### 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. PWSC241/14-15 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/F/2/1(30)B

## Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 25th meeting held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Wednesday, 24 June 2015, at 8:30 am

#### **Members present:**

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Chairman)

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)

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 Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP

Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP

Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP

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 Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming

Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai

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 LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon Dennis KWOK

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, 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

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:**

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

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

Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

#### **Public officers attending:**

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and

the Treasury (Treasury)3

Mr HON Chi-keung, JP Permanent Secretary for Development

(Works)

Mr Thomas CHOW Tat-ming, Permanent Secretary for Development

JP (Planning and Lands)

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 Frankie LUI Kin-fun Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (E)

Mr LEUNG Koon-kee, JP Director of Architectural Services

Mr Frank WONG Tak-choi Project Director (1)

Architectural Services Department

Mr Alan SIU Yu-bun, JP Government Property Administrator

Mr LAM Chik-man Chief Property Manager (Acquisition,

Allocation and Disposal) Government Property Agency

Mr Lawrence CHAU District Planning Officer (Tsuen Wan and

Yat-cheung West Kowloon)

**Planning Department** 

Mr Kevin YEUNG Yun-hung, JP Under Secretary for Education

Ms Karyn CHAN Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure

and Research Support)
Education Bureau

Mrs Gloria LI HO Suk-wa Principal Inspector (Special Education

Support 1)

**Education Bureau** 

#### Clerk in attendance:

Ms Sharon CHUNG Chief Council Secretary (1)2

#### **Staff in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT

Mr Fred PANG

Mr Raymond CHOW

Ms Maggie LAU

Assistant Secretary General 1

Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Council Secretary (1)2

Ms Christina SHIU Legislative Assistant (1)2

Ms Christy YAU
Ms Haley CHEUNG

Legislative Assistant (1)7 Legislative Assistant (1)9

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The Chairman advised that there were seven funding proposals on the agenda for the meeting. One of the proposals was an agenda item carried over from the previous meeting of the Subcommittee held on 16 June 2015, while the remaining six proposals were new agenda items. 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 703 – Buildings PWSC(2015-16)7 121KA Joint-user Government Office Building in Cheung Sha Wan

- 2. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the proposal, i.e. PWSC(2015-16)7, was to upgrade part of 121KA to Category A at an estimated cost of \$103.2 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices to carry out pre-construction consultancy services and site investigation works for a proposed joint-user government office building at the junction of Tung Chau Street and Tonkin Street West in Cheung Sha Wan (to be named as the Treasury Building). The Panel on Financial Affairs had been consulted on the proposal on 3 November 2014. Panel members supported the proposal. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion had been tabled at the meeting.
- 3. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)(E)</u> ("PAS(Tsy)E/FSTB") briefed members on the proposal.

#### Utilization of land resources at the project site

4. Noting that the proposed Treasury Building would only consist of around 20 storeys, Mr Albert CHAN cast doubt on whether the land resources at the project site had been fully utilized and called on the Administration to study whether the floor area of the proposed building could be further increased to enhance the cost-effectiveness of the project. He commented that the existing planning mechanism for government office building projects, whereby the total floor area to be constructed was largely based on the space requirements of the concerned government departments to be reprovisioned,

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might lead to under-utilization of the development potential of Government, Institutional and Community ("G/IC") sites. He opined that the senior level of the Administration should take a proactive role in coordinating and allocating office space to various departments so as to ensure that the allocation of office space would meet public demand for government services. To have a better understanding of whether the floor area to be provided in the proposed Treasury Building could cater for the demand for government office space in the West Kowloon region, Mr CHAN requested the Administration to provide information on the total floor area rented by government offices and facilities in leased premises in the same region at present, and the projected additional floor area needed in the region in the next five to 10 years for accommodating government offices and providing public services.

