立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. FC149/17-18 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref : FC/1/1(11)

Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 22nd meeting held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Friday, 24 March 2017, at 5:10 pm

Members present:

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

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP

Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP

Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP

Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP

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

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH

Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Hon IP Kin-yuen

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP

Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP

Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Alvin YEUNG

Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Hon HO Kai-ming

Hon LAM Cheuk-ting

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Hon SHIU Ka-fai

Hon SHIU Ka-chun

Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH

Hon YUNG Hoi-yan

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

Hon CHAN Chun-ying

Hon Tanya CHAN

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon LUK Chung-hung

Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, MH, JP

Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Hon KWONG Chun-yu

Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung

Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim

Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

Members absent:

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon Claudia MO

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP Hon HUI Chi-fung

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

Public officers attending:

Ms Elizabeth TSE Man-yee, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Carol YUEN, 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 Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr Kevin YEUNG Yun-hung, JP	Under Secretary for Education
Dr Catherine CHAN Ka-ki	Deputy Secretary for Education
Mr Sheridan LEE Sha-lun	Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Curriculum Development)
Mr Kenneth LEUNG Tak-yan	Chief Civil Engineer (Public Works Programme), Transport and Housing Bureau
Mr Stephen LEUNG Kin-man	Chief Architect (6), Housing Department
Mr HO Hin-leung	Chief Civil Engineer (1), Housing Department
Mr LAM Sai-hung, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr WAN Man-leung	Principal Project Coordinator (Housing Projects) 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr HON Chi-keung, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Ms Brenda AU Kit-ying	Head of Energizing Kowloon East Office, Development Bureau
Mr Frank WONG Tak-choi	Deputy Head of Energizing Kowloon East Office, Development Bureau
Ms YING Fun-fong, JP	Head (Kai Tak Office), Civil Engineering and Development Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT Assistant Secretary General 1

Staff in attendance:

Mr Derek LO Chief Council Secretary (1)5
Ms Ada LAU Senior Council Secretary (1)7

Mr Raymond SZETO Council Secretary (1)5

Mr Frankie WOO Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3

Miss Yannes HO Legislative Assistant (1)6

Action

Item No.1 — FCR(2016-17)82

HEAD 156 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : EDUCATION BUREAU

Subhead 700 — General non-recurrent

New Item — "One-off grant to secondary schools for promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education"

The meeting continued with the deliberation of item FCR(2016-17)82.

2. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote forthwith. The Chairman declared that the item was approved.

Item No. 2 — FCR(2016-17)83

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS

SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 25 JANUARY 2017

PWSC(2016-17)38

HEAD 711 — HOUSING

Civil Engineering — Land development

778CL — Site formation and infrastructure works for public housing developments at Chung Nga Road and Area 9, Tai Po

3. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the item invited the Finance Committee ("FC") to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") made at its meeting held on 25 January 2017, contained in

PWSC(2016-17)38, concerning the upgrading of part of 778CL, as 813CL on site formation and infrastructure works for public housing developments at Chung Nga Road and Area 9, Tai Po, to Category A, entitled "Site formation and infrastructure works for public housing developments at Chung Nga Road and Area 9, Tai Po – Phase 1" at an estimated cost of \$1,146.8 million in money-of-the-day prices, and the retention of the remainder of 778CL in Category B. Some members had requested that the recommendation should be submitted to FC for separate voting.

Traffic

- 4. Mr CHU Hoi-dick criticized that despite his earlier request for the conduct of a region-wide traffic impact assessment in Tai Po to analyze the impacts of population intake on local traffic as tens of thousands of residents would be brought to the area by the proposed public housing developments, the Administration was only willing to conduct a localized traffic assessment. Mr Alvin YEUNG expressed similar views and pointed out that the Administration had undertaken to the Sha Tin District Council that it would conduct region-wide traffic assessments regularly in the district. He urged the Administration to make the same undertaking to the Tai Po district.
- 5. <u>Chief Civil Engineer (Public Works Programme)</u>, Transport and Housing Bureau ("CCE(PWP)/THB") said that the Administration had submitted a supplementary paper, explaining to members that it had conducted traffic assessments in the surrounding areas of Kwong Fuk Bridge, and that the areas covered by such assessments were extensive, including the town centre and the places nearby. The Transport Department ("TD") would regularly and comprehensively review the traffic conditions in the district, and a study would also be conducted, if necessary. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide written responses to Mr Alvin YEUNG's suggestion.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. FC170/16-17(02) on 12 June 2017.]

