

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. FC147/18-19  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : FC/1/1(26)

**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**  
**on Friday, 1 June 2018, at 4:00 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
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, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Kenneth LEUNG  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP  
Hon HO Kai-ming  
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai  
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 HUI Chi-fung  
Hon LUK Chung-hung  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu  
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon AU Nok-hin  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

**Members absent:**

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

**Public officers attending:**

Ms Alice LAU Yim, 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 Mike CHENG Wai-man	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Dr Bernard CHAN Pak-li, JP	Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Ms Salina YAN Mei-mei, JP	Director-General of Trade and Industry
Ms Belinda WONG Yuen-yung	Assistant Director-General of Trade and Industry (Industries Support)
Mr Andrew AU Sik-hung, JP	Government Economist, Financial Secretary's Office
Mr Adolph LEUNG Wing-sing, JP	Deputy Government Economist, Financial Secretary's Office
Mr Benny LUI Kai-yin	Principal Economist (3), Financial Secretary's Office
Mr Desmond HOU Ka-chun	Principal Economist (4), Financial Secretary's Office
Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP	Under Secretary for Food and Health
Mr Ian CHIN Cheuk-hong	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health) 6
Dr Cindy LAI Kit-lim, JP	Deputy Director of Health
Dr Heston KWONG Kwok-wai, JP	Head, Emergency Response and Information Branch, Department of Health
Dr CHEUNG Ngai-tseung	Head of Information Technology and Health Informatics, Hospital Authority
Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP	Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Ms Eugenia CHUNG Nga-chi, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)
Mrs Dorothy MA CHOW Pui-fun, JP	District Officer (Southern), Home Affairs Department

**Other persons attending:**

Mr CHU Ching-hong, JP Prof Jimmy LAI Shiu-ming	Chairman, Southern District Council Clinical Chair Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
Dr Ian WONG Yat-hin	Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
Mr LUK Chi-keung	Director (Accessible Transport and Travel), The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
Mr TAO Hing-yip	Senior Manager (Easy-Access Travel and Transport), The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Ms Ada LAU	Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Mr Raymond SZETO	Council Secretary (1)5
Miss Queenie LAM	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Miss Yannes HO	Legislative Assistant (1)6

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Action

The Chairman reminded members of the requirements under Rules 83A and 84 of the Rules of Procedure.

**Item 1 — FCR(2018-19)19**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 9 AND 12 MAY 2018**

**PWSC(2018-19)5**

**HEAD 703 — BUILDINGS**

**Recreation, Culture and Amenities — Cultural facilities**

- 65RE — New Territories East Cultural Centre in Area 11, Fanling**
- 72RE — Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre in Area 109, Tin Shui Wai**

**PWSC(2018-19)6**

**HEAD 707 — NEW TOWNS AND URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT**

**Recreation, Culture and Amenities — Sport facilities**

- 268RS — Cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun**

**PWSC(2018-19)7**

**HEAD 703 — BUILDINGS**

**Government Office — Intra-government Services**

- 120KA — Building a Government Data Centre Complex**
- 121KA — Joint-user Government Office Building in Cheung Sha Wan—construction**

**PWSC(2018-19)9**

**HEAD 703 — BUILDINGS**

**Environmental Hygiene — Burial grounds, columbaria and crematoria**

- 23NB — Provision of columbarium at Cape Collinson Road in Chai Wan**
- 26NB — Expansion of Wo Hop Shek Crematorium**

**PWSC(2018-19)10**

**HEAD 709 — WATERWORKS**

**Water Supplies — Fresh water supplies**

- 355WF — Water supply to new housing developments in Sheung Shui and Fanling**
- 365WF — Siu Ho Wan water treatment works extension**

**Water Supplies — Combined fresh/salt water supplies**

- 196WC — Implementation of Water Intelligent Network**
- 201WC — Relocation of Diamond Hill fresh water and salt water service reservoirs to caverns**

2. The Chairman advised that this item sought the approval of the Finance Committee ("FC") for the recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made at its meetings held on 9 and 12 May 2018, i.e. the

recommendations in PWSC(2018-19)5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. No member requested separate voting for the recommendations at FC meetings.