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- 5. <u>Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)3</u> ("DS(Tsy)3/FSTB") advised that FSTB, the Planning Department ("PlanD"), the Government Property Agency and the Architectural Services Department were conducting a review on optimizing site utilization of new government office buildings ("the Review"). The Review was expected to conclude in about two months.
- Mr WU Chi-wai opined that the serious shortfall in the provision of 6. welfare services to the public was not due to shortage of land, but was caused by the reluctance of the Administration to render long-term financial support to the relevant development projects. As such, the concerned government departments might have been discouraged in making requests for land for the development of new social welfare services and facilities. Mr WU requested that the aforementioned issue be studied in the Review. severe shortage of subvented places in homes for the elderly, he urged the Administration to be more supportive in allocating resources for improving DS(Tsy)3/FSTB advised that residential care services for the elderly. government bureaux and departments drew up their resources requirement in the light of the needs and developments of the community, while resources were allocated as and when needed and justified.
- 7. The Chairman enquired whether the outcome of the Review would have any impact on the design of the proposed Treasury Building. Government Property Administrator ("GPA") advised that the plot ratio ("PR") of the project site of 8 was set with reference to the PRs of other commercial sites located within the same Outline Zoning Plan ("OZP"). In addition, the height of the building was set at about 100 metres, taking into the views and concerns of the Sham Shui Po District Council. The formulation of the development plan for the proposed building had taken into consideration the maximum utilization of the project site. The Chairman said that, judging from GPA's response, the outcome of the Review would not

affect the allocation of the floor area of the proposed Treasury Building.

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- 8. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> was dissatisfied with the Administration's response. He requested the Administration to provide information on the locations of commercial sites in the West Kowloon region with a permitted PR of 15 or above.
- 9. Mr WU Chi-wai said that a commercial site located at the junction of Wing Hong Street and Yu Chau West Street, formerly a GIC site, had been granted with a PR of 12 and a building height of 130 metres above principal datum. He asked whether the PR of 8 of the developments surrounding the proposed Treasury Building as quoted by GPA was just an average figure. Casting doubt on the rationale for setting a lower PR for the project site, Mr WU urged the Administration to consider increasing the PR of site to accommodate the badly needed community and welfare facilities, in particular homes for the elderly.
- 10. <u>District Planning Officer (Tsuen Wan and West Kowloon)/Planning Department("DPO(TW&WK)/PlanD")</u> clarified that the proposed Treasury Building was located at the South West Kowloon OZP where a lower PR of 8 had been set for commercial sites due to traffic considerations. He said that the site referred to by Mr WU Chi-wai was located in a different planning area, i.e. the Cheung Sha Wan OZP, where a higher PR of 12 was allowed for commercial sites. He explained that the PRs of commercial sites in different OZPs would vary, taking into account relevant planning considerations.
- 11. Mr Tony TSE expressed support for the proposal. He opined that, to facilitate members' understanding on the utilization of the land resources at the sites of government building projects, the Administration should provide information on the PRs of the project sites apart from the total construction floor area in its paper submitted to the Subcommittee. Pointing out that the PRs for non-residential sites in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the towns in the New Territories were generally 15, 12 and 9.5 respectively, Mr TSE requested the Administration to provide the rationale for setting the PR of the project site at 8 but not 12. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung enquired whether the adoption of the PR of 8 had optimized the utilization of the land resources at the project site. The Administration undertook to provide relevant supplementary information to the Subcommittee after the meeting.

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#### Facilities to be provided at the proposed Treasury Building

12. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> stressed that there was an acute shortfall in the provision of dental services for the elderly. He enquired about the justifications for setting up a general out-patient clinic ("GOPC") but not a

dental clinic for the elderly in the proposed Treasury Building. <u>Dr Helena</u> <u>WONG</u> and <u>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung</u> expressed similar concerns. <u>Dr Helena</u> WONG enquired about the floor area and the service capacity of the GOPC.