- 6. Regarding the traffic impact assessment of the item, Mr Jeremy TAM requested the Administration to explain in detail how the existing reserve capacity ("RC") of the main junctions of the proposed Kwong Fuk Vehicular Bridge compared with the projected RC assessment data upon the completion of the Bridge. He was particularly concerned that the assessment data of the junction between Kwong Fuk Road and Nam Wan Road would not be improved with the proposed construction of the Kwong Fuk Vehicular Bridge, while the situation of traffic volume exceeding traffic capacity would remain unchanged.
- 7. <u>CCE(PWP)/THB</u> explained that in general, according to the definition of the RC assessment data of a main junction, a positive RC indicated that the junction was still operating with spare capacity during peak hours; and a negative RC indicated that there might be traffic congestion at the junction during peak hours. Regarding Mr TAM's concerns about the junction between Kwong Fuk Road and Nam Wan Road, he pointed out that the traffic capacity would be improved with the proposed construction of the Kwong Fuk Vehicular Bridge. Meanwhile, TD was examining other improvement options.
- 8. Mr CHU Hoi-dick remarked that when the item was considered at the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC"), he had pointed out that as Area 9 of Tai Po, where the public housing developments were proposed, and the Fu Heng Estate nearby, were both located far away from MTR stations, the Administration should urge the MTR Corporation Limited ("MTRCL") to provide free feeder bus services for residents of Fu Heng Estate and the proposed public housing developments in the district. However, the Administration and MTRCL had not responded positively so far. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed similar concerns.
- 9. In response, <u>Chief Civil Engineer (1)</u>, <u>Housing Department</u> ("CCE(1)/HD") pointed out that the Administration had reflected the demand for free feeder bus services to relevant public transport operators (including MTRCL) and had encouraged them to provide, without affecting their own operations, concessionary offers for residents in the district concerned. He stressed that the Administration would plan for suitable ancillary transport facilities in the district.

- 10. Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung requested the Administration to undertake to send representatives to Fu Heng Estate to meet with District Council ("DC") members and residents to discuss traffic issues. CCE(1)/HD and Chief Architect (6), Housing Department ("CA(6)/HD") responded that the Administration understood members' concerns about local traffic problems and that the relevant issues were being handled by a working group under the Tai Po District Council. The Administration considered it appropriate to discuss these issues at DCs.
- 11. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's explanations. He opined that as DCs had no real powers, the Administration should respond to members' requests made at FC meetings and meet with the residents concerned in April this year, so as to seek FC's approval for the funding. CCE(PWP)/THB and CCE(1)/HD said that they would discuss the relevant arrangements with the Home Affairs Department and TD as soon as possible.

Public markets

- 12. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung pointed out that even though there were demands in the community for the provision of additional public markets but, constrained by existing policies, the Administration had not proactively considered providing them in the proposed public rental housing ("PRH") estate and had chosen to provide street shops as a compromise. It was known that the street shops to be provided by the Administration in the proposed PRH estate were equivalent to about 30 to 40 market stalls to enhance the financial viability. Mr CHAN asked whether the Administration could increase or decrease the number of street shops as and when necessary.
- 13. <u>CA(6)/HD</u> said that while appreciating members' concerns about the supply of fresh food, the Administration had, on the other hand, conducted a study on the operation of public markets in Tai Po and found that, except for the Tai Po Hui Market which was relatively successful, vacancy problems of different extents persisted in other public markets, and it was anticipated that a similar situation might occur at Area 9 of Tai Po. Therefore, after listening to members' views, the Administration had decided to introduce retail facilities for selling fresh food in the form of street shops in parts of the floor area originally earmarked for the provision of supermarkets, and to increase or decrease the number of street shops in response to the demand.

