

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)440/15-16
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

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Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

**Minutes of meeting
on Monday, 9 November 2015, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP (Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Claudia MO
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
- Members absent** : Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

**Public officers
attending**

: Agenda item IV

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Miss Susie HO, JP

Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Ir Allen YEUNG

Government Chief Information Officer

Mr Victor LAM, JP

Deputy Government Chief Information Officer
(Consulting and Operations)

Miss Donna CHAN

Assistant Government Chief Information Officer
(Governance and Resources)

Agenda item V

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Miss Susie HO, JP

Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Joe WONG, JP

Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Ivanhoe CHANG

Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Communications and
Technology) B

Office of the Communications Authority

Mr Chaucer LEUNG

Deputy Director-General (Telecommunications)

Ms Linda YU

Head (Regulatory)

Agenda item VI

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Miss Susie HO, JP
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Joe WONG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Ivanhoe CHANG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Communications and
Technology) B

Clerk in attendance : Mr Daniel SIN
Chief Council Secretary (4)3

Staff in attendance : Ms Anki NG
Council Secretary (4)3

Miss Mandy LAM
Legislative Assistant (4)3

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)147/15-16 -- Minutes of meeting held on 15
October 2015)

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)1383/15-16(01) -- Administration's written
response to the motion
passed on issues relating to
Producers' Guidelines of
Radio Television Hong
Kong

LC Paper No. CB(4)1457/14-15(01) (English version only)	--	Administration's written response on the Final Report of the Task Force on ICT Professional Development and Recognition
LC Paper No. CB(4)54/15-16(01) (Chinese version only)	--	Letter from Hon WONG Yuk-man dated 21 September 2015 on issues relating to the policy on digital audio broadcasting
LC Paper No. CB(4)108/15-16(01) (Chinese version only)	--	Submission from members of the public received on 12 October 2015 regarding views on Internet access service in remote areas (Restricted to members)
LC Paper No. CB(4)191/15-16(01)	--	Letter from the Administration dated 3 November 2015 on application by Phoenix U Radio Limited for termination of sound broadcasting licence)
LC Paper No. CB(4)202/15-16(01) (tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via e-mail on 10 November 2015)	--	Administration's written response dated 6 November 2015 on issues relating to the policy on digital audio broadcasting)

2. Members noted that the above papers had been issued for the Panel's information.

Issues relating to the policy on digital audio broadcasting

3. Mr Charles Peter MOK and Ms Claudia MO expressed concern about the policy on digital audio broadcasting as it drew wide public concern. They suggested and members agreed that the Administration should brief the Panel on issues related to the policy on digital audio broadcasting.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the item would be discussed at the regular Panel meeting to be held on 11 January 2016.)

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

Regular meeting on 14 December 2015

4. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 14 December 2015 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

- (a) Better utilization of the eight-digit numbering plan; and
- (b) Briefing on the work of the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

(Post meeting note: At the request of the Administration, the Panel Chairman and the Chairman of the Panel on Commerce and Industry agreed that a joint meeting of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting and the Panel on Commerce and Industry would be held at 3:00 pm on 14 December 2015 to discuss the item on "Briefing on the work of the Innovation and Technology Bureau". The regular Panel meeting would be advanced to 2:00 pm on 14 December 2015 to discuss the remaining item on "Better utilization of the eight-digit numbering plan".)

IV. Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) – New administrative computer systems

(LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(03) -- Administration's paper on Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) – New administrative computer systems

LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(04) -- Paper on Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) – New administrative computer systems prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") briefed members on the 2016-2017 funding requirement for the implementation of computerization projects under the Capital Works Reserve Fund ("CWRF") Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX ("Block Allocation") – New administrative computer systems. PSCED(CT) sought members' support for the proposed Block Allocation of \$990 million, which was \$50 million (about 5.3%) higher than the provision of \$940 million for 2015-2016. Details of the funding requirement, breakdown of the expenditure items and new projects to be funded by the Block Allocation were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(03)).

