordings made with the existing 33. CCTV systems at Stanley Prison were not clear enough and often hindered facial identification of the captured persons. Incidents with recording and storage problems caused by system malfunctioning and temperature/humidity changes were rare. The new system would cover all areas accessible by persons in custody (except toilets, shower rooms and sick bays, etc. in the institution) and the recordings could be retained for up to 31 days. Engineer, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department ("SE, EMSD") said that, although the existing CCTV systems using traditional mode of recording (i.e. tape recording or disc recording) would not give sufficient alerts of functional anomalies, EMSD had stepped up regular checks of the CCTV systems to minimize failure or loss of recording due to system malfunctioning. The proposed new system would be equipped with servers for back-up recording. In case of system malfunctioning, the new system would give alert signals to staff at the institution to take contingency actions.
- Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the current security level in the sterile areas of Stanley Prison before the new system was put in place and how the new system would strengthen surveillance of the sterile areas in future. AC of CS(O) advised that while CCTV systems were currently installed at the sterile areas with staff on duty in the watch tower around the clock in the institution, its coverage and technology were considered insufficient. With the proposed new CCTV system, the recorders installed in security sensitive areas would be equipped with video analytical function. If any foreign object entered into sterile areas of the institution, the central system would receive messages directly, trace the object's location and trigger the alarm to alert staff in the institution.
- 35. Mr Albert HO enquired whether it was an international practice not to install CCTV systems in toilets, shower rooms and sick bays of correctional institutions for privacy reasons. He noted that CCTV systems were installed at sick bays in some institutions overseas. Mr HO suggested that CCTV cameras could be installed at certain locations (e.g. locations capturing the washing basins in toilets/shower rooms) which were less privacy-intrusive, with a view to deterring violence or other abusive behaviours taking place inside the toilets, shower rooms and sick bays of correctional institutions.

- AC of CS(O) said that he was not aware of any practice in overseas countries that shower rooms or toilets were installed with CCTVs and the current arrangement in Hong Kong was to conduct surveillance of toilets, shower rooms and sick bays, etc. in correctional institutions by the escorting or patrolling staff. CCTV systems were not normally installed at toilets and shower rooms of correctional institutions overseas. He said that it would be difficult to determine objectively which locations would be suitable for installation in these rooms without intruding into privacy or putting a psychological burden on the persons in custody, in particular given the relatively small size of the rooms.
- 37. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the arrangements for the hardware of existing CCTV systems at Stanley Prison after replacement as some of them had not yet expired their serviceable life and were still usable. AC of CS(O) said that, as it would take a few years to carry out the installation works for the proposed CCTV systems in-situ while maintaining the operation of the institution, some of the sub-systems of the existing CCTV systems could be replaced at a later stage of the implementation plan having regard to their remaining serviceable life, if any.

Replacement/enhancement of CCTV systems at other correctional facilities

- 38. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired whether the Correctional Services Department ("CSD") would consider replacement/enhancement of the CCTV systems in other correctional institutions in Hong Kong so as to meet the target retention period of not less than 30 days for audio/video recording as recommended by the Office of The Ombudsman arising from investigation of past cases.
- 39. AC of CS(O) said that CSD would take into account the normal serviceable life and conditions of the CCTV systems as well as cost-effective deployment financial resources in considering of replacement/enhancement for other correctional institutions in Hong Kong. AC of CS(O) further said that as the areas of other correctional institutions were smaller than Stanley Prison's, it was unlikely that they problem of having a number of sub-systems installed at different times. Instead of a major overhaul, improvements would be made in specific and warranted areas of CCTV systems at these institutions including expansion of storage capacity for retention of 31 days of video recording.
- 40. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> enquired whether CSD would consider installing CCTV systems inside vehicles escorting persons in custody. <u>AC of CS(O)</u>

said that CSD had not contemplated the suggested installation at this stage. It would take note of Mr CHAN's suggestion for consideration in future.

