

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)130/14-15(04)

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**Panel on Housing**

**Meeting on 3 November 2014**

**Updated background brief on "Enhanced partnering arrangements among Estate Management Advisory Committees and non-governmental organizations to promote neighbourliness in public rental housing estates" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat**

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides updated background information on the enhanced partnering arrangements among Estate Management Advisory Committees ("EMACs") and non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") in promoting neighbourliness in public rental housing ("PRH") estates, and gives a brief account of the views and concerns expressed by members on the subject.

**Background**

2. The Housing Authority ("HA") implemented the enhanced partnering arrangements among EMACs and NGOs in 2009 to promote neighbourliness in PRH estates. Under the arrangements, each EMAC is provided funds and allowed to use up to 30% of the EMAC funds to partner with NGOs to organize two to four community building functions per annum, according to the needs and preference of individual estates.

3. According to the prevailing guidelines, two to three partnering functions with NGOs should be arranged for small estates (with 3 000 or less flats), and three to four functions for large estates (with 3 001 or more flats) per annum. The funding ceiling for each function is \$30,000 for small estates and \$50,000 for large estates.

4. The themes of the partnering functions covered caring for the elderly, supporting different target groups, promoting family cohesion, healthy living and environmental protection, etc. The number and themes of partnering functions held from 2011-2012 to 2013-2014 are set out in the table below –

<b>Themes of functions</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>
Caring for the elderly	177	258	203
Supporting families/women/ Children	60	44	40
Supporting youth	16	32	24
Education/Health/Training activities/Learning programmes	196	156	143
Environmental protection/ Greening activities	37	52	164
Other activities (e.g. promoting living in harmony, supporting service for mental health, etc)	148	126	273
<b>Total no. of functions</b> <sup>[#]</sup>	<b>393</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>416</b>

[#] Some of the partnering functions may cover more than one theme.

#### Control and monitoring of expenditure

5. To ensure the effective use of public money, the use of EMAC funds for partnering functions has been stringently monitored by estate management staff. The actual expenses incurred are reimbursed to NGOs by making reference to the standard expenses adopted by District Councils. Besides, the Housing Department will randomly check the proposals and evaluation reports of NGOs on a quarterly basis.

#### Review of the partnering arrangements

6. HA conducted a review on the partnering arrangements in 2012-2013. During the review, HA observed that some EMACs, particularly those estates with few NGOs in the neighbourhood, had experienced difficulties in achieving the target number of functions despite strenuous efforts by the estate management staff to promote the arrangements. In some estates, the local NGOs had been fully committed to their on-going activities and did not have spare capacity to arrange additional partnering functions.

7. In view of the above, HA endorsed a new measure in March 2013 to ensure full utilization of EMAC funds and encourage EMACs to arrange community activities for the benefit of tenants. Under the new measure, EMACs may organize one thematic community building function per annum without partnering with NGOs to cater for local needs when all attempts of identifying suitable NGOs have been exhausted.

### **Deliberations by the Panel on Housing**

8. The enhanced partnering arrangements among EMACs and NGOs in promoting neighbourliness in PRH estates had been discussed by the Panel on Housing ("the Panel") at the meetings on 2 November 2009 and 9 June 2011. The Panel was last briefed on the review findings on the implementation of the enhanced partnering arrangements at its meeting on 9 May 2013. The major views and concerns expressed by members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

9. The Panel noted that the overall satisfaction rate of the partnering functions was 99%. Members supported the implementation of the partnering arrangements which had helped foster neighbourliness and strengthen tenants' sense of belonging towards the community. The functions could also serve as a useful platform for promotional activities, such as those relating to public health and disease prevention.

#### Adequacy of EMAC funds

10. Some members were concerned about the inadequacy of EMAC funds and the restrictions governing the use of the funds. They had suggested increasing EMAC funds, such as by adjusting the funds in line with inflation. Given the need to undertake basic improvement works in PRH estates such as the provision of greening and recreational facilities, some members held the view that such facilities should be funded directly by HA, and not by way of EMAC funds. In this way, the limited EMAC funds could better provide for other activities including enhanced partnering arrangements.

#### Partnering arrangements

11. Other members expressed concern about duplicating efforts being made in the partnering arrangements given that District Councils and NGOs were separately organizing similar activities within the community. They suggested that EMACs should be given the necessary flexibility in deciding on the types of partnering functions to be held using EMAC funds.

12. Members also supported more transparency in the partnering arrangements. For example, the types of activities held, funding provided, NGOs taking part in the activities and number of participants could be uploaded onto the internet for the knowledge of the public. The Administration agreed to look into the request for improving transparency in the partnering arrangements.

13. Some other members noted that of the community building activities organized under the partnering arrangements, those with themes relating to youth and families/women/children constituted only 3% and 7% respectively, which were disproportionate to the youth/women/children population in the estates. Instead of relying on EMACs to identify NGOs for organizing community building activities, these members considered that a tender arrangement should be introduced to encourage more NGOs to take part.

### **Latest development**

14. The Administration will brief members on the progress of implementing the enhanced partnering arrangements at the Panel meeting on 3 November 2014.

### **Relevant papers**

15. A list of relevant papers is set out in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
28 October 2014

## List of relevant papers

Council/ Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Housing	2 November 2009	<p>Administration's paper on "Enhanced partnering arrangements among Estate Management Advisory Committees and non-government organizations in public rental housing estates" (LC Paper No. CB(1)193/09-10(06)) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/hg/papers/hg1102cb1-193-6-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/hg/papers/hg1102cb1-193-6-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)794/09-10) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20091102.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20091102.pdf</a></p>
Panel on Housing	9 June 2011	<p>Administration's paper on "Review of enhanced partnering arrangements among Estate Management Advisory Committees and non-government organizations in public rental housing estates" (LC Paper No. CB(1)2398/10-11(04)) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0609cb1-2398-4-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0609cb1-2398-4-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Background brief on "Enhanced partnering arrangements among Estate Management Advisory Committees and non-governmental organizations to promote neighborliness in public rental housing estates" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)2398/10-11(05)) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0609cb1-2398-5-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0609cb1-2398-5-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)2892/10-11) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20110609.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20110609.pdf</a></p>
Panel on Housing	9 May 2013	<p>Administration's paper on "Review of enhanced partnering arrangements among Estate Management Advisory Committees and non-governmental organizations to promote neighbourliness in public rental housing estates" (LC Paper No. CB(1)955/12-13(03)) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0509cb1-955-3-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0509cb1-955-3-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1740/12-13) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20130509.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20130509.pdf</a></p>