Discussion

New projects to be initiated in 2016-2017

6. Noting that some bureaux and government departments ("B/Ds") had set up Information Technology Management Units ("ITMUs") responsible for assisting the B/Ds concerned in the planning, management and co-ordination of IT services, and the limited number of staff in the relevant ITMUs, Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the resources, arrangements, staff and management support for implementing the new projects to be initiated by B/Ds in 2016-2017.

7. Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") advised that the Block Allocation only referred to the estimated expenditure requirement of proposed projects in a given financial year and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") would examine the details of new projects submitted by B/Ds at a later stage. It would estimate the funding requirements for the Block Allocation in the following financial year by taking into consideration the cash flow requirements of approved projects, new proposals submitted by B/Ds and anticipated new projects for various e-

Government initiatives, and the spending position of the Block Allocation of the current financial year. With the increase in new projects to be initiated, the staffing support for individual B/Ds would also increase. As regards the management and implementation of IT projects, the number of civil servants had increased from around 700 to more than 900 from 2009 to 2015. If necessary, the number of civil servants and non-civil service contract staff could be further increased to support implementation and management of the new projects.

8. In response to Dr CHIANG Lai-wan's enquiry about the co-ordination of the new projects for 2016-2017, and whether the new projects included those of the Registration and Electoral Office ("REO"), GCIO advised that OGCIO would advise, co-ordinate and monitor the new projects for 2016-2017, and individual B/Ds would be responsible for developing and implementing the relevant computer systems. Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Consulting and Operations) ("DGCIO(CO)") added that REO, being a government department, could submit new projects for consideration by OGCIO but no new computer project for REO had been included in 2016-2017. In general, the implementation of new projects required a period of one to three years, and the election systems currently used by REO had already been implemented. Dr CHIANG also enquired about the possibility of using computer voting systems for elections. PSCED(CT) advised that the suggestion would be relayed to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau which was responsible for election policies and arrangements.

9. Referring to paragraph 7(a) of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(03)) on user-friendly electronic services, Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the Enhancement of Facility Booking Features of Leisure Link System ("the System") of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"), and enquired whether computer system(s) could be developed for LCSD to prevent ticket scalping for mega sports events, such as the World Cup qualifier matches. She also requested the Administration to simplify the ticket-vending mechanisms for mega sports events. DGCIO(CO) advised that enhancement to the System had been included in the new projects to be initiated in 2016-2017, and should be able to curb touting activities. OGCIO had seconded more than 10 staff to the ITMU of LCSD to manage all IT system-related and cross-departmental matters.

10. PSCED(CT) supplemented that some of the tickets were sold on-line by event organizers which made it difficult to monitor. The Administration would explore ways to tackle the problem of on-line concurrent sale of tickets by the event organizers and LCSD, which might involve the use of a common platform by the parties. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration undertook to provide information on whether computer system(s) could be developed for

LCSD to prevent ticket scalping for mega sports events.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)276/15-16(01) on 26 November 2015.)

11. Referring to Annex C of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(03)) on new projects to be initiated in 2016-2017, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the difference in project estimates for upgrading the Confidential Messaging Applications of different B/Ds and whether all B/Ds were required to implement such system. DGCIO(CO) advised that the difference in the number of staff using the Confidential Messaging Applications system in different B/Ds had attributed to the difference in project estimates for upgrading the system. B/Ds would upgrade their system in turn and the upgrade was expected to complete in mid-2017. The system after upgrade would be compatible with the existing system.

12. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen further enquired about the names of B/Ds which had completed upgrading its Confidential Messaging Application and those which had not, and the difference(s) between upgrading email systems and upgrading the Confidential Messaging Applications for the relevant B/Ds. At Mr CHAN's request, the Administration undertook to provide the requested information.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)276/15-16(01) on 26 November 2015.)

13. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung enquired about the distribution of the types of new projects to be initiated in 2016-2017. DGCIO(CO) advised that 10 were user-friendly electronic services projects, 11 were public sector information and mobile apps projects, 59 were internal operational efficiency improvement projects, 37 were technology refresh projects and 42 were IT security enhancement projects.

