立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. FC155/15-16 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref : FC/1/1(6)

Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 9th meeting held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Friday, 13 November 2015, at 3:00 pm

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, 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

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS

Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

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

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Hon WONG Yuk-man

Hon Claudia MO

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP

Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH

Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS

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 LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon KWOK Wai-keung

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

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, SBS, MH, JP

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

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

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent:

Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau

Public officers attending:

Professor K C CHAN, GBS, JP Secretary for Financial Services and the

Treasury

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

Principle of the Treasury

Bureau (The Treasury Branch)

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP Deputy Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 3 Government Property Administrator

Mr Alan SIU Yu-bun, JP

Mr LAM Chik-man

Government Property Administrator

Chief Property Manager (Acquisition,

Allocation and Disposal), Government

Property Agency

Mr Frank WONG Tak-choi Project Director (1), Architectural

Services Department

Ms Anissa WONG Sean-yee, JP Permanent Secretary for the

Environment / Director of

Environmental Protection

Mr Howard CHAN Wai-kee, JP Deputy Director of Environmental

Protection (2)

Mr Samson LAI Yiu-kei Assistant Director of Environmental

Protection (Waste Management Policy)

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT Assistant Secretary General 1

Staff in attendance:

Mr Derek LO Chief Council Secretary (1)5

Mr Raymond SZETO Senior Council Secretary (1)7

Mr Frankie WOO Miss Yannes HO Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3 Legislative Assistant (1)6

<u>Action</u>

Item No. 1 – FCR(2015-16)30 RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 24 JUNE 2015

The Chairman said that the item sought the Committee's approval of the recommendation of the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") made at the meeting on 24 June 2015 regarding the programme of 121KA. Members of PWSC had requested that the item be considered and voted on separately at the Finance Committee meeting. The item sought the Committee's approval for –

- (a) the upgrading of part of 121KA, entitled "Joint-user Government Office Building in Cheung Sha Wan pre-construction consultancy services and site investigation works", to Category A at an estimated cost of \$103.2 million in money-of-the-day prices; and
- (b) the retention of the remainder of 121KA in Category B.

Motion that further proceedings of the Committee be now adjourned

- 2. At 3:15 pm, <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> moved without notice that the further proceedings of the Committee be now adjourned under paragraph 39 of the Finance Committee Procedure ("FC Procedure").
- 3. <u>The Chairman</u> thereupon proposed the question that the meeting be now adjourned. He directed that a member, when speaking on the question, might speak once for not more than three minutes.
- 4. Mr Albert CHAN introduced his motion. He criticized the way in which the Chairman chaired the meetings during which the Committee deliberated the items for the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau, in particular his setting limits on the number of proposed motions that members could present under paragraph 37A of the FC Procedure to express views on the items. He also expressed dissatisfaction about the remarks on Members returned from geographical constituencies made by the Chairman publicly outside the meeting.

Action - 5 -

- 5. <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u> and <u>Mr IP Kwok-him</u> spoke against the motion. They criticized Mr Albert CHAN for filibustering by moving a motion under paragraph 39 of the FC Procedure. Procrastination in the Committee's deliberation would obstruct the passage of funding proposals related to people's livelihood and was a waste of public money.
- 6. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> and <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> spoke in support of the motion. They remarked that Members returned from functional constituencies could not represent the views of the public at large.
- 7. When Mr CHAN Chi-chuen was speaking, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan spoke loudly without obtaining the Chairman's permission. <u>The Chairman</u> reminded members not to speak when another member was speaking.
- 8. The Administration did not respond to the motion.
- 9. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> gave concluding remarks. <u>The Chairman</u> put Mr CHAN's motion to vote. As members claimed a division, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes. The Chairman announced that three members voted in favour of the motion and 39 members voted against the motion. The votes of individual members were as follows –

For:

Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Mr CHAN Chi-chuen (3 members) Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Against:

Mr CHAN Kam-lam
Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen
Ms Starry LEE Wai-king
Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee
Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun
Mr Steven HO Chun-yin
Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr Charles Peter MOK
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung

Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing
Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan
Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long
Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Dr LAM Tai-fai
Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Mr IP Kwok-him
Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun
Mr NG Leung-sing
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Mr MA Fung-kwok
Miss CHAN Yuen-han
Mr Kenneth LEUNG

Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen
Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung
Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan
Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan
Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen
(39 members)

Mr KWOK Wai-keung Mr SIN Chung-kai Dr Elizabeth QUAT Mr POON Siu-ping Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok Mr Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun

10. <u>The Chairman</u> declared that the motion was negatived.

