

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/18-19

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Wednesday, 19 December 2018, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP (Chairman)
Hon AU Nok-hin (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, 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 CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
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, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members attending : Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming

Member absent : Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP

Public Officers attending : Item III

The Administration

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr Kesson LEE
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)¹

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Professor Adrian WALTER
Director

Professor Gillian CHOA
Dean, School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts

Mr YUEN Cheuk-wa
Head of Media Design and Technology

Item IV

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Sandy CHEUNG Pui-shan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)²

Mr CHAN Shing-wai
Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Paulina CHAN Shuk-man
Museum Director (Science Museum)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Item V

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Sandy CHEUNG Pui-shan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)²

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Miss Rochelle LAU Shuk-fan
Assistant Director (Libraries and Development)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr LEE Tsz-chun
Chief Librarian (Computerization and Special Duties)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Angela LO Yim-po
Senior Information Technology Manager 3
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

Staff in attendance : Miss Connie AU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mrs Fonny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

I. Information papers issued since the last meeting
[LC Paper No. CB(2)363/18-19(01)]

Members noted Mr MA Fung-kwok's letter dated 29 November 2018 to the Panel issued after the last meeting.

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II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)448/18-19(01) and (02)]

2. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 28 January 2019 at 8:30 am:

- (a) the Community Care Fund; and
- (b) review of the remuneration package for District Council members.

III. Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality/Mixed Reality Research Laboratory in the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

[LC Paper No. CB(2)448/18-19(03)]

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)448/18-19(03)]. With the aid of Powerpoint, representatives of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("HKAPA") briefed members on HKAPA's proposal for setting up a virtual reality/augmented reality/mixed reality ("VR/AR/MR") research laboratory in its School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts with an estimated cost of \$16 million.

(Post-meeting note: the presentation materials were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)501/18-19(01) on 20 December 2018.)

Discussion

4. Members in general expressed support for the proposed laboratory and urged HKAPA to keep abreast of the development in VR/AR/MR technologies in planning for the proposed laboratory. Mr Tony TSE enquired if provision was made for revamping the equipment of the proposed laboratory under this funding proposal to keep pace with technological development in future. Mr TSE and Mr YIU Si-wing also enquired about the details of the tendering arrangements for the proposed project.

5. The Director of HKAPA ("Director, HKAPA") responded that the support of up-to-date equipment was instrumental to the course delivery,

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particularly for programmes offered by the School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts, in synergy with all other Schools through collaborative projects and researches. Head of Media Design and Technology of HKAPA ("Head/MD&T, HKAPA") said that it was planned to invite tenders for the equipment in two stages to ensure that equipment with the latest available technology would be procured. USHA said that a contingency sum of about 7% was built into the estimated cost of the proposed laboratory to cater for increases in prices and minor enhancements. However, there was no provision made for revamping of equipment.

Admin 6. Noting that the additional recurrent expenditure of the proposed laboratory was estimated at about \$650,000 per annum, Mr Charles MOK and the Chairman were concerned if sufficient manpower would be deployed to run the proposed laboratory. USHA responded that the additional recurrent expenditure would mainly include expenses associated with the daily operation of the proposed laboratory (e.g. routine maintenance and repairs), which would be absorbed by HKAPA within the existing level of annual subvention. Dean, School of Theatre and Entertainment Arts of HKAPA ("Dean/T&EA, HKAPA") said that there was no need for additional staff to run the proposed laboratory in the next few years as the work would be taken up by the existing team of technicians and supporting staff of HKAPA. At the request of the Deputy Chairman, the Administration agreed to provide details of the recurrent expenditure and the disposal arrangements for equipment acquired under the proposed project upon the end of their serviceable life.

(Post-meeting note: the Administration's response was issued to members on 13 February 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)789/18-19(01).)