Project performance

14. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(03)) on project performance, Mr TAM Yiu-chung expressed concern about the reasons and penalties for contractors' delay in completion of projects, and measures to improve their performance. He queried whether low contract price had affected the quality of the projects and the efficiency of the contractors. GCIO advised that the main reasons for the delay in completion of projects were the turnover of contractors' staff and delay in finalizing user

requirements and procurement. For proposal evaluation, contractors meeting the technical requirements would be the primary criteria. The contract price would then be considered before contract award. During project implementation, OGCIO would advise B/Ds on taking the necessary measures to enable contractors to complete the projects on schedule, and penalties could be imposed on contractors for delay in completion of projects.

15. DGCIO(CO) supplemented that OGCIO had issued a practice guide to project management in 2010 which helped B/Ds in improving the management of IT outsourced projects. The percentage of completing projects on schedule had been increased from 52.6% in 2010 to 62.2% in 2014. The Administration would continue to advise B/Ds in monitoring the contractors for their timely completion of projects. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about contractors sub-contracting their project works to third parties, GCIO advised that the percentage of sub-contracting arrangement was about 13% and the percentage of the sub-contract amount was about 14%.

16. In response to Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's enquiry about project outcome, DGCIO(CO) advised that relevant B/Ds would submit a Post Implementation Departmental Return to OGCIO six months after the implementation of the relevant project detailing whether the agreed specifications were met and whether the intended benefits were achieved, etc. for assessment.

Mobile applications

17. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the low download rates of certain mobile applications ("apps") and the reasons for the relatively few mobile apps projects under the new projects to be initiated in 2016-2017. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared a similar concern. GCIO advised that practice guides were provided to B/Ds on the development and implementation of mobile apps. These apps served as platforms to provide useful information about weather, traffic, food and safety, etc. Certain apps were developed to serve specific interest groups and the number of downloads was not substantial. As many of the mobile apps projects had been implemented in previous years, a relatively small number of new mobile apps projects would be initiated in 2016-2017.

18. In response to Ms Cyd HO's enquiry about the selection criteria and the procedure for developing Government mobile apps, and the use of financial resources for developing such apps, GCIO advised that B/Ds would determine which types of Government services should be delivered through mobile apps and the presentation format of the apps to meet users' needs. OGCIO had provided practical application templates for common mobile apps features and developed platform apps to enable users to receive a wide array of government information on a single platform.

19. On financial resources, GCIO advised that after B/Ds had submitted the mobile apps projects to OGCIIO, it would review the objectives and estimated expenditure for developing the apps before approving the projects and authorizing expenditure under the block allocation. Ms Cyd HO requested the Administration to develop Government mobile apps which would bring more convenience to users in daily life, for example, apps which enabled users to know the approximate time for the target bus to arrive at the nearest bus-stop.

Cloud technology

20. Noting that operational and maintenance costs could be greatly reduced if cloud technology was applied, the Chairman enquired about the measures taken by the Administration to encourage B/Ds to develop and upgrade computer systems by using cloud technology. The Chairman also enquired about the number of new projects using cloud technologies under the proposed Block Allocation in 2016-2017. GCIO advised that cloud technology was available for use by B/Ds under three main items, namely, centralized data centre, Government cloud platform and the public cloud service. With the use of cloud service, B/Ds achieved the benefits of increasing procurement flexibility, enhancing system capacity, reducing capital costs, and accelerating the delivery of IT systems. Whether cloud platform would be suitable for implementation of individual projects would depend on the project nature as well as the technical solution to be used in those projects. Guidelines were issued for B/Ds to use cloud technology for developing and upgrading their computer systems.

21. DGCIO(CO) supplemented that at least 20 new projects would use cloud technology for implementation. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration undertook to provide the names of the new projects to be initiated in 2016-2017 which would use cloud platform for implementation and development.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)276/15-16(01) on 26 November 2015.)

Summing up

22. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the proposed Block Allocation for endorsement by the Public Works Subcommittee.

V. Review of certain licence conditions in carrier licences issued under the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106)

(LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(05) -- Administration's paper on the review of certain licence conditions in carrier licences issued under the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106))

Presentation by the Administration

23. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") presented the paper LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(05).