3. The Chairman declared that he was an independent non-executive director of The Bank of East Asia.

4. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman thought that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of this item. He declared that the item was approved.

**Item 2 — FCR(2018-19)15**

**HEAD 181 — TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT**

**Subhead 700 — General non-recurrent**

**Item 524 — SME Export Marketing and Development Funds**

**Item 836 — Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales**

5. The Chairman said that this item invited FC to approve the following changes to Head 181 "Trade and Industry Department" Subhead 700 "General non-recurrent":

- (i) Item 524 SME Export Marketing and Development Funds: increased the approved commitment from \$5.25 billion by \$1 billion to \$6.25 billion, and renamed the item as "Export Marketing and Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund" ("EMTSF"); and
- (ii) Item 836 Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales ("BUD Fund"): increased the approved commitment from \$1 billion by \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion and extended the coverage of the funding support to markets within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN").

6. The Chairman informed members that the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") consulted the Panel on Commerce and Industry on the relevant proposals on 20 March 2018.

7. Expressing support for the item, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that the number of applications from small and medium enterprises ("SMEs") submitted under EMTSF and the BUD Fund would increase after the implementation of enhancement measures. He was concerned about whether the Trade and Industry Department ("TID") and the Hong Kong

Productivity Council ("HKPC") had sufficient manpower to cope with the increased workload. Mr CHAN was also concerned about whether the funding control mechanism would be overly complicated, thereby deterring potential SMEs from making applications.

8. Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("USCED") said that with the implementation of enhancement measures under the BUD Fund, it was envisaged that the number of applications would increase. To cope with increasing workload arising from it, the relevant funding to be provided to HKPC annually would be increased to \$18 million. At the same time, the Administration would closely monitor the use of relevant resources and its effectiveness. On the other hand, to facilitate applications for financial assistance by enterprises, the Administration had endeavoured to simplify the procedures and contents of the interim and final reports to be submitted by approved projects.

#### Export Marketing and Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund

9. In response to Mr AU Nok-hin's enquiries, USCED said that the Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund ("TSF"), to be formed by a merger of the SME Development Fund ("SDF") and the Organisation Support Programme under the BUD Fund, did not have geographic restrictions.

10. Expressing support for the item, Mr Charles Peter MOK said that the current amount of funding provided by the Continuing Education Fund was too low, while SDF aimed to assist organizations to organize activities for SMEs only. These measures were ineffective in supporting the pursuit of further studies by in-service employees. He considered it necessary for the Administration to inject funds into SME Training Fund again in order to strengthen the provision of support for in-service training for employees.

11. USCED responded that a number of training initiatives for SMEs had been funded under SDF, while the Government had also put in place other initiatives to provide training subsidies for employees, such as the programmes offered by the Employees Retraining Board, the Continuing Education Fund, etc.

12. Mr CHAN Chun-ying was concerned about whether the needs of SMEs could be addressed after increasing the cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under SME Export Marketing Fund ("EMF"). In addition, he also enquired whether SMEs could collaborate in taking forward approved projects in order to make the best use of the approved funds.

13. In reply, Director-General of Trade and Industry ("DGTI") said that among existing SME applicants, around 8 300 enterprises had currently used up the original cumulative grant of \$150,000, which was evident that EMF was popular among SMEs. It was therefore suggested that the cumulative funding ceiling be increased to \$400,000. USCED added that under the TSF to be formed, trade associations might take the lead in participating in various trade fairs and exhibitions together with SMEs.