Public facilities at the proposed Treasury Building

- 11. Mr IP Kwok-him said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong ("DAB") supported the item. He said that DAB had repeatedly urged the Administration to include social welfare facilities in joint-user government office buildings to cater for district needs. He welcomed the addition of a child care centre and a day care centre for the elderly at the joint-user government office building in Cheung Sha Wan ("the proposed Treasury Building").
- 12. <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u> expressed support for the construction of the proposed Treasury Building, and welcomed the additional provision of social welfare services, such as a day care centre for the elderly and a child care centre. Noting that there was only one self-study facility at Fu Cheong Estate nearby, she enquired whether the Administration would consider providing self-study facilities in the proposed Treasury Building.
- 13. <u>Government Property Administrator</u> ("GPA") said that there were no plans to include a self-study facility at the proposed Treasury Building, as the planned government complex at the Northwest Kowloon Reclamation Area Site 6 nearby would include the provision of a district library and a students' study room with a capacity of about 200 persons.
- 14. On further enquiry by Dr Priscilla LEUNG, <u>GPA</u> undertook to seek Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD")'s advice on the timetable for the completion of the said self-study facility and relay her comments to LCSD for consideration.

[*Post-meeting note:* Supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued vide LC Paper No. FC38/15-16(01) on 4 December 2015.]

- 15. Mr Albert CHAN and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed concerns that the location of the proposed Treasury Building was too remote for residents of the Sham Shui Po District ("the SSP District") to gain access to the social welfare facilities there.
- 16. <u>GPA</u> said that the proposed Treasury Building was within a few minutes of walking distance from two Public Rental Housing estates nearby, namely, Fu Cheong Estate and Wing Cheong Estate. <u>Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)3</u> ("DS(Tsy)3") said that public users could also access the proposed Treasury Building by public transportation.
- 17. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> called on the Administration to provide gender-neutral toilets in the proposed Treasury Building to set an example for private developments to follow suit.

Project details

- 18. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for the item. He enquired whether the two-year schedule for completing the project was realistic. Also, in the light of escalating prices for public works projects, he enquired whether the financial provision now being sought was sufficient.
- 19. <u>DS(Tsy)3</u> and <u>Project Director (1)/Architectural Services Department</u> ("PD(1)/ArchSD") said that both the scheduled time and financial provision sought should be sufficient for the pre-construction works to be carried out.
- Mr WONG Yuk-man said that he supported the item in principle. He said that in planning the proposed Treasury Building, which would be completed some years later, the Administration should give due consideration to the prospective demographic changes of the SSP District, primarily the rising number of elderly citizens, over a sufficiently long horizon. Noting the Administration's claim that there were insufficient in-house resources to carry out the pre-construction consultancy services and site investigation works for the proposed Treasury Building, he queried the reasons for the Administration's persistent reliance on outsourced professional services for projects to construct government buildings.
- 21. <u>DS(Tsy)3</u> and <u>PD(1)/ArchSD</u> said that there were three approaches to carry out design and construction of government buildings, namely, commissioning Design and Build contracts, commissioning consultancy studies followed by a construction contract, or deploying in-house resources to carry out the project. The Administration would adopt the appropriate approach

after considering a host of various factors such as the schedule of the project concerned, the building type, the prevailing market situation and available in-house resources. Mr Albert CHAN called on the Administration to adopt the approach of Design and Build contracts as this could leverage on the creativity and optimal use of resources of private-sector contractors.

Traffic considerations

- 22. <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> and <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> expressed support for the item and called for the expeditious commencement of the project. <u>Dr LO</u> expressed confidence that the Administration had addressed the concern raised and discussed at length by members at PWSC about the traffic arrangements for users of the proposed Treasury Building in future. <u>Dr CHIANG</u> expressed worries that the planned 45 parking spaces would not be sufficient for government employees working at the proposed Treasury Building in future.
- GPA said that the Administration took note of members' concerns about traffic arrangements for the proposed Treasury Building and the Government Property Agency would work closely with the Transport Department on traffic arrangements. On parking space provisions, it was the Administration's policy to encourage government employees to go to work by public transport. In fact, the site of the proposed Treasury Building was close to bus and mini-bus stops as well as Mass Transit Railway stations, and was thus well served by the public transport network. Notwithstanding, the Administration would consider reviewing the provision of parking spaces at the proposed Treasury Building having regard to earlier discussions at PWSC on parking provision at the West Kowloon Government Offices.

Consultation on public facilities for joint-user government office buildings

24. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> expressed support for the addition of a day care centre for the elderly and a child care centre in the proposed Treasury Building. Noting the pattern of combining Government office buildings and social care service provisions into one building complex, she enquired whether the Government Property Agency had conducted sufficient internal consultation with other government departments prior to the planning and construction of new government buildings, in particular the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"), which was often in need of space for social welfare facilities. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> and <u>Mr Alan LEONG</u> made similar enquiries and called on the Administration to consider reviewing its mechanism in incorporating district needs in planning for new government buildings at an earlier stage.