7. Mr SHIU Ka-chun asked why HKAPA had not planned for the provision of the proposed laboratory under its recently completed On-Campus Expansion ("OCE") project. In response, Dean/T&EA, HKAPA and Head/MD&T, HKAPA explained that when the OCE project was contemplated a few years ago, it was not yet an opportune time to introduce the new facility for technical reasons. Head/MD&T, HKAPA added that in recent years, VR/AR/MR technologies had advanced considerably and become more affordable. HKAPA saw the need to set up the proposed laboratory to provide the relevant training to students by converting and reconfiguring an existing studio/laboratory space of about 120 net assignable square metres on the Wan Chai campus.

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8. Mr MA Fung-kwok and Ms Tanya CHAN supported the development and application of VR/AR/MR technologies in performing arts. Mr MA proposed that HKAPA should consider offering short-term training programmes for relevant practitioners to enhance their understanding of VR/AR/MR technologies. Director, HKAPA responded that HKAPA attached great importance to collaboration with the industry and related organizations. HKAPA anticipated that the proposed laboratory would be utilized by the Academy at about 1 500 hours per academic year. USHA said that the Administration would encourage HKAPA to further increase the utilization of the new facility where circumstances permitted to enhance support for the industry. Dean/T&EA, HKAPA said that depending on the actual operation of the proposed laboratory after its commissioning, HKAPA would consider offering short-term training programmes to relevant practitioners as appropriate.

9. Mr Charles MOK and the Chairman suggested that HKAPA might consider collaborating with local universities in enhancing the use of VR/AR/MR technologies in performances. Mr MA Fung-kwok considered that the use of VR/AR/MR technologies in performances would bring the Hong Kong performing arts sector to new heights and he suggested providing the relevant facilities in the Lyric Theatre and/or the Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre of HKAPA as well. Mr IP Kin-yuen enquired if the proposed laboratory could be used for staging performances. Mr IP and Ms Tanya CHAN also enquired whether the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") would provide relevant facilities in their performance venues.

10. USHA responded that for existing performance venues, LCSD would explore the updating of the relevant facilities during major overhauls while small-scale enhancements could also be considered if appropriate. Head/MD&T, HKAPA said that the proposed laboratory would be used mainly for teaching to equip students with the skill sets in VR/AR/MR technologies as well as supporting the development of relevant technologies in live performances through interdisciplinary researches and collaborative projects. Head/MD&T, HKAPA further said that demonstrations could be performed in the proposed laboratory for invited guests but it could not be used to stage performances as the venue did not have a Places of Public Entertainment Licence. He added that in considering the provision of large-scale VR/AR/MR facilities in the performance venues of HKAPA, cost-effectiveness and demand had to be taken into account.

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11. The Chairman concluded that members raised no objection to the submission of the funding proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC") for consideration.

IV. Enhancement of programming, audience building, and renewal of permanent exhibitions of Hong Kong Science Museum
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)448/18-19(04) and (05)]

12. USHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)448/18-19(04)]. Members noted that the total funding required for the proposed five-year programme to replace/upgrade the exhibits in five permanent exhibition galleries of the Hong Kong Science Museum ("HKScM") was estimated at \$20 million.

Discussion

13. Mr MA Fung-kwok, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr Charles MOK, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Mr HO Kai-ming, Mr KWONG Chun-yu and the Deputy Chairman questioned if the estimated amount of required funding was adequate for a genuine overhaul of the permanent exhibitions of HKScM to keep up with the latest scientific and technological advancements. They expressed concern that many of the permanent exhibition galleries of HKScM had not undergone any major renewal since HKScM's opening in 1991. They requested the Administration to renew HKScM's permanent exhibition galleries at more regular intervals to replace outdated exhibits.

14. USHA explained that HKScM had record-breaking attendance levels and played an important educational role for local students. To avoid disruption to public attendance, the Administration considered it necessary for the renewal works of the permanent exhibition galleries to be conducted in phases. The Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums) ("AD(H&M")) said that the proposed funding requirement was to cover the costs for replacement/upgrading selected exhibits in only five of the 16 permanent exhibition galleries, while the renewal of the remaining galleries would be funded separately. In response to the Deputy Chairman's view, AD(H&M) said that given the anticipated high level of usage, extra efforts would be made in the tendering process to ensure the durability and safety of the new exhibits.

