

立法會
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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 14th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 18 March 2015, at 8:30 am**

Members present:

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Chairman)
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH (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 Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, 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:

Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon Dennis KWOK
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen

Public officers attending:

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Mr Albert LAM Kai-chung, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) ¹
Mr Thomas CHAN Chung-ching, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) ¹
Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Ms Jasmine CHOI Suet-yung	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)
Mr LO Kwok-kong	Chief Civil Engineer (Public Works Programme) (Acting) Transport and Housing Bureau
Mr YAU Kwan-wai	Regional Highway Engineer (New Territories) Highways Department
Mr NG Wai-keung	Chief Highway Engineer (New Territories West) Highways Department
Mr WONG Mung-wan	Chief Architect (2) Housing Department
Mr CHU Chu-leung	Chief Civil Engineer (2) Housing Department
Mr POON Chi-man	Principal Transport Officer (Transport Operations/NT) (Acting) Transport Department
Miss Charmaine WONG Hoi-wan	Assistant Director (2) Home Affairs Department
Mr Benjamin MOK Kwan-yu	District Officer (Sham Shui Po) Home Affairs Department
Mrs Angel CHOI MA On-ki	District Officer (Wong Tai Sin) Home Affairs Department
Miss Margrit LI Lai-fan	Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1 Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Martin KWAN Wai-cheong	Chief Engineer (Works) Home Affairs Department
Mr Jimmy KWOK Chun-wah	Chairman Sham Shui Po District Council

Mr LI Tak-hong

Chairman
Wong Tai Sin District Council

Mr WONG Kam-chiu

Vice Chairman
Wong Tai Sin District Council**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Sharon CHUNG

Chief Council Secretary (1)2

Staff in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT

Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr Fred PANG

Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Mr Hugo CHIU

Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Ms Christina SHIU

Legislative Assistant (1)2

Ms Christy YAU

Legislative Assistant (1)7

Ms Haley CHEUNG

Legislative Assistant (1)9

Action

The Chairman advised that there were three funding proposals on the agenda for the meeting. All these proposals were agenda items carried over from the meeting of the Subcommittee on 11 March 2015. He reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of the Legislative Council ("LegCo"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the item. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

Head 711 – Housing**PWSC(2014-15)54****81TI****Public transport interchange and
associated works at Kiu Cheong Road
East, Ping Shan**

2. The Chairman advised that the proposal, i.e. PWSC(2014-15)54, was to upgrade 81TI to Category A at an estimated cost of \$602.2 million in money-of-the-day prices for the construction of a public transport interchange ("PTI") and associated works at Kiu Cheong Road East, Ping Shan. The Panel on Housing had been consulted on the proposal on 3 November 2014.

Panel members supported the proposal in principle. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion had been tabled at the meeting.

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Chief Civil Engineer (Public Works Programme) (Acting), Transport and Housing Bureau ("CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg)") briefed members on the proposal.

Facilities and services to be provided at the proposed public transport interchange

4. Mr Albert CHAN referred to the drawings provided in the Administration's paper and commented that compared with other existing PTIs, the PTI under the proposed design provided a more pleasant environment. He opined that the Administration should fine-tune the design to enhance the overall appearance of the interchange.

5. Ms Emily LAU urged the Administration to ensure that newly constructed PTIs including the proposed one should provide seats at appropriate locations for waiting passengers. The Chairman remarked that members of relevant LegCo committees had raised similar concerns when discussing the passenger facilities that should be provided at bus-bus interchanges.

6. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) responded that sufficient space at the proposed PTI had been allowed for the provision of passenger seating facilities although it had not been included in the artist's impression drawing as shown in the Administration's paper. Principal Transport Officer (Transport Operations/NT) (Acting), Transport Department ("PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg)") supplemented that during the detailed design of the project, the Transport Department would liaise with other relevant departments and bus operators regarding Ms LAU's suggestion.

7. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung opined that the proposed PTI should accommodate minibuses and more bus routes to meet the demand of residents for travelling to nearby areas in future, taking in view that there would be a number of major development projects in Yuen Long, including the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area project, which would, according to the Administration's plan, provide about 100 000 jobs. PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) replied that under the proposed design, the PTI would provide four double-width bus bays so that there was flexibility to operate a maximum of eight bus routes at the same time. While the Administration planned to provide bays for one franchised bus service operated by The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited and two other bus services run by the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited ("MTRCL") at

the present stage, more public transport services would be introduced subject to future traffic demands arising from nearby developments.

8. Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked whether the proposed PTI would include toilets and places for bus captains to take rest. PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) replied that the Administration would consider detailed proposals from the bus operators, including provision of toilets, lockers, chemical toilets, etc., at the PTI for bus captains, taking into account the possible impact on the general public.

9. Mr WONG Kwok-hing commented that the existing practice to provide temporary chemical toilets at PTIs or bus termini was not desirable. The Administration should assume a more active role in improving the work environment of bus captains, and should consider the provision of necessary facilities for them, including toilets, at the planning and design stage of a PTI, instead of adding them to the site only upon receipt of requests from bus operators. PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) responded that the Administration would consider the need for public toilets at a PTI, taking into account the availability of such facilities in the vicinity. However, the Administration would not usually provide toilets for the exclusive use of staff of particular public transport companies.

10. In response to Mr WONG's enquiry on whether the proposed PTI would provide ramps at suitable locations to facilitate wheelchair users to access the pick-up/drop-off bus bays, CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) replied that access ramps as barrier free access would be provided at suitable locations to facilitate wheelchair users.

Design and construction cost of the pedestrian footbridge

11. Mr WU Chi-wai said that the funding commitment for constructing the proposed footbridge across Ping Ha Road linking to the Tin Shui Wai West Rail Station ("WR TSW Station") was substantial and was comparable to the cost of a proposal recently submitted by the Administration to the Panel on Transport for providing a vehicular bridge-cum-walkway across Ho Chung Channel. Considering that the construction works for a footbridge should be less complicated than that for a vehicular bridge-cum-walkway, he queried about the justifications for the proposed funding.

12. In reply, CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) explained that the proposed footbridge was about 140 metres ("m") long and 5 m wide. Its construction cost was comparable to that of a footbridge of similar size at Po Yap Road, Tseung Kwan O.

13. Mr Tony TSE opined that instead of adopting a conventional approach to the design and use of the proposed footbridge, the Administration should give more thoughts to enhancing the design, such as adding green features to the rooftop of the footbridge. He enquired whether, without compromising the need for allowing good light penetration and air ventilation, the Administration would provide facilities at suitable locations along the two sides of the footbridge for display of government publicity materials and winning designs in open competitions.

14. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) replied that the proposed footbridge would span across the Ping Ha Road, which was a district distributor. If there were any features added on the rooftop of this long-spanned footbridge, the design loading would be increased, resulting in a higher construction cost. Upon the completion of the construction of the footbridge, THB would liaise with the Highways Department on how to take forward Mr TSE's suggestion without compromising the need for allowing good light penetration and air ventilation. Mr TSE remained of the view that the Administration should give consideration to providing such display facilities when designing the project, instead of pursuing the suggestion only after the construction of the footbridge.

Admin

15. In response to the Chairman's request, CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) undertook that before the item was submitted to the Finance Committee ("FC") for examination, the Administration would review the design of the proposed project in light of Mr TSE's suggestions, such as adding green features to the rooftop and providing display facilities along the two sides of the footbridge, and provide information on how the results of the review would be incorporated into the proposal.

Capacity and construction cost of cycle parking facilities

16. Mr Tony TSE enquired about the number of bicycles that could be accommodated at the proposed cycle parking area under the proposed pedestrian footbridge. Chief Civil Engineer (2), Housing Department ("CCE(2)/HD") replied that the area would provide 30 parking spaces for bicycles. Ms Emily LAU and Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung queried whether the provision was adequate to meet the future demand. Mr LEUNG opined that the Administration should promote, as in other countries, the use of bicycles as a form of green transport. He questioned about the underlying considerations for providing only 30 bicycle parking spaces at the proposed site. Mr Albert CHAN said the proposal to provide only 30 parking spaces at the proposed site demonstrated that the Administration had not seriously

considered the aspiration of local residents for travelling between home and the PTI by bicycles.

17. PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) replied that cycle parking facilities were already provided in the vicinity of the proposed PTI to cater for the need of the local community. In determining the number of parking spaces to be provided at the cycle parking area, the Administration had taken into account the estimated patronage of the proposed PTI and the availability of such facilities nearby. He advised that in March 2014, the Administration, after consulting the Yuen Long District Council ("Yuen Long DC") on a proposal, had rationalized the cycle parking facilities in the area, followed by a notice gazetted on 25 April 2014.

Admin

18. Mr Albert CHAN asked about the locations of the cycle parking facilities in the vicinity of the proposed PTI site currently available for public use, their distance from the site and the number of parking spaces provided in each area. PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) agreed to provide the information requested.

19. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung opined that the Administration should take into account the additional demand that would be generated by the new housing developments in the vicinity of the proposed PTI when planning the provision of cycle parking facilities. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that he had received a lot of complaints from public housing residents in Tin Shui Wai about the shortfall of cycle parking facilities. The Administration should provide more of such facilities at the proposed PTI. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that although the proposed footbridge would help divert some of the pedestrian flow to WR TSW Station in future, the Administration should not disregard the residents' aspiration to travel between their residences and the proposed PTI by bicycles.

20. In reply, PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) said the Administration anticipated that upon the completion of the proposed footbridge, it was expected that few passengers would go to the proposed PTI by bicycles. Cycle parking facilities were currently provided at the rail station to meet the residents' needs.

21. Mr Tony TSE and Mr WU Chi-wai queried about the justifications for committing a funding of \$3.1 million to construct the proposed cycle parking area having regard to the Administration's advice that the area would only provide 30 parking spaces. Mr TSE enquired whether the area would incorporate any innovative design. In reply, CCE(2)/HD said that a conventional design would be adopted for the cycle parking area. He said that there might be room to lower the construction cost and undertook that the

Administration would review the matter. In response to Mr WU's enquiry on whether it was possible for the Administration to increase the number of cycle parking spaces under the proposed footbridge to cater for future increase in the demand, CCE(2)/HD advised that more parking facilities could be provided under the footbridge.

Admin 22. The Chairman recapitulated members' requests that the Administration should review the construction cost of the proposed cycle parking area and whether more parking spaces could be provided in the area. He asked the Administration to provide before the relevant FC meeting for the proposal the details about the results of the review and how the results would be incorporated into the proposal. The Chairman said the Administration was obliged to ensure that the estimates of expenditure of the works items under the project as set out in the Administration's paper were well justified. He asked the Administration to provide information on why it had proposed to commit a funding of \$3.1 million for constructing the cycle parking area.

Admin

Admin 23. Mr Tony TSE considered it important for the Administration to manage the cycle parking area properly to ensure effective use of the facilities in the area. He requested the Administration to provide written information about the management of the facilities, including the government department responsible for the management and the parking control measures to be implemented.

24. PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) responded that under the existing practice, cycle parking facilities inside a PTI were under the management of the Transport Department whereas, depending on the location, other relevant government departments were responsible for managing such facilities.

Other uses of the proposed site

25. Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired why, apart from the PTI, the Administration had no plan to provide other developments such as public housing at the proposed site to achieve an optimum use of land resources. Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)1 ("DS/DEV(P&L)1") advised that the new Home Ownership Scheme development at Kiu Cheong Road East, Ping Shan ("the new HOS development"), and the proposed PTI were parts of the relevant Comprehensive Development Area ("CDA") site with a permitted plot ratio of 5. The new HOS and other planned developments at the CDA site had already fully utilized the plot ratio. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) said having regard to the views of the Yuen Long DC and local residents that the visual impact on an ancestral hall should be considered, the Administration held the

view that it was appropriate to provide mainly low-rise developments at the CDA site. He advised that a 30-metre-wide view corridor would be incorporated into the layout design of the CDA.

26. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern on whether the Administration had taken the opportunity of taking forward the project to address the shortfall of social welfare facilities in Yuen Long. He asked whether relevant government departments had raised requests for providing such facilities at the CDA site.

27. DS/DEV(P&L)1 responded that it was a general practice that when planning the provision of facilities, including community and social welfare facilities, at a CDA, the Administration would take into account the standards set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines and incorporate appropriate requirements, if any. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) supplemented that the Administration would provide sports and recreational facilities, a wet market and a shopping arcade as part of the new HOS development. In addition, the existing Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Leisure and Cultural Building adjacent to the proposed PTI site provided other leisure facilities such as library, sports centre and swimming pool for public enjoyment.

28. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the existing mechanism for collecting the accommodation requests of government bureaux/departments when planning the developments at a CDA, DS/DEV(P&L)1 advised that it was a general practice that as part of the preparation of the planning brief for a CDA for the Town Planning Board's consideration, the Planning Department would invite relevant government bureaux/departments to submit their requirements for public facilities in the CDA.

29. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Ms Emily LAU opined that the Administration should make more effective use of the precious land resources for providing social welfare facilities to address the society's needs. Dr KWOK said that the Administration should provide more elderly care facilities to address the shortfall of such facilities in Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai. He did not subscribe to the view that building a few more storeys at the proposed site to accommodate social welfare facilities would create any visual intrusion. He asked whether the Administration had liaised with the relevant government departments and non-government organizations on the provision of such facilities under the project.

Admin 30. The Chairman recapitulated that members requested the Administration to provide information on: (i) how and at which stage of the planning of the CDA/PTI site or consideration of the master layout plan(s)

for the site the Administration had collected requirements of bureaux/departments/non-government organizations ("the potential users") for using the site to provide public facilities (including social welfare facilities); (ii) the potential users that had been invited to raise accommodation requests; and (iii) the potential users that had submitted accommodation requests.

Views of local residents on the project

31. Ms Alice MAK queried how far the design of the proposed project had incorporated the views expressed by members of the Yuen Long DC and the relevant LegCo committees when they were consulted. She opined that it would be more feasible for the Administration to incorporate public views into the proposal if the relevant consultation exercises had been conducted at an early stage of the planning of a project. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) responded that the Administration had started the public consultation exercise when the project was at the conceptual stage. Members of the Yuen Long DC had been consulted twice in 2013 on the proposed works and they supported the proposal.

32. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Ms Emily LAU were concerned whether the wet market to be provided as part of the new HOS development would be large enough to meet residents' demand in future. Mr LEUNG enquired whether the Yuen Long DC had wholly accepted the Administration's proposal on the number of stalls to be provided in the wet market. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) advised that the Yuen Long DC had accepted the proposal to provide a wet market accommodating 40 stalls. Chief Architect(2), Housing Department ("CA(2)/HD") supplemented that, apart from the wet market, the design of the new HOS development had taken into account the Yuen Long DC's request for the provision of a cooked food centre.

33. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung considered it a waste of land resources if only a PTI would be developed at the proposed site. He opined that the Administration should give consideration to constructing multi-storey structures at the site for accommodating community facilities. He was concerned whether the food premises planned to be provided as part of the new HOS development would be inadequate to cater for the future demand.

34. Miss CHAN Yuen-han opined that the Administration should appropriately provide space, say, in the area near public transport stations, for members of the public including young people to meet their demand for carrying out on-street hawking activities. She said that there had been local views suggesting that the Administration should add one storey above the

proposed PTI for accommodating hawker stalls and some public facilities. She enquired why the Administration had not accepted the suggestion.

35. CA(2)/HD replied that to incorporate Yuen Long DC's request for the provision of a wet market and a cooked food centre, the Administration had changed the original design of the new HOS development. The DC had not requested the Administration to reserve space for accommodating hawking activities. Miss CHAN held the view that instead of passively waiting for the Yuen Long DC to make a request, the Administration should plan ahead to meet the public's need in time.