14. Mr CHAN Chun-ying opined that the Administration should study whether the funding ceiling of EMF was reasonable.

15. Mr SHIU Ka-fai advised that the Internet had changed the way in which the market operated and the profitability of local SMEs had also been affected to a certain extent. He enquired about the measures put in place by the Administration to promote the brands of Hong Kong on the Internet.

16. USCED responded that fully recognizing the importance of the Internet in exploring business opportunities, the Administration sought to provide financial assistance, through the establishment of EMF, for SMEs to make use of various electronic platforms to engage in export promotion so as to open up overseas markets for the brands of Hong Kong. The number of applications for engaging in promotional activities on electronic platforms was on a rising trend. In addition, under the "G2G" (Government to Government) approach, senior officials would take the initiative to visit places outside Hong Kong and liaise with their local authorities, thereby leading SMEs in Hong Kong to expand their business to markets outside Hong Kong.

17. Noting that EMF would provide financial support for SMEs to participate in local and overseas trade fairs and exhibitions, business missions, etc., Mr James TO was concerned about the arrangements for and coverage of the business missions being funded, and whether there would be a risk of abusive use of the grants.

18. Assistant Director-General of Trade and Industry (Industries Support)("ADGTI(IS)") responded that applications for grants should be submitted after completion of the business missions together with the requisite supporting information for reimbursement of individual expenditure items (such as the full company names of applicant enterprises and participating representatives, and the name cards of overseas buyers collected during the sessions) to prove that the business mission included one-on-one business matching sessions. Moreover, the participants of the business missions must be the employees of the enterprises. The



Administration would conduct further investigations into suspected abusive cases.

19. In response to Mr TO's further enquiries, ADGTI(IS) said that the Administration would not verify the details of those event expenses that had not been declared to the Administration.

Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales

20. Mr Charles Peter MOK, Mr AU Nok-hin and Mr Jimmy NG opined that the development of enterprises should not be geographically confined, and urged the Administration to extend the geographical scope of the BUD Fund to countries beyond ASEAN. Mr NG opined that with enhanced funding amount for approved projects under the BUD Fund, more funding support could be provided to enterprises. To dovetail with State strategies, the BUD Fund should also cover countries along the "Belt and Road" Initiative. Ms Claudia MO enquired about whether the Administration had considered extending the geographical scope of the BUD Fund to India or other Central Asian countries under the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

21. USCED responded that while the BUD Fund aimed to help enterprises to broaden its business to more markets, the Administration was of the view that, according to trading data, the ASEAN market was a fast-growing market, and more business opportunities would be brought by the signing of a Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN. After surveying and studying the needs of the industries, the Administration decided to take a prudent approach by first extending the geographical scope of the BUD Fund to the ASEAN market. Having regard to its operational experiences and upon gaining an understanding of market development, the Administration would, in future, review whether the scope of the BUD Fund should be further expanded to other markets. Moreover, the Administration had also put in place other initiatives to provide financial assistance for the industries, such as EMF and the soon-to-be-launched TSF, and both of which were free from geographical restrictions. The industries could consider applying for financial assistance under the relevant funding schemes to expand its business to, inter alia, markets outside ASEAN. Regarding the "Belt and Road" Initiative, there were a number of programmes that might provide appropriate assistance, such as the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme.

22. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiries, USCED responded that, under the existing proposal, the cumulative funding ceiling for enterprises

under the ASEAN programme was \$1 million and the number of approved projects was capped at 10 to provide funding and flexibility for applicant enterprises to develop new markets.

23. Mr AU Nok-hin queried that the 10-nation ASEAN bloc was not the largest economic and trade partner of Hong Kong. DGTI responded that the 10-nation ASEAN bloc was Hong Kong's second largest trading partner in merchandise trade in terms of total trade volume.

24. Mr Holden CHOW was concerned about the reactions of local enterprises to the extension of geographical scope of the BUD Fund. He opined that the Administration should strengthen the bilateral economic and trade ties between Hong Kong and ASEAN. USCED responded that the Administration had been actively exploring the ASEAN markets. The CE had, during her visits to various ASEAN countries with representatives of local enterprises, succeeded in securing business matching.

25. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan and Mr YIU Si-wing were concerned about the applications for and usage of the BUD Fund. Mr CHUNG was worried that the resources available for projects targeting at other regions (e.g. the Mainland) would be thinned out if the approved projects under the BUD Fund focused on projects within ASEAN.

26. USCED and DGTI responded that about 74% of the approved commitment under BUD Fund had already been used so far, and a total of 1 230 applications had been approved under the Enterprise Support Programme. The average amount of funding approved for each application was around \$300,000. Regarding the Organisation Support Programme, the average amount of funding approved for each application was about \$3 million. It was anticipated that the proposed injection, if approved, would be able to sustain its operation up to 2023-2024. Enterprises could submit separate applications for projects targeting at different regions, and having regard to the need for the market to adjust itself, there was no cap for the total amount of funding to be allocated for individual regions. The BUD Fund could provide financial assistance for manufacturers in the Mainland to facilitate the procurement of machinery required for upgrading and transformation.

27. Expressing support for the item, Mr Jimmy NG advised that instead of the current practice of setting funding ceilings per enterprise/per project, the Administration should provide financial assistance in the form of a revolving funding line. USCED responded that the current practice was similar to a revolving funding line as an enterprise might make more than one application.

A motion proposed by a member under paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure

28. At 5:02 pm, there being no further questions from members, the Chairman directed that FC should vote on whether the motion proposed by Mr AU Nok-hin under paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure should be proceeded with forthwith. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes. The Chairman declared that the question on proceeding with the motion forthwith was negatived.

Voting on FCR(2018-19)15

29. At 5:08 pm, the Chairman put the item to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division, and the division bell was rung for five minutes. The Chairman declared that 40 members voted in favour of and two members voted against it. One member abstained from voting. The votes of individual members were as follows:

*For:*

Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long	Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Mr CHAN Hak-kan	Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Ms Claudia MO	Mr Steven HO Chun-yin
Mr YIU Si-wing	Mr MA Fung-kwok
Mr Charles Peter MOK	Mr CHAN Han-pan
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung	Mr Kenneth LEUNG
Ms Alice MAK Mei-kuen	Mr KWOK Wai-keung
Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung	Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan
Mr IP Kin-yuen	Mr POON Siu-ping
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok	Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan
Mr Alvin YEUNG	Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Mr HO Kai-ming	Mr LAM Cheuk-ting
Mr Holden CHOW Ho-ding	Mr SHIU Ka-fai
Mr Wilson OR Chong-shing	Ms YUNG Hoi-yan
Dr Pierre CHAN	Mr CHAN Chun-ying
Ms Tanya CHAN	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan
Mr HUI Chi-fung	Mr LUK Chung-hung
Mr LAU Kwok-fan	Mr KWONG Chun-yu
Mr Jeremy TAM Man-ho	Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Mr AU Nok-hin	Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen
(40 members)	

*Against:*

Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung      Mr CHU Hoi-dick  
(2 members)

*Abstained:*

Dr CHENG Chung-tai  
(1 member)

30.     The Chairman declared that the item was approved.

**Item 3       — FCR(2018-19)16**  
**RECOMMENDATION       OF       THE       ESTABLISHMENT**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 2 MAY 2018**

**EC(2017-18)20**  
**HEAD 142 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : OFFICES OF THE**  
**CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION AND**  
**THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

**Subhead 000 — Operational Expenses**

31.     The Chairman advised that the item sought FC's approval for the recommendation of the Establishment Subcommittee, set out in EC(2017-18)20, made at its meeting held on 2 May 2018 regarding the creation of one permanent Principal Economist (D2) post in the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit under the Financial Secretary's Office with effect from 1 April 2018 or with immediate effect upon approval by the FC (whichever is the later) for leading a newly established team to support the fifth-term Government's policy priority on diversifying the economy and boosting Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness.