- 13. <u>GPA</u> advised the project site had all along been designated for the development of government offices and a GOPC. Public dental services were provided in government dental clinics and public hospitals but not in GOPCs. Occupying a total floor area of 1 000 square metres ("m²"), the proposed GOPC would be equipped with 8 consultation rooms, serving about 400 cases per day according to a preliminary estimation.
- 14. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> enquired whether the service capacity of the proposed GOPC could satisfy the demand of Sham Shui Po residents for primary health care services. <u>GPA</u> advised that there were already five GOPCs in the district at present. The proposed GOPC was an additional one. <u>DPO(TW&KW)/PlanD</u> added that the number of GOPCs in Sham Shui Po was deemed sufficient from the planning perspective and the views of the Department of Health would be taken into consideration in this regard.
- 15. Mr Michael TIEN pointed out that the demand of the elderly for dental services in the future would be enormous, taking in view the rapid aging of the population of Hong Kong. Pointing out that there was already a shortfall in the provision of dental services in the community at present, he called on the Administration to plan ahead for setting up more dental clinics in the territory to serve the elderly. In this connection, he suggested that space be reserved in newly constructed government buildings for setting up new dental clinics.
- 16. At the request of Dr Helena WONG, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Mr Michael TIEN, the Administration would provide the following supplementary information to the Subcommittee:

(a) reasons for not setting up at the proposed Treasury Building a dental clinic for the elderly;

- (b) the floor area required for providing a dental clinic for the public;
- information and figures on the demand for GOPC services, dental services and social welfare services (e.g. child care services and homes for the elderly) in Sham Shui Po at present and up to the next 10 to 20 years, and the Administration's plans for provision of services/facilities to meet such demand; and

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- (d) whether the PR of the project site could be enhanced to provide additional floor areas at the proposed Treasury Building for the provision of social welfare services (such as homes for the elderly and child care services) and a dental clinic for the public, so as to meet the demand for such services in Sham Shui Po.
- 17. On the future provision of welfare services in Sham Shui Po, <u>GPA</u> advised that there were plans to set up two new homes for the elderly at Un Chau Street/Hing Wah Street/Fuk Wing Street and the ex-Cheung Sha Wan Police Married Quarters respectively. In addition, new service units serving children and youths, people with disabilities and the elderly would be set up in the public rental housing development near the Nam Cheong MTR station.
- 18. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed support for the project. He proposed that a covered and air-conditioned waiting area for the proposed GOPC should be provided within the building. He also suggested that a barrier-free access to the proposed Treasury Building from the nearby MTR station and bus stops should be made available. The Administration undertook to study Mr WONG's suggestions with the Hospital Authority and the Transport Department.

Relocation of government offices accommodated in the three government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront

- 19. <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> enquired about the overall relocation plans for the government offices in the three government buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront. <u>PAS(Tsy)E/FSTB</u> advised that the government offices in the three buildings would be relocated to several replacement buildings, including the West Kowloon Government Offices ("WKGO") in Yau Ma Tei and the proposed Treasury Building in Cheung Sha Wan under discussion. Suitable sites would be identified in Kai Tak Development, Tseung Kwan O and Chai Wan for the construction of the other replacement buildings.
- 20. Noting that the construction works of the proposed Treasury Building would not be completed before 2021 or 2022, <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> urged the Administration to expedite the construction of the proposed Treasury Building to facilitate the vacation of the three government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront. <u>Mr Tony TSE</u> expressed a similar view. <u>Ir Dr LO</u> also suggested that the Administration should study the provision of the necessary transport facilities to support the commissioning of the proposed building.