36. The Chairman said that at a meeting of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy, the Administration had informed members that the local hawker policy would be premised on, among others, the principle that the Government would keep an open mind towards district-led and bottom-up proposals on local bazaars. He urged the Administration to take into account the aforesaid policy principle when working out the detailed design of the project.

Impact of the proposed works on local residents

37. Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired about the Administration's assessment on the environmental impact of the proposed project, such as noise nuisances, on the future residents of the new HOS development and the measures to mitigate the impact. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) replied that the design of the project had taken into account the results of the relevant environmental impact assessment and had incorporated measures including provision of covers to the proposed PTI and adoption of noise absorption materials to mitigate the noise impact of the project as well as the traffic on the roads nearby, such as Ping Ha Road, on local residents.

38. Ms Alice MAK expressed concern about the possible impact of the implementation of the temporary transport arrangement following the commencement of the construction works. She opined that the Administration should communicate with the relevant DCs and local residents on the measures to mitigate any adverse impact. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) responded that the Housing Department would liaise closely with relevant government departments such as the Police, the Highways Department and the Transport Department on the temporary transport arrangement including the route diversion scheme to be implemented upon the commencement of the construction works. The Administration would consult local views on the matter where necessary.

39. In response to Miss MAK's enquiry about the mitigatory measures to minimize the impact of the relocation of the relevant pick-up/drop-off point for the buses of MTR route K76 on local residents, PTO/TO(NT)/TD(Atg) advised that to dovetail with the commencement of the pre-construction works to be undertaken by the Housing Department, the terminating point for the route K76 had been relocated about 50 m from its original location. In view of the high patronage of the route K76, the Transport Department had reserved ample space for accommodating the waiting passengers.

Recurrent cost arising from the proposed works

Admin

40. Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired about the justifications for the proposed amount of annual recurrent expenditure of \$5 million arising from the proposed works. CCE(PWP)/THB(Atg) replied that, of the proposed amount, about \$1 million concerned the items under the purview of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, whereas most of the items covered by the expenditure were under the purview of the Highways Department. Regional Highway Engineer (New Territories), Highways Department ("RHE(NT)/HyD") advised that the key recurrent expenditure items under the Highways Department's purview mainly included the electricity, repair and maintenance costs. Dr KWOK requested the Administration to provide a detailed breakdown of the proposed amount of recurrent expenditure for the project.

Energy conservation measures

Admin

41. In response to Dr KWOK Ka-ki's enquiry about the energy conservation measures to be adopted by the Administration under the proposed project, RHE(NT)/HyD advised that the Administration would provide the relevant information after the meeting.

42. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put the item to vote.

43. The item was voted on and endorsed. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung requested that the item, i.e. 81TI, be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development

PWSC(2014-15)55 200SC Signature Project Scheme (Sham Shui Po District)—Shek Kip Mei Community Services Centre

455RO Signature Project Scheme (Wong Tai Sin District)—Expansion and improvement of Wong Tai Sin Square

44. The Chairman said that the proposal, i.e. PWSC(2014-15)55, was to upgrade 200SC and 455RO ("the two projects") to Category A at estimated costs of \$51.1 million and \$31.1 million in money-of-the-day prices respectively. The Panel on Home Affairs had been consulted on the two projects on 12 December 2014 and 23 July 2014 respectively and Panel members in general supported the submission of the proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion had been tabled at the meeting. The Chairman welcomed representatives of the Sham Shui Po District Council ("SSPDC") and the Wong Tai Sin District Council ("WTSDC") to the meeting.

45. At the invitation of the Chairman, Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department briefed members on the proposal.

Implementation of the two projects

46. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed support for the two projects. Referring to 200SC, i.e. the construction of Shek Kip Mei Community Services Centre ("the Centre"), Dr LO noted that one of the core services to be provided by the Centre was short-term food assistance and the Centre would house a food storage room. He enquired how the hygiene issues possibly arising from the food storage room would be dealt with.