32.     At 5:14 pm, there being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman thought that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of this item. He declared that the item was approved.

**Item 4       — FCR(2018-19)17**  
**CAPTIAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**  
**HEAD 710 — COMPUTERISATION**  
**Department of Health**  
**New Subhead — "Information Technology Enhancement Project of**  
**the Department of Health"**

33. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve the creation of a new commitment of \$1,057,134,000 for implementation of an information technology ("IT") enhancement project for the Department of Health ("DH").

34. At the invitation of the Chairman, Prof Joseph LEE, Chairman of the Panel on Health Services, said that the Panel on Health Services discussed the proposed IT enhancement project of DH at its meeting held on 24 April 2018. Members of the Panel had no objection to the Administration's submission of its proposal to FC for consideration. Members of the Panel generally supported the direction of four key initiatives under the first stage of "Strategic Plan to Re-engineer and Transform Public Services", namely improving DH's clinical services; establishing relevant business support and enablement systems; setting up IT infrastructure for the new systems; and studying the project's future developments. However, members of the Panel expressed concern over how the Strategic Plan would enhance the efficiency and quality of DH's clinical and healthcare services, and how it would strengthen sharing of medical records between the public and the private healthcare sectors and big data analytics, so as to assist the Administration in the formulation of healthcare policy. Some members of the Panel considered that the Administration should provide more concrete information on the details and manpower requirements of the Strategic Plan. Other members requested that, while engaging the Hospital Authority ("HA") to serve as the technical agency for Clinical Services Improvement, the Administration should ensure that the local private IT sector could participate in the research and development ("R&D") of the relevant systems.

35. Mr Charles Peter MOK expressed support for the item, and acknowledged DH's direction of systems enhancement. He expected that the information systems of DH would align with HA's system, so that these systems could develop at the same pace.

36. Dr Helena WONG said that the Democratic Party supported the item. She asked whether there were any effectiveness indicators under the item and how DH's services might be improved.

37. Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") and Deputy Director of Health said that the proposed systems involved the establishment of an electronic platform on which patients' records (such as information about vaccination and antenatal check-up) could be shared between all DH clinics and HA, so that patients no longer had to bring along their medical records when seeking medical consultations at HA hospitals, thereby substantially enhancing the transparency of medical

records and the continuity of healthcare services. Moreover, the consolidated medical records would be conducive to DH's analysis of information on various diseases, thereby bringing benefits to the promotion of public health.

38. Expressing support for the item, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok pointed out that the Mainland had actively deployed resources on R&D of medical applications, with numerous achievements in such areas as electronic information handling, image recognition and big data analytics, which were conducive to the development of public health management. Relatively speaking, Hong Kong had a slow start in this respect, as it was still at the stage of developing electronic information systems. Ir Dr LO enquired about the Administration's plans to promote R&D of medical applications more effectively.

39. Noting Ir Dr LO's views, USFH pointed out that this item was intended to facilitate the consolidation of the currently fragmented medical systems and data within DH to sustain their further development in future. Furthermore, HA was currently developing a big data analytics platform which would serve as a source of reference for DH's clinical data analytics in future.

40. Mr Charles Peter MOK was concerned about how outside parties (including system developers) would be engaged in the course of system development, so that they could share the knowledge of the relevant professional systems. In reply, USFH said that system developers could acquire the relevant knowledge by taking part in system development work.

#### Electronic Health Record Sharing System

41. Expressing support for the item, Mr LUK Chung-hung asked how patients could conveniently access their electronic medical history via the Electronic Health Record Sharing System ("eHRSS"), so as to enable the private healthcare sector to follow up on their cases. Mr LUK was also concerned about whether eHRSS's interface could take care of the needs of ethnic minority groups.