- 21. <u>PAS(Tsy)E/FSTB</u> noted members' concerns about the long time to be taken to reprovision the government offices at the Wan Chai waterfront. He said that the Administration would arrange to lease out the vacated floor space in the three buildings at Wan Chai waterfront by phases as soon as a replacement building was commissioned. The relocation of the government offices in the three buildings would help increase the supply of Grade A offices in the district.
- 22. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> considered the relocation of the offices in the three buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront to five different locations undesirable. In his view, reference should be made to the practice of some overseas cities where a "Government Village"("政府村") was developed to accommodate various government departments in one area to enhance operation efficiency.
- 23. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung criticized that the relocation of the government offices at the Wan Chai waterfront, the primary objective of which was to enhance the supply of Grade A offices in core business districts, was to serve the interest of the business sector but not the community at large. Pointing out that the shortage of Grade A offices might no longer exist in the future as a result of the Administration's measures to increase land supply for commercial developments, Mr LEUNG questioned the cost-effectiveness and the purpose of the relocation project, given the huge cost to be incurred.
- 24. <u>Mr WONG Kwok-hing</u> considered Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's objection to the relocation project unreasonable. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> said that Mr WONG's comments had imputed improper motives to him. He requested the Chairman's ruling on the issue. <u>The Chairman</u> said he did not consider that Mr WONG had imputed improper motives to Mr LEUNG by making the remarks.
- 25. PAS(Tsy)E/FSTB advised that the Administration had commenced the planning of the relocation of government offices at the Wan Chai waterfront in 2009. According to the then assessment conducted by the Development Bureau and PlanD, there was an acute shortage in the supply of Grade A offices in core business areas. The objective of the relocation project was to address market demand for Grade A offices, thereby increasing the competitiveness and facilitating a sustainable economic development in Hong Kong in the long run. The Administration would consider putting up the three buildings for sale at an appropriate time upon completion of the entire relocation project. He added that the development of new government office buildings in new development areas would create economic development and employment opportunities locally, stimulating the development of adjacent old districts. Besides, the new buildings would

provide additional space for relocating some government offices currently accommodated in leased premises, as well as for providing government services and social welfare facilities for the local community.

#### Other issues and concerns

- 26. Mr Tony TSE asked whether the consultancy for design and preparation of tender documents, at an estimated cost of \$76 million, would be awarded in one single contract. He considered that the Administration should, as far as practicable, split a large-sum single consultancy contract into smaller ones to enable small- and medium-sized companies to undertake the consultancy. Director of Architectural Services ("DArchS") responded that the consultants' fees for the project would be awarded in two separate consultancy contracts, i.e. one for building design, construction, electrical, mechanical and structural engineering works, the other one for quantity surveying services.
- 27. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung queried whether the proposed provision of 45 car parking spaces in the proposed Treasury Building would be sufficient to meet the demand of the civil servants working in the building and the visitors. GPA advised that the said number of car parking spaces was initially proposed based on the operational needs of the departments accommodated in the building. Taking into consideration the Subcommittee's discussion on the provision of car parking spaces in WKGO in Yau Ma Tei, the Administration would consider increasing the number of parking spaces in the proposed Treasury Building. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would advise the Subcommittee of the principles and criteria for increasing the number of parking spaces to be provided in the building.
- 28. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung enquired whether it was necessary to allocate permanent office space in the proposed Treasury Building for the recruitment centre for the catering and retail industries ("the Recruitment Centre") of the Labour Department. In his view, the service of the Recruitment Centre could be delivered at different locations in a mobile format. He considered that the space set aside for the centre could be deployed for the use of other government services and facilities, such as a dental clinic, for which the need was greater in the community. The Administration advised that the Recruitment Centre was currently accommodated in one of the government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront. The space to be provided in the Treasury Building was for the relocation of the Recruitment Centre, which had to serve the entire territory in respect of recruitment for the catering and retail industries.
- 29. The item was voted on and endorsed. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> requested

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that the item be voted on separately at the relevant Finance Committee ("FC") meeting. She requested that public officers of the government bureaux and departments responsible for the planning of provision of health care and welfare services should attend the discussion on the item at the relevant FC meeting.

# PWSC(2015-16)34 110ET A 12-classroom special school for children with mild intellectual disability near Hoi Lai Estate, Sham Shui Po

- 30. The Chairman advised that the proposal, i.e. PWSC(2015-16)34, was to upgrade 110ET to Category A at an estimated cost of \$256.6 million in MOD prices for the construction of a special school near Hoi Lai Estate in Sham Shui Po, for the reprovisioning of the Church of Christ in China Mongkok Church, Kai Oi School ("the School"). The Panel on Education had been consulted on the proposal on 11 May 2015. Panel members 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.
- 31. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Under Secretary for Education</u> ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the proposal.