Other issues

- 41. Referring to the recently approved funding proposal to install electric locks security system ("ELSS") at the Tai Lam Centre for Women ("TLCW"), Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether ELSS would be installed in Stanley Prison and if so, whether certain pre-installation works (such as electrical and mechanical works) for ELSS were included in the design and scope of the current proposal.
- 42. <u>SE, EMSD</u> said that the replacement of the manually operated locks at TLCW referred to enhancement work in the old building aiming to match with the operation in the new building under the TLCW redevelopment project whereas the scope of the current proposal for Stanley Prison was confined to CCTV replacement and enhancement only. The current proposal had included infrastructures for cable containment installing ELSS at Stanley Prison in future. However, there were technical difficulties in installing ELSS for older buildings at the institution. In this connection, CSD and EMSD were discussing with the Architectural Services Department on installing ELSS in Stanley Prison cost-effectively.
- 43. In response to Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's comment on CSD's recent introduction of X-ray devices for detecting concealment of drugs or other illicit items by persons in custody, <u>AC of CS(O)</u> said that CSD had adopted the current type of X-ray devices after having tested various other types of X-ray devices and made reference to the experience of correctional institutions in other jurisdictions using similar types of devices.
- 44. <u>Dr LAM Tai-fai</u> expressed support for the proposal as it would help improve penal management of the Stanley Prison. <u>Dr LAM</u> said that as a Justice of Peace himself, he had visited correctional facilities in Hong Kong including the Stanley Prison, and considered that the penal management was generally satisfactory in terms of security, hygiene, discipline and treatment of persons in custody. He also commended on CSD's rehabilitative services for offenders. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> suggested that CSD should improve the outdoor working conditions for its staff during hot weather. <u>The Administration</u> took note of the members' views and suggestions.
- 45. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 23 – FCR(2014-15)25 CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND HEAD 708 – CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS AND MAJOR SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

Independent Commission Against Corruption New Subhead "Replacement of Radio Communications System of the Operations Department"

- 46. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of a new commitment of \$78,730,000 for the replacement of the existing radio communications system of the Operations Department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC"). He said that the Panel on Security was consulted on the proposal on 18 March 2014.
- 47. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern whether the various problems associated with the existing radio communications system of the Operations Department of ICAC had adversely affected its efficient and effective discharge of enforcement duties. Assistant Director (Operations)3, ICAC ("AD(O)3, ICAC") said that as the technology employed by the existing system was now obsolete, repair and maintenance of the system was becoming increasingly difficult due to shortage of spare parts. While the system had not affected the Department's enforcement work yet, there was an imminent need to acquire a new system as it had approached its serviceable life limit. AD(O)3, ICAC further said that the proposed system would adopt the latest technologies including authentication technology. Moreover, more repeater stations would be built to provide more comprehensive radio communications coverage.
- 48. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> said that Members belonging to the People Power supported the proposal as the new radio communications system would provide better support for the work of the Operations Department. However, he expressed concern whether the encryption standard of the proposed system was sufficiently high to prevent interception of ICAC's radio communications.
- 49. <u>AD(O)3, ICAC</u> said that under the proposed system, radio communications would be encrypted using the Advanced Encryption Standard ("AES") algorithm, which was a very high encryption standard, to ensure confidentiality of government information and prevent interceptions. <u>Principal Investigator (Engineering), ICAC</u> ("PI(E), ICAC") supplemented that with adoption of AES and the latest authentication technologies, only registered radio equipment (i.e. both portable and mobile radios) was authorized to use the proposed system. The system also required authentication when changing repeater station for radio communication. The

cryptographic key length of 128 bits adopted for the proposed system would make it difficult for non-authorized users to decrypt the key. The Operations Department would also change the cryptographic key every two years.