42. USFH replied that subject to the provisions under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), all patients could apply for access to their own medical records. The Administration would also explore the possibility of strengthening information sharing by electronic means, in order to facilitate communication between healthcare staff and patients (including ethnic minority patients).

43. Dr Helena WONG was concerned about whether the Administration could adhere to the policy direction of patient records sharing, and requested that the Administration should take the opportunity of implementing a licensing regime for private healthcare facilities under the Private Healthcare Facilities Bill to make it a mandatory requirement that private hospitals and day care clinics must join eHRSS.

44. USFH responded that the Private Healthcare Facilities Bill aimed to regulate the operation of private healthcare facilities, and was not necessarily related directly to eHRSS. It might not be appropriate to make it a mandatory requirement that private healthcare facilities must join eHRSS. The Administration believed that private healthcare facilities would voluntarily join eHRSS if they considered that doing so would benefit their operation.

Voting on FCR(2018-19)17

45. At 5:37 pm, there being no further questions from members and a lack of quorum, the Chairman ordered that the quorum bell be rung.

46. At 5:38 pm, as a quorum was present, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman stated that he believed the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. He declared that the item was approved.

**Item No. 5 — FCR(2018-19)18**

**HEAD 63 — HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

**Subhead 700 — General non-recurrent**

**New Item — "Signature Project Scheme (Southern District) — Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services"**

**New Item — "Signature Project Scheme (Southern District) — Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services"**

47. The Chairman said that this item sought FC's approval for the creation of two new commitments of \$50.1 million and \$49.9 million under Head 63—"Home Affairs Department" for "Signature Project Scheme (Southern District)—Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services" and "Signature Project Scheme (Southern District)—Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services" respectively.

48. The Chairman informed members that the Home Affairs Bureau consulted the Panel on Home Affairs on the relevant proposals on 21 December 2017.

49. Dr Helena WONG declared that she was a lecturer of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

50. Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Ms Claudia MO noted that the Southern District Council ("SDC") had reversed its own decisions by giving up the original projects proposed under the Signature Project Scheme, and giving the green light to the two newly proposed projects. Mr CHU enquired about the decision-making process of SDC and the reasons for reversing its own decisions.

51. Mr CHU Ching-hong, Chairman of SDC, explained that SDC approved the Fisherman Cultural Centre project in 2013 and conducted an open tender exercise in 2014. However, by the closing date of the open tender exercise, only two proposals were received and only one of them fulfilled the requirement of being a non-profit-making organization. However, the partner organization requested an annual management fee of \$800,000 while the Government provided venue for the operation of the Fisherman Cultural Centre at a nominal rent of \$1. SDC considered it an unfair arrangement and decided to turn down the proposal. SDC later decided to shelve the original project and adopt the current projects. Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") added that District Councils were responsible for spearheading the Signature Project Scheme. The above changes were decided by SDC and the Government had no specific position on the issue.

52. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that upon expiry of the five-year period, the two projects had to continue their services either on a self-financing basis or with support from alternative funding sources. He enquired about the time when the Administration and SDC would review the effectiveness of the projects, so that these popular services could be continued or regularized in a timely manner.

53. USHA responded that the Government would review the Signature Project Scheme and the review results would be shared among relevant bureaux and departments. For the projects in the Southern District, to ensure the smooth operation of the projects, the operators were required to submit quarterly progress reports to SDC and annual audited financial reports to the Government respectively.



Signature Project Scheme (Southern District)—Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services

54. Dr Helena WONG said that the Democratic Party supported the project. She was concerned that regarding ophthalmic examination services, optometrists and registered ophthalmologists were responsible for different examinations and tests. Cases examined by optometrists could only be referred to HA upon referrals by registered ophthalmologists. Pointing out that the above arrangement was different from those adopted by other places outside Hong Kong where optometrists could refer patients to healthcare facilities for follow-up care, she criticized the Administration for degrading the assessment ability and qualifications of the professionally-trained optometrists. Prof Joseph LEE expressed similar views and pointed out that optometrists possessed the professional qualifications to conduct eye care examinations and make preliminary assessments.