- 25. <u>GPA</u> said that in planning for new joint-user government office buildings, as in this case, relevant government departments would be consulted on the need of spaces for the provision of facilities. He said that while there were already planned provisions for social welfare facilities in the SSP district, the Administration had taken heed of the suggestions by members of PWSC and had conducted further studies on the feasibility of including more social welfare services in the proposed Treasury Building with SWD.
- 26. Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) supplemented that as a matter of principle, the Administration aimed to optimise the site utilisation of government office building projects, and the proposed Treasury Building was planned to fully achieve the reference plot ratio ("PR"). The proposed Treasury Building was planned primarily for the provision of office space for government departments. The Administration would nevertheless also consider incorporating social welfare facilities to meet community needs if space was available, and in this case, the original space allocation plan for the Treasury Building had already included the provision of a general out-patient clinic. The same approach would continue to be adopted in the planning of government office building projects in the future.
- 27. <u>DS(Tsy)3</u> said that a review on optimising site utilisation had recently been completed. Under the refined arrangements, relevant departments such as SWD would be invited to put forward proposals on appropriate facilities that might be provided at proposed joint-user buildings. The Administration would duly consider suggestions and comments by members and the local community on the inclusion of social welfare facilities in government buildings.

Public dental care provision

- 28. <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u> called on the Administration to provide dental care for the elderly. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> and <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> expressed similar views.
- 29. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> said that the Administration's provision of public dental care service for the elderly through dental clinics for civil servants was insufficient.
- 30. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u>, <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> and <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> expressed dissatisfaction about the Administration's refusal to provide public dental care service to the elderly in the proposed Treasury Building. <u>Mr LEUNG</u> criticized the Administration's policy to provide dental care service to civil servants but not ordinary citizens. Members called on the

Administration to increase the PR of the site for the proposed Treasury Building to provide a public dental clinic for residents in SSP District.

- 31. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> urged the Administration to consider relaxing PRs of government office buildings to provide space for dental clinics and other social welfare facilities run by government departments and non-government organizations for the elderly.
- 32. <u>DS(Tsy)3</u> said that the proposed Treasury Building fell within the South West Kowloon Outline Planning Zone ("OZP"), and adopted a PR of eight which was similar to that of commercial sites as set by the Planning Department ("PlanD"). The determination of PR in an OZP was the outcome of an extensive consultation process. In determining the PR, PlanD had considered the environmental conditions and traffic in the vicinity of the proposed Treasury Building.
- 33. <u>DS(Tsy)3</u> further said that it was not the Government's policy to provide public dental service through the setting up of dental clinics. The Administration had no plans to include dental clinics in the proposed Treasury Building. Dental care services were available in the SSP district through provisions by non-government organizations. The Community Care Fund had also implemented programmes to provide dental care services for the elderly.

Child care service provision

- 34. <u>Mr Kenneth LEUNG</u> urged the Administration to incorporate child care centres as a standard provision in planning government buildings. He remarked that the provision of child care centres in office buildings, which was a common practice in other countries such as the United Kingdom, could provide support for employees and could ultimately free up the capacity of the female workforce. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> and <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> expressed similar views.
- 35. <u>GPA</u> said that the Administration was exploring the feasibility of providing child care places for staff members on a pilot basis. Meanwhile, the provision of child care services for the public was available at some joint-user government office buildings, such as the Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices.

Other issues

36. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> urged the Administration to consider contracting out catering services to social enterprises at the proposed Treasury Building. <u>GPA</u> noted Dr CHEUNG's suggestion.

<u>Action</u> - 11 -

- 37. With a view to reducing the number of plastic bottles discarded, Dr KWOK Ka-ki suggested that the Administration should provide drinking water dispensers to public users of the proposed Treasury Building as an environment-friendly measure.
- 38. <u>GPA</u> said that there would be catering services and vending machines for beverages at the proposed Treasury Building. As the current item sought financial approval for only the pre-construction consultancy services and site investigation works for the project only, Dr KWOK Ka-ki's suggestion would be considered later when the project proceeded to the detailed design stage.
- 39. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> called on the Administration to consider planning for clusters of government buildings for use by multiple departments to complement major urban developments.
- 40. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> expressed concern about the prospect of the bunching of a number of large-scale construction projects in the territory which would further drive up construction costs. He called on the Administration to review the feasibility of staggering the implementation of public works projects.
- 41. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> criticized the Administration's plan to relocate of government offices to the proposed Treasury Building to free up Grade A office space in Wan Chai as a form of collusion between the Government and business sector.