Concentrations of air pollutants

- 14. <u>Dr YIU Chung-yim</u> was concerned whether the emissions of PM2.5 and sulphur dioxide ("SO₂") at Area 9 of Tai Po complied with the latest emission standards for air pollutants. He requested the Administration to provide information relating to the findings of the measurement of the concentrations of air pollutants, including PM 2.5 and SO₂, carried out by the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") at Tai Po Air Quality Monitoring Station in 2015, and the concentrations of air pollutants, including PM 2.5 and SO₂, measured by EPD at the surrounding of the proposed developments during the above monitoring activities.
- 15. Mr Nathan LAW pointed out that the current environmental assessment report of Area 9 of Tai Po followed the old standards before they were revised in 2014. If the latest standards were followed, it was doubtful whether the annual average emissions of nitrogen dioxide (" NO_2 ") and SO_2 were below the revised standards.
- 16. <u>CCE(1)/HD</u> pointed out that the NO₂ level at Area 9 of Tai Po complied with the requirements of the updated standards. As regards the SO₂ level, <u>CCE(1)/HD</u> explained that fuel combustion was the source of SO₂ in air. In 2013, the consultant adopted a relatively conservative approach in estimating SO₂ concentrations in air by assuming a fuel standard of 0.5% sulphur-content which was the prevailing standard at that time. Subsequently, EPD updated the regulatory system by substantially lowering the permitted sulphur content in fuel to 0.005% in respect of chimney licences. It could therefore be inferred that the SO₂ emission rate would be even lower than the then estimated rate, and such inference tallied with the monitoring data obtained by EPD in 2015.
- 17. <u>Dr YIU Chung-yim</u> requested the Administration to indicate whether the consultancy report of the air quality assessment for the proposed projects in 2013 had mentioned the licence of chimney used in assessing the concentrations of SO₂; if so, which part of the report mentioned the information and what the details were, so as to substantiate the Administration's aforesaid remarks.
- 18. In response, <u>CCE(1)/HD</u> pointed out that the Administration would, as appropriate, provide the information required by Dr YIU Chung-yim as far as practicable.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. FC170/16-17(02) on 12 June 2017.]

Other views

19. <u>Mr Nathan LAW</u> noted that while the number of flats in the proposed public housing developments at Area 9 of Tai Po had increased, the planned total population remained unchanged. This, as explained by the Administration, was due to an increase in the number of one-person and two-person flats. He was concerned that the sizes of different public housing flats might be reduced because of that.

Motions proposed by members under paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure

- 20. At 6:20 pm, the Chairman said that he had received eight motions proposed by Mr CHU Hoi-dick under paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure ("FCP") and ruled that two of them were out of order. He said that after the relevant discussions ended, he would then start dealing with the motions that were ruled in order.
- 21. At 6:24 pm, the Chairman put the motion numbered 0002 proposed by Mr CHU Hoi-dick to the Committee for deciding whether it should be proceeded forthwith. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division, and the division bell was rung for five minutes. Mr CHU's motion was negatived.
- 22. At 6:30 pm, Mr CHAN Hak-kan moved a motion under FCP 47 that in the event of further divisions being claimed in respect of any motions or questions under the same agenda item, FC should proceed to each of such divisions immediately after the division bell had been rung for one minute.
- 23. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> spoke against Mr CHAN Hak-kan's motion.
- 24. There being no further request to speak, the Chairman put the motion to vote. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

25. The Chairman put each of the motions numbered 0004 to 0008 proposed by Mr CHU Hoi-dick to the Committee for deciding whether they should be proceeded forthwith. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division, and the division bell was rung for one minute. The motions were negatived.

Voting on item FCR(2016-17)83

26. At 6:37 pm, there being no further questions from members, <u>the Chairman</u> put the item to vote. <u>The Chairman</u> declared that the item was approved.

Item No. 3 — FCR(2016-17)84

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 26 JANUARY 2017

EC(2016-17)21

HEAD 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Subhead 000 — Operational expenses

27. The Chairman said that the item invited FC to approve the recommendation of the Establishment Subcommittee made at its meeting held on 26 January 2017, i.e. the recommendation contained in EC(2016-17)21 concerning the retention of two supernumerary posts of one Principal Government Town Planner and one Government Architect in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau for four years and nine months with effect from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2022 to continue taking forward the policy initiative of Energizing Kowloon East ("EKE"). Some members had requested that the recommendation should be submitted to FC for separate voting.

Traffic

28. Mr Wilson OR and Mr HO Kai-ming expressed support for the item and had affirmed the work of the Energizing Kowloon East Office ("EKEO"). They hoped that EKEO could coordinate various departments in properly handling traffic problems in the Kwun Tong district. Mr HO Kai-ming indicated his wish that the Administration would improve the accessibility of the area by facilitating Kwun Tong resident in travelling to and from harbourfront areas.

29. Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) ("PSD/W") remarked that to address the impacts of the development of Kowloon East ("KE") on local traffic, several traffic studies and assessments (such as traffic assessment for the crossroads within Kwun Tong Business Area) were underway or had been completed, and some of the shorter-term improvement measures proposed by such studies had been completed. In the longer term, the Central Kowloon Route, Trunk Road T2 and Tseung Kwan O–Lam Tin Tunnel would be conducive to relieving local traffic pressure. Determined to take forward the relevant work, the Administration had submitted applications regarding the extension of operation of EKEO's leadership posts.