47. Mr Jimmy KWOK, Chairman of Sham Shui Po District Council advised that the amount of food to be stored in the food storage room would be limited. District Officer (Sham Shui Po), Home Affairs Department ("DO(SSP)/HAD") added that, to provide hot meals to needy residents in SSP, the Centre would apply for a food factory licence from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and follow the requirements under the licence. The food storage room should not give rise to any hygiene issues as mainly canned and dry food would be stored in it.

48. Pointing out that Shek Kip Mei was an area with many low-income households and elderly people, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung queried whether the services to be provided by the Centre could adequately address their needs.

In his view, the Centre should provide targeted services, like community care services for the elderly. He also enquired whether the Centre would be installed with barrier-free access facilities to cater for the needs of the elderly.

49. DO(SSP)/HAD confirmed that the Centre would be furnished with barrier-free access facilities. He said that two of the three core services to be provided by the Centre, namely short-term food assistance and medical services, would address the needs of elderly residents in Shek Kip Mei in particular.

50. Mr Frederick FUNG supported the construction of the Centre and pointed out that SSPDC had consulted the stakeholders on the project and revised the project proposal having regard to the feedbacks received. Mr FUNG enquired about the financial viability and sustainability of the Centre, how the levels of fee of the Centre's services would be determined having regard to the dilemma that the Centre's operation had to be sustainable on one hand and affordable services had to be provided on the other, and whether the levels of fee would be comparable to those for the corresponding services provided in government clinics.

51. DO(SSP)/HAD said it was envisaged that the Centre would be able to operate in a sustainable manner as Po Leung Kuk (i.e. the selected partner organization for the Centre) had agreed to absorbing the Centre's operational deficits, if any, by either its own financial reserve or donations received. Where necessary, fee concessions and exemptions would be provided to service users.

52. While welcoming the construction of a permanent and covered performance stage at the Wong Tai Sin Square ("WTS Square") under 455RO (expansion and improvement of WTS Square), Ir Dr LO Wai-kyok noted that the covers for the performance stage and the spectator area were not connected. He was concerned about the formation of "water curtains" at both the performance stage and the spectator area during rainy days, and suggested that the two covers be linked together.

53. Mr LI Tak-hong, Chairman of Wong Tai Sin District Council advised that WTSDC had considered the issue raised by Ir Dr LO. Down pipes would be installed to prevent the formation of "water curtains" during rainy days in the areas concerned.

54. At 10:26 am, the Chairman suggested that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes up to 10:45 am. Members raised no objection.

Permission for hawking activities at the Wong Tai Sin Square

55. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed support for the two projects and appealed to members to endorse them. Regarding the proposed expansion and improvement of WTS Square, she said the Administration should consider the view of WTSDC that while the management of pedestrian circulation at WTS Square should be enhanced, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") should refrain from over-regulation in the area. Citing the past successful experience of the Dragon Market in WTS, she suggested that the Administration should designate an area at WTS Square for hawking activities. In her view, not only would hawking enhance the livelihood of the grassroots, it was also conducive to the promotion of local culture.

56. Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("AD(LS)1/LCSD") said that while illegal hawking at WTS Square would be prohibited under the Pleasure Grounds Regulation, events which consisted of selling activities could be permitted for holding in the venue as long as these events were worthy of support.

57. The Chairman advised that at a recent meeting of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy, the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") said the Administration was formulating a new hawker policy. According to SFH, the Administration would set out its new hawker policy from a "development" perspective rather than a "regulation" perspective. The Administration would also adopt a bottom-up approach to the consideration of hawking propositions and the District Councils would play an important role in the development of the hawking trade. Members of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy were in general supportive of such principles. The Chairman said that upon the promulgation of the new hawker policy by the Food and Health Bureau, relevant government bureaux/departments and District Councils should take corresponding actions, and at that time, Miss CHAN might wish to follow up her suggestion with the Administration. AD(LS)1/LCSD responded that the Administration would explore with WTSDC on Miss Chan's initiatives.

58. The item was voted on and endorsed.

59. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant FC meeting. No member made such a request.

Any other business

60. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:38 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 May 2015