Motion proposed by member pursuant to paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure to express views on FCR(2015-16)30

42. The Chairman said that he received one motion proposed by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung to be moved under paragraph 37A of FC Procedure. He considered that the motion was in order and thereupon put to vote the question that the motion proposed by Mr LEUNG be proceed forthwith. As members claimed a division, the Chairman ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes. The Chairman announced that nine members voted in favour of the question and 21 members voted against the question. The votes of individual members were as follows —

For:

Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip Ms Claudia MO Mr Kenneth LEUNG Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Mr WONG Yuk-man Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Dr KWOK Ka-ki <u>Action</u> - 12 -

Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan (9 members)

Against:

Mr CHAN Kam-lam

Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen

Mr WONG Kwok-kin

Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee

Mr NG Leung-sing

Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming

Mr MA Fung-kwok

Miss CHAN Yuen-han

Dr Elizabeth QUAT

Mr POON Siu-ping

Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan

(21 members)

Mr TAM Yiu-chung Mr WONG Ting-kwong

Mr IP Kwok-him

Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun Mr Steven HO Chun-yin

Mr YIU Si-wing Mr CHAN Han-pan

Mr LEUNG Che-cheung

Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong

Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok

43. <u>The Chairman</u> declared that the question was negatived.

Voting on FCR(2015-16)30

44. There being no further question, the Chairman put the item to vote. As members claimed a division, the Chairman ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes. The Chairman announced that 34 members voted in favour of the item and none voted against the item. The votes of individual members were as follows –

For:

Mr CHAN Kam-lam

Mr TAM Yiu-chung

Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen

Dr LAM Tai-fai

Mr IP Kwok-him

Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

Mr WONG Yuk-man

Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun

Mr Steven HO Chun-yin

Mr YIU Si-wing

Mr Charles Peter MOK Mr CHAN Han-pan

Mr LEUNG Che-cheung Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen

Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan

Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing

Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long

Mr WONG Ting-kwong Mr WONG Kwok-kin

Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee

Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Ms Claudia MO

Mr NG Leung-sing

Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming

Mr MA Fung-kwok Mr CHAN Chi-chuen

Miss CHAN Yuen-han

Mr Kenneth LEUNG

Mr KWOK Wai-keung

Dr Elizabeth QUAT

Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok (34 members) Mr POON Siu-ping Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan

45. <u>The Chairman</u> declared that the Committee approved the item FCR(2015-16)30.

Item No. 2 – FCR(2015-16)31 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 23 AND 29 JUNE 2015

- 46. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the item sought the Committee's approval for the recommendations of the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") made at the meetings on 23 and 29 June 2015. Members of ESC had requested that the items be discussed and voted on separately in this Committee.
- 47. The Chairman further said that the item EC(2015-16)3 sought the Committee's approval for the proposed creation of two supernumerary posts of one Administrative Officer ("AO") Staff Grade B (D3) and one AO Staff Grade C (D2) in the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") for three years with immediate effect to lead a new Waste Management (Special Duties) Division.
- 48. <u>Ms Alice MAK</u> enquired about the duties of the proposed posts in relation to the implementation of proposed quantity-based municipal solid waste ("MSW") charging. She called on the Administration to consider exempting low-income households from the charging scheme.
- 49. <u>Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection</u> ("PS(Env)/DEP") said that the Administration had noted similar suggestions in the public consultation on MSW charging and the new team, when set up, would consider the issue of needy households in formulating the operational details of MSW charging.

<u>Creation of Administrative Officer grade posts</u>

- 50. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> enquired about the need to create new directorate AO posts for driving policies on MSW charging.
- 51. <u>PS(Env)/DEP</u> said that the current responsible division, the Waste Management ("WM") Division, was fully engaged in a variety of waste reduction initiatives, including preparation of two mandatory producer's

Action - 14 -

responsibility schemes, the review of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme. The present staffing request was necessary for providing additional manpower for the work during the development stage of MSW charging, including cross-bureaux coordination and further consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as well as relieving the heavy workload handled by the WM Division.

- Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Mr Albert CHAN queried about the reasons for creating AO grade officers, who were generalists lacking the technical expertise and might be unfamiliar with policies on MSW, to lead the development on the policies on MSW charging. The two members said that the Administration should consider alternative staffing proposals, including hiring suitable professionals with relevant experience through open recruitment worldwide, or deploying Environmental Protection Officer grade officers, who were equipped with the relevant professional expertise. Mr Albert CHAN expressed regret that EPD, under AO's helm, had not made significant progress in driving policies on waste reduction for the territory.
- 53. <u>PS(Env)/DEP</u> said that after critically examining the requirements of the proposed directorate posts, which included, inter alia, knowledge and skills in public consultation, communication with relevant stakeholders and legislation process, the Administration considered that creation of AO grade posts was most suitable. In addition, there would be sufficient support from professional grade officers within EPD for these posts.
- 54. At 5:15 pm, the Chairman directed that the meeting be adjourned and the unfinished business of the meeting be carried over to the next meeting.
- 55. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 10 March 2016