#### Provision of air-conditioning systems in the new school premises

- 32. Mr IP Kin-yuen expressed support for the proposal. He commended the Administration for its acceptance of the School's suggestion of installing hand-washing facilities and a water heater on the ground floor of the proposed new school premises. Noting that air-conditioning was not a standard provision for schools except for rooms exposed to excessive noise, he was concerned that not all the rooms in the new premises of the School would be installed with air-conditioners and this might affect the emotion and concentration of the students, in particular those with Autism Spectrum Disorders. He pointed out that, even if the School managed to collect sufficient funds from donation for purchasing air-conditioning systems, the parents of the students, mostly with low income, would have to bear the cost of the maintenance of the systems and to pay the electricity charges.
- 33. <u>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung</u> and <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> shared Mr IP's concerns. <u>Mr LEUNG</u> said that the issue of provision of air-conditioning systems for special schools had been dragging on for more than 10 years, and the special schools, commonly located in relatively remote or less noisy areas, generally did not have air-conditioning as a standard provision. He enquired whether

the Administration would consider seeking support from concerned organizations for donation to special schools for the purchase and installation of air-conditioning systems.

- 34. <u>US(Ed)</u> replied that provision of air-conditioning was not a standard provision for all schools under the prevailing policy. That said, air-conditioning had been provided for special schools for children with physical disability and special schools for children with severe intellectual disability. In these schools, students had to wear thick protective garments and braces or required supporting equipment in movements. He said that the Administration had no plan to seek funding support from charitable organizations for provision of air-conditioning in special schools.
- 35. <u>Mr IP Kin-yuen</u>, <u>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung</u> and <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> urged the Administration to review the policy on the provision of air-conditioning for schools. <u>US(Ed)</u> responded that the Administration would follow up the issue with members at the relevant Panel of LegCo if necessary.

#### Pedestrian access to the project site

- 36. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> expressed support for the proposal. She held the view that, given the long walking distance between the Lai Chi Kok MTR Station and the project site, for the convenience of the students and teachers of Kai Oi School as well as the residents of the areas nearby, the Administration should consider constructing a barrier-free and all-weather access to connect the two locations. Referring to the route of such an access indicated in Enclosure 6 to the discussion paper, she requested the Administration to provide the details about the route and the relevant facilities.
- 37. <u>US(Ed)</u> responded that Dr WONG's suggestion would be conveyed to the departments concerned. He advised that most of the students would commute to and from the School by school buses. The public bus and mini-bus stops near the project site would allow convenient access for the minority of students who would make use of public transport.

(*Post-meeting note:* The Administration's supplementary information was circulated to members vide <u>LC Paper No. PWSC233/14-15(01)</u> on 7 July 2015.)

#### Increase in the number of places in Kai Oi School upon its reprovisioning

- 38. <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> indicated support for the proposal. Noting that the area of the new site for the School would be significantly increased from around 550 m² to around 4 400 m² after the School was reprovisioned near Hoi Lai Estate, <u>Dr CHIANG</u> opined that the proposed increase in the school places from 165 to 180 was inadequate. In view of the great demand for places in special schools, she recommended that the number of places in the School should be further increased. <u>US(Ed)</u> noted Dr CHIANG's concern. He advised that the number of student intake could be slightly adjusted by the School where necessary.
- 39. <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> shared Dr CHIANG's view. He asked the Administration about the maximum intake of students with mild intellectual disability ("MiID") in the new school premises and whether the number of students for each class, rather than the number of classes, could be increased to provide more school places.
- 40. <u>US(Ed)</u> replied that the proposed new school premises for Kai Oi School was designed for accommodating 12 classes of primary one to secondary six students with MiID. Addition of classes would have an impact on the schedule of the reprovisioning works. The standard class size for MiID students was set at 15 for better care of students with special needs. However, the number of classes could be slightly increased by one to two as a short-term measure if necessary.
- 41. <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> further enquired whether there was room for expansion of usable floor area in the new school premises in future. <u>DArchS</u> advised that the design of a new school premises was based on the requirements of the school sponsoring body and the educational/operational needs. Expansion of floor areas in a school would involve substructure works and alteration works on facilities. Therefore, the room for expansion was limited.