Monorail

- 30. <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> enquired about the progress of developing a monorail in the district concerned.
- 31. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> expressed opposition to the development of a monorail, saying that it did not generate environmental and economic benefits and its attractiveness to tourists was in doubt. Besides, the number of successful examples was minimal in the world.
- 32. In response, <u>Head (Kai Tak Office)</u>, <u>Civil Engineering and Development Department</u> ("Head/KTO") said that regarding the concerns of the Legislative Council about the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for KE, the Administration was currently conducting a two-stage assessment under which a decision would be made in the first stage on the more appropriate environmentally friendly transport modes that would be adopted in KE. A public consultation exercise would be conducted within the current year.

Revitalization of industrial buildings in Kowloon East

33. Mr Jeremy TAM said that as various departments would only consult EKEO on their local development plans, he was worried that the latter, taking a passive role, was not able to lead the development of KE. He enquired how EKEO would implement the revitalization of industrial buildings in KE.

- 34. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> was concerned about the incident that "Hidden Agenda", a local art venue, was eradicated by government departments. He asked whether the Administration had studied and taken the initiative in the implementation of the revitalization of industrial buildings in KE and had helped arts groups and cultural workers to apply for licences required for operation. He requested the Administration to provide relevant information. <u>Ms Tanya CHAN</u> expressed similar concerns, saying that the government departments had written to "Hidden Agenda", classifying its operation as offensive trade, but it was disputable whether such allegation complied with relevant laws.
- 35. <u>PSD/W</u> said that he appreciated members' concerns over the retention or otherwise of art venues in industrial buildings in KE. As diversified development was advocated under the EKE initiative, the Administration supported the retention of art venues in industrial buildings provided that they complied with fire safety requirements. <u>Head of Energizing Kowloon East Office, Development Bureau</u> added that applications for revitalization of industrial buildings were submitted by property owners out of their own initiative. Regarding the processing of these applications, there were currently 46 executed or pending executed special waivers, including 4 redevelopment cases and 42 wholesale conversion cases, while 32 wholesale conversion cases were being vetted. The relevant matters were within the ambit of the Lands Department instead of EKEO.
- 36. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> criticized that according to the Administration, the proposed posts would not play a part in promoting the revitalization of industrial buildings. In other words, the Administration had in effect disregarded the adversities faced by art venues, such as "Hidden Agenda".
- 37. In response, <u>PSD/W</u> pointed out that EKEO had an extensive scope of work, covering the promotion of arts and cultural activities. Regarding the case mentioned by members, the group concerned, as he understood, might not comply with the regulations governing the relevant licensing requirements. In general, some other arts and cultural workers had managed to get established in KE. As to the circumstances of individual cases, the Administration was willing to follow up with members after the meeting.

Development of harbourfront areas

- 38. <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> enquired how EKEO promoted the development of harbourfront areas in KE.
- 39. <u>Head/KTO</u> replied that the 11-km long harbourfront site within the Kai Tak Development ("KTD") comprised the Kwun Tong Promenade, which had already been commissioned for use, and the harbourfront site in Cha Kwo Ling. The Administration was currently carrying out studies on the waterfront areas in KTD with a view to developing various sites under different themes to tie in with the planning and design of the district. <u>PSD/W</u> added that the planning of various harbourfront projects under the EKE Initiative, such as the Hoi Bun Road Park Improvement project and the Tsui Ping River project, was underway, and these projects would be implemented gradually.
- 40. Mr Jeremy TAM said that to his understanding, the scope of the EKE initiative covered Cha Kwo Ling. He noted that while EKEO did not object to the Vocational Training Council ("VTC")'s proposal of constructing its campus in the harbourfront area of the site, the relevant DC had stated its opposition to the proposal. He queried that EKEO did not understand public sentiments.
- 41. Mr HO Kai-ming urged the Administration to consider expanding the scope of the EKE initiative to cover such areas as the proposed VTC campus site in Cha Kwo Ling, so as to address local residents' concerns over the impacts of the proposed campus on local traffic and other impacts.
- 42. <u>PSD/W</u> replied that the amendments made to the Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan in relation to the proposed campus were exhibited for public inspection on 17 February 2017, and members of the public might make written representation. There would be three weeks' time for receiving the public's views on such representation. In response to Mr HO Kai-ming's suggestion, <u>PSD/W</u> pointed out that the scope of the EKE initiative, at the time of formulation, did not cover residential areas, but relatively old areas for commercial and industrial uses were included. However, the Administration would also consider the development needs of the surrounding areas.
- 43. In response to Mr Jeremy TAM's further questions, <u>PSD/W</u> said that it was inappropriate for EKEO to indicate support or otherwise for the project concerning the construction of VTC's campus.

<u>Action</u> - 14 -

Close of meeting

- 44. At 7:10 pm, the Chairman declared that the meeting ended.
- 45. The meeting ended at 7:10 pm.

<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 23 February 2018