Discussion

24. Mr Charles Peter MOK expressed concern whether the proposed removal of a General Condition ("GC") and five Special Conditions ("SCs") from the Carrier Licences would affect the provision of broadband services to remote villages. PSCED(CT) said that the current review of licence conditions in Carrier Licences issued under the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) was not relevant to the service provision to remote villages.

25. Mr Charles Peter MOK said that he had received feedback from telecommunications service operators that the amount of compensation received for damages to their facilities by road opening works was small compared with the penalties imposed on damages to the facilities of public utilities such as gas pipes or electric cables. He was concerned that the low level of compensation would have little deterrent effect for contractors to exercise due care in carrying out road opening works. Mr MOK asked if the opportunity could be taken to impose necessary provisions in the Carrier Licences to increase the level of compensation in respect of damages to telecommunication facilities.

26. PSCED(CT) said that compensation was payable under section 18 of Cap. 106 for any damages to telecommunications installations and facilities caused by road opening works. She added that any change to the basis of compensation would necessitate amendments to the principal ordinance. The Administration might review this in the context of the review of Cap. 106 and the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) to be conducted.

27. Deputy Director General (Telecommunications) said that any road opening works on government land necessitated the issue of a Block Licence from the Lands Department and an excavation permit from the Highways Department or other relevant departments. These licences and permits would generally include conditions that any road opening works to be conducted should not affect the facilities already installed by public utilities.

28. Mr Charles Peter MOK said that telecommunications should also be regarded as public utilities so that the associated installations would be given due protection under the law. He also considered that it would take too long to extend statutory protection to telecommunications infrastructure in the context of the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562. The Chairman and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared Mr MOK's views and asked the Administration to expedite the matter.

29. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen referred to a media report that a fixed telecommunication network operator wholly owned by the MTR Corporation Limited had been found excavating roads for laying optical fibre telecommunications systems without having obtained a Block Licence from the Lands Department. Mr CHAN asked whether the company in question had committed any offence under the existing licence conditions, and whether it would be free of liability after the proposed removal of a GC and five SCs from the Carrier Licences. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung also asked which department was responsible for enforcing the conditions of Block Licences.

30. PSCED(CT) said that the proposed removal of a GC and five SCs from the Carrier Licences would not affect the case mentioned by Mr CHAN. She said that Lands Department which issued Block Licences had been looking into the case and would take necessary follow-up actions in accordance with the relevant statutory and licensing provisions. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked which statutory provisions prescribed that the removal of the SCs related to road opening did not involve any legislative process.

31. Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("DSCED(CT)") explained that under section 7A of Cap. 106, the Communications Authority had the authority to attach SCs to the Carrier Licences without the need for any legislative process. On the other hand, amendments to GCs would have to be effected by a subsidiary legislation made by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development under section 7(2)(a) of Cap. 106.

32. Mr TAM Yiu-chung mentioned a recent case in Tuen Mun where public utilities companies had agreed to relocate their infrastructure installations underneath a bus stop to allow a cover to be constructed. However, the works still could not proceed because a telecommunications network operator did not agree to relocate its installed facilities. Mr TAM asked whether the proposed amendments to licence conditions would help the relocation of underground telecommunications facilities. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared Mr TAM Yiu-chung's concern and said that utilities and telecommunications companies should be obliged to relocate their facilities at request of the Government.

33. PSCED(CT) said that relevant statutory provisions already existed, and she agreed to provide information on statutory provisions requiring telecommunications network service providers to assist in the construction of public facilities such as covers for bus stops, by relocating their network facilities.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)319/15-16(01) on 8 December 2015.)

34. Ms Cyd HO noted that the Administration had adopted four criteria set out in paragraph 5 of LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(05) for identifying the conditions in the Carrier Licences which had duplicated with, or had been superseded by, the cross-sectoral legislation or regulation. She asked whether these general criteria would be built into Cap. 106. She explained that this approach might make it unnecessary to initiate further legislative amendment if other GCs were later found to require removal.

35. DSCED(CT) said that the four criteria as highlighted in the paper were used by the Administration to identify the conditions in the Carrier Licences that needed to be removed. It was not intended that the criteria would be incorporated into the principal legislation.