## <u>Policy on reprovisioning of schools operating in dilapidated or sub-standard</u> premises

- 42. While expressing support for the proposal, <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> enquired about the number of schools currently operating in old and dilapidated premises and the Administration's plan for reprovisioning these schools.
- 43. <u>US(Ed)</u> advised that the Administration conducted annual review on the conditions of the school premises of all aided special schools. Priority

for reprovisioning would be given to schools with critical needs for such.

- 44. <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> stressed that the Administration should formulate a reprovisioning plan not only for special schools, but also for other schools in dilapidated premises. She would follow up the issue with the Administration.
- 45. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the reprovisioning of Kai Oi School was much needed and should be implemented as soon as possible. He noted that there was a significant difference in the site areas between the new premises for Kai Oi School (around 4 400 m<sup>2</sup>) and Hong Chi Morninghill School, a special school in Tuen Mun (around 971 m<sup>2</sup>) but both schools provided more or less the same number of school places. He considered that the space in Hong Chi Morninghill School was severely inadequate and reprovisioning was needed. He further pointed out that SAHK Ko Fook Iu Memorial School, a special school in Sha Tin ("Ko Fook Iu School"), was operating in sub-standard premises but the school's request for reprovisioning had been rejected. Dr CHEUNG expressed dissatisfaction on the Administration's slow action in addressing the problems of these two schools. He enquired about the criteria for selecting sub-standard school premises for reprovisioning and redevelopment.
- 46. <u>US(Ed)</u> responded that Ko Fook Iu School had been allocated with two additional floors in an adjacent vacant school premises to provide more space for educational activities. As regards Hong Chi Morninghill School, support from the Tuen Mun District Council had been sought for allocation of additional space for the school. The Administration would consult the school and the parents on the matter in due course.
- disappointment at the Administration's failure to advise the Subcommittee on its plan for reprovisioning special schools operating in dilapidated or sub-standard premises. He stressed that the teachers and parents of children with special needs were facing extra pressure compared with those of ordinary schools. Citing the case of Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School ("Pui Oi School") in Tuen Mun, where the design of some facilities failed to meet the needs of students with physical disability, <u>Dr KWOK</u> asked whether the Administration had learnt any lesson from the case and would improve the planning of the facilities in special schools in future.

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

- 48. <u>US(Ed)</u> said that the Administration had gained experience from the case of Pui Oi School. He assured members that, during the planning and implementation of school projects, the Education Bureau would maintain close communication with the relevant school sponsoring bodies and parents on the special needs of the students at the project design stage. As regards the reprovisioning and redevelopment of special schools, <u>US(Ed)</u> advised that two such projects were under planning.
- 49. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung commented that for the case of Ko Fook Iu School, the allocation for its use of additional floors in another school was inadequate to meet the needs of the students. He urged the Administration to speed up the reprovisioning of Ko Fook Iu School. If reprovisioning was not feasible, the Administration should take all possible measures to improve the teaching and learning environment in the school.
- 50. Mr Abraham SHEK expressed support for the proposal. He opined that, in addition to provision of hardware to facilitate the operation of special schools, the dedication of parents and teachers as well as funding support were vital to the enhancement of special education. He suggested that members should further discuss the issues related to facilities in special schools at the Panel on Education.

#### Other issues

- 51. Mr Dennis KWOK enquired, after the reprovisioning of Kai Oi School, whether the number and the qualification of the teaching staff, and the resources allocated to the School would be reviewed. US(Ed) replied that teaching resources were allocated to the School according to the prescribed student/teacher ratio. The selection and appointment of teaching staff would be undertaken by the school sponsoring body and the headmaster.
- 52. <u>Mr Dennis KWOK</u> requested the Administration to provide a list of basic facilities to be provided in a school for children with severe intellectual disability.
  - (*Post-meeting note:* The Administration's supplementary information was circulated to members vide <u>LC Paper No. PWSC233/14-15(01)</u> on 7 July 2015.)
- 53. The item was voted on and endorsed. <u>The Chairman</u> suggested that members might consider requiring separate discussion and voting for the item at the relevant meeting of FC after studying the supplementary information to be provided by the Administration. Members agreed to the Chairman's

suggestion.

54. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:43 am.

Council Business Division 1 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 10 July 2015