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Admin 15. The Chairman and Mr HO Kai-ming requested the Administration to conduct a strategic review of the long-term development of HKScM, with a view to sustaining HKScM's appeal to the public and keeping pace with technological change. Mr Charles MOK suggested that in renewing HKScM's exhibition galleries, the Administration should make reference to overseas science museums such as the London Science Museum and California Academy of Sciences, and consult the innovation and technology sector in Hong Kong. The Chairman considered that HKScM should seek views from the Education Bureau and the Innovation and Technology Bureau on its renewal programme. He requested the Administration to provide more details of the replaced and new contents of the permanent exhibitions under the proposed five-year programme.

16. USHA said that HKScM played a strategic role to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ("STEM") education. Relevant bureaux and trades would be consulted on HKScM's renewal programme, while the Museum Advisory Committee and its subcommittees comprising experts from relevant fields would offer advice. AD(H&M) supplemented that the estimated \$20 million funding requirement would cover layout planning, fabrication and installation of the new exhibits, etc. in the five permanent exhibition galleries. He further said that the Administration was exploring expansion of HKScM in the long run, in order to make room for more innovative exhibits and conducting experimental workshops for visiting students.

17. Noting that children were the main target audience of HKScM, Mr SHIU Ka-fai suggested that HKScM should install exhibits that could cater for parents as well. He supported implementation of the proposed five-year programme as early as possible. Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired why the estimated required funding of \$20 million could not be absorbed by the recurrent funding for maintaining public museums. Mr MA also took the view that innovative technologies should be adopted in the new exhibits to arouse the visitors' interests in the exhibits, so as to promote STEM education to students and the general public. Mr LAU Kwok-fan sought details of HKScM's initiatives in supporting STEM education.

18. USHA and AD(H&M) explained that the proposed five-year programme was intended to update the contents of the permanent exhibitions, enhance the quality of the displays by deploying the latest technology, and to replace the worn-out interactive exhibits that were beyond economical repair. The funding required for the proposed five-year

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programme was non-recurrent in nature and therefore a one-off funding allocation of \$20 million would be required. The Museum Director (Science Museum) advised that HKScM would work closely with local educational institutions to organize various programmes (e.g. workshops and travelling exhibitions) to supplement classroom-based STEM education. Besides, teachers' training would be stepped up through HKScM's teacher development programme.

19. Summing up, the Chairman said that members did not object to the submission of the funding proposal to the FC for consideration.

V. Development of Smart Library System

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)448/18-19(06) and (07)]

20. At the invitation of the Chairman, USHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)448/18-19(06)]. With the aid of Powerpoint, the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to develop a new Smart Library System for the Hong Kong Public Libraries ("HKPL"). Members noted that the proposed system would incur a total capital expenditure of \$877.3 million and a non-recurrent staff cost of \$55.6 million from 2019-2020 to 2024-2025. In addition, the proposed system would require an indicative annual recurrent expenditure of \$121.3 million from 2025-2026 onwards. Besides, an additional annual staff requirement of \$4.5 million would be entailed under the proposal.

Discussion

21. Some members including Mr MA Fung-kwok and Mr Charles MOK expressed support for the proposed system in principle. Considering that the capital expenditure of about \$880 million was quite substantial, Mr MOK requested the Administration to provide more information on the hardware, system software and network equipment, etc. of the proposed system when the funding proposal was submitted to FC for consideration. Mr MA suggested that key performance indicators should be formulated for evaluation of the proposed system.

22. USHA responded that the proposed system would enhance the quality and efficiency of library services and optimize the use of staff resources through wider use of information and communications technologies and self-service facilities. Besides, the proposed system would support the

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development of Hong Kong as a Smart City. DLCS said that for instance, the proposed system would bring about annual savings of about \$144.1 million as set out in paragraph 12 of the Administration's paper, and the time for delivering returned books to libraries of origin would be shortened from the current four working days to two working days. Besides, the proposed system would enable HKPL to explore the extension of library service hours in a