55. Prof Jimmy LAI Shiu-ming, Clinical Chair Professor of Department of Ophthalmology of Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong ("HKU Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine"), responded that under the current medical policy, the duty of optometrists was to conduct eye care examinations and submit the examination reports to registered ophthalmologists for follow-up diagnosis. Registered ophthalmologists would refer the cases to HA if necessary, and optometrists would not make diagnosis. Dr Ian WONG Yat-hin, Clinical Associate Professor of Department of Ophthalmology of HKU Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, added that optometrists could make preliminary assessments but it required registered ophthalmologists to provide more sophisticated diagnosis and referral services. Although the project would not provide medical treatments for participants, registered ophthalmologists would, as appropriate, give advice to participants on the follow-up care required. Dr Helena WONG urged that the Administration should, in collaboration with HKU and HA, review the current policy of not allowing registered optometrists to refer patients to the Eye Out-Patient Clinics under HA.

*[Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. FC314/17-18(01) on 19 July 2018.]*

56. The Chairman pointed out that the above questions involved broad policy issues.

57. In response to Ms Claudia MO's enquiries about manpower arrangement of the project, Dr Ian WONG Yat-hin, Clinical Associate Professor of Department of Ophthalmology of HKU Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, said that the expected number of examinations to be handled under the project would be around 5 000 a year. In order to ensure the deployment of sufficient manpower to cope with the great volume of work arising from the project, they would employ a team of 12 people including two ophthalmologists, two optometrists, one registered nurse, and a number of technical assistants, project managers and secretariat assistants. The manpower resources had been benchmarked against those of ophthalmic clinics of a similar scale.

58. Ms Claudia MO urged the Administration to extend the coverage of the project to ophthalmic outpatient services, so that those members of the public who had received eye examinations did not need to go through complicated procedures before they could receive necessary treatments.

59. Mr CHU Ching-hong, Chairman of SDC, responded that SDC had considered extending the project to cover ophthalmic outpatient services. However, as ophthalmic outpatient services were currently provided by HA, SDC considered that the coverage of the current project was appropriate, having regard to the principle of prudent use of public money and avoidance of duplication of resources.

Signature Project Scheme (Southern District)—Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services

60. Expressing support for the item, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung was concerned about whether the operation and manpower deployment of the shuttle bus/rehabilitation bus services were sufficient to meet the service demand in the Southern District.

61. USHA responded that SDC and the operator would strive to ensure service quality. At the initial stage, the relevant services would be delivered with flexibility on the basis of the booking and vacancy situation. Project details would be adjusted having regard to the data collected and the experiences gained in the first three months of operation to ensure that the project could provide service for those who had genuine needs.

Voting on FCR(2018-19)18

62. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes. The Chairman

declared that 29 members voted in favour of and no member voted against the item. The votes of individual members were as follows

*For:*

Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung	Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long
Mr WONG Ting-kwong	Ms Starry LEE Wai-king
Mr CHAN Hak-kan	Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mr Steven HO Chun-yin	Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Mr YIU Si-wing	Mr Charles Peter MOK
Mr CHAN Chi-chuen	Mr CHAN Han-pan
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung	Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung
Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan	Dr Elizabeth QUAT
Mr POON Siu-ping	Mr Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Mr SHIU Ka-fai	Mr Wilson OR Chong-shing
Ms YUNG Hoi-yan	Dr Pierre CHAN
Mr CHAN Chun-ying	Mr LUK Chung-hung
Mr LAU Kwok-fan	Dr CHENG Chung-tai
Mr KWONG Chun-yu	Mr AU Nok-hin
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen	
(29 members)	

63. The Chairman declared that the item was approved.
64. The meeting ended at 6:19 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat  
9 April 2019