VI. Proposed creation of two supernumerary directorate posts in the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

(LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(06) -- Administration's paper on proposed creation of two supernumerary directorate posts in the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(07) -- Paper on the review of the Telecommunications Ordinance and the Broadcasting Ordinance arising from the implementation of the Communications Authority Bill (Background brief)

Presentation by the Administration

36. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") presented the paper LC Paper No. CB(4)125/15-16(06).

Discussion

37. Mr Charles Peter MOK commented that it had taken too long for the Administration to initiate the review of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) and the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562). Ms Emily LAU expressed a similar concern. Mr MOK asked, following the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB"), whether the human resources situation in the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") had become less stringent and the two proposed supernumerary directorate posts and four time-limited non-directorate posts were still necessary to undertake the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562.

38. PSCED(CT) said that since the establishment of the independent statutory Communications Authority ("CA"), the Administration had been conducting basic tasks to lay the foundation for a full review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562. The proposed posts to carry out the review would still be required

whether or not ITB was to be established. The staffing resources in CEDB were not sufficient to undertake the review and to conduct public consultation within the desired timeframe.

39. Mr Charles Peter MOK asked if the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562 would cover the regulation of political advertisement. PSCED(CT) advised that political advertisement would not be a priority area in the review compared with other issues such as cross media ownership restrictions, etc. Mr MOK asked if the Administration would provide details on the scope and priority of the review. PSCED(CT) said that the Administration would report the progress of the review to the Panel as appropriate, and members had already been informed of the issues and their priorities to be covered in the review when CA was set up.

40. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung noted that the Communications and Technology Branch of CEDB would be renamed as the Communications and Creative Industry Branch upon the establishment of ITB. He commented that the nature and scope of work of CEDB would change and he queried whether CEDB would still be responsible for the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562. PSCED(CT) explained that the review of the two ordinances remained under the purview of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of CEDB after the establishment of ITB.

41. Noting that the Administration had carried out background research to prepare for the full review, Ms Emily LAU said that the Administration should have certain initial ideas on the way forward, and should not need to rely on the proposed supernumerary posts, to start the process from scratch. Ms LAU further commented that if the Administration considered that the review of the two ordinances was important, it should have sought the creation of the posts at an earlier stage.

42. PSCED(CT) responded that the Administration had been carrying out necessary background research to prepare for a full review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562. The operational experience gained through three years of the operation of CA since its establishment in 2012 would further facilitate the review.

43. Ms Emily LAU requested the Administration to provide more information to explain the preparation that had been carried out for the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562 before the staffing proposals were submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. PSCED(CT) undertook to elaborate in the submission to the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") on what had been done so far in connection with the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562.

44. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen urged the Administration to expedite the review of the two ordinances as he considered the work long overdue and the two ordinances were already out of touch with realities. Mr CHAN commented that the workload situation in CEDB should be reduced with the transfer of the innovation and technology portfolio to the newly established ITB.

45. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that the workload arising from the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562 should be redistributed among the existing staffing resources in CEDB instead of putting it to a new review team proposed to be established.

46. PSCED(CT) said that staff of CEDB had been fully engaged in work related to creative industries and communications issues, and she had been the main officer in the Bureau who dealt directly with the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. The transfer of innovation and technology portfolio to ITB would not help free resources for the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562.

47. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the timetable and targets the Administration would base on in carrying out the review of the two ordinances. PSCED(CT) explained that if the proposed posts could be created in early 2016, the first phase of public consultation would be launched in mid-2016. In response to further queries from Mr CHAN, PSCED(CT) said that instead of seeking views from the public on how individual ordinance should be updated, the Administration might conduct a series of public consultation with each session focusing on different major common issues, such as cross media ownership restrictions, approving and review mechanism, etc.

48. Ms Emily LAU reminded the Administration that, as the review of Cap. 106 and Cap. 562 was important and could be contentious, early consultation with the Legislative Council on the framework and initial proposals would be necessary.

Summing up

49. The Chairman concluded that the Panel generally recommended the staffing proposal to be submitted to ESC for endorsement.

VII. Any other business

50. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:04 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 January 2016