- Mr Michael TIEN enquired whether the radio communications coverage of the proposed system would cover the whole territory of Hong Kong after the number of repeater stations was increased from 21 to 60 as proposed. PI(E), ICAC said that the 60 repeater stations would bring about some 99% coverage of the territory, as opposed to some 80% under the existing system. Transmitting fully digitalized information and using the latest authentication technology, the individual repeater station of the new system would have a smaller coverage thereby requiring installation of more repeater stations in order to achieve the said coverage.
- Referring to the procurement of 345 sets of portable/mobile radios under the proposal, Mr Michael TIEN enquired whether non-authorized users would be able to decrypt the radio communication data of ICAC if they got possession of the equipment. PI(E), ICAC advised that when the loss of portable/mobile radio was reported, it would be de-registered so that non-authorized users could not make use of the equipment to access the radio communication system. As regards the risk of interception in the interim before loss was reported, PI(E), ICAC reiterated that it would be difficult for civilian or unauthorized users to decipher the cryptographic key of the proposed system.
- 52. <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> expressed concern about the long lead time required to commission the proposed system in February 2017 as proposed. Noting that "equipment manufacture and delivery" for the proposed system would be completed only by June 2016 under the implementation plan, <u>Ir Dr LO</u> enquired whether some of the equipment might be available in standardized form. <u>PI(E), ICAC</u> said that as the proposed system would be operating in dedicated frequency bands allocated solely to the Government and was not commercially available, it would take time for the vendor to manufacture some of the system equipment to provide the necessary frequency bands.
- 53. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 24 – FCR(2014-15)28 CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND HEAD 708 – CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS AND MAJOR SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

Transport Department

New Subhead "Replacement of Area Traffic Control System for Tai Po and North Districts"

- 54. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of a new commitment of \$32,200,000 to replace the Area Traffic Control ("ATC") System for Tai Po and North Districts.
- Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Chairman of the Panel on Transport ("TP Panel"), reported that THB consulted the Panel on the proposal on 26 May 2014. Mr CHAN said that TP Panel members supported the proposal in principle. Some Panel members had suggested the Administration should enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of all the existing four ATC systems in Hong Kong in processing traffic light signals, reorganize the distribution of traffic signals among the systems, as well as making use of the ATC systems to strengthen the provision of road information to motorists. The Administration had provided supplementary information concerning the replacement schedule of the remaining three ATC systems in Hong Kong as requested by Panel members.
- 56. There being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 25 – FCR(2014-15)29 RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 28 MAY 2014

- 57. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of the recommendation of the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") made at its meeting held on 28 May 2014. No member had requested for the item to be discussed at the meeting.
- 58. There being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 26 – FCR(2014-15)30 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 27 MAY AND 4 JUNE 2014

- 59. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of the recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made at its meetings held on 27 May and 4 June 2014. No member had requested for the item to be discussed at the meeting.
- 60. There being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman said that forty-four members voted for and no members voted against the item or abstained. The voting results of individual members were as follows –

For:

Mr Albert HO
Mr CHAN Kam-lam
Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr WONG Kwok-hing
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung

Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan Dr LAM Tai-fai

Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun

Mr WONG Kwok-kin Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip Mr Steven HO Chun-yin

Mr YIU Si-wing Mr MA Fung-kwok Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Miss CHAN Yuen-han

Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan

Dr Elizabeth QUAT Mr POON Siu-ping Dr CHIANG Lai-wan

Mr Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun

(44 members)

Mr LEE Cheuk-yan

Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing Mr Frederick FUNG Kin-kee Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long Mr WONG Ting-kwong Ms Starry LEE Wai-king

Mr CHAN Kin-por

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun

Mr WU Chi-wai

Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai Mr Charles Peter MOK Dr Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen

Mr SIN Chung-kai Mr IP Kin-yuen

Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong

Mr TANG Ka-piu Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok

Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen

61. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 27 – FCR(2014-15)35 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 11 JUNE 2014

- 62. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of ESC's recommendations made at its meeting on 11 June 2014. No member had requested for the item to be discussed at the meeting.
- 63. Mr Tony TSE requested to put on record his reservation about the item EC(2014-15)8 of FCR(14-15)35 for the proposed creation of a Senior Principal Executive Officer (D2) post in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to cope with the substantial growth in the responsibilities of Departmental Secretary both in terms of policy content and complexity (to be offset by the deletion of one Principal Executive Officer post).
- 64. There being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. Mr Tong TSE abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.
- As the meeting was the last one in the current session, the remaining 17 items (i.e. item 28 to item 44) in the agenda for the meeting were not dealt with.
- 66. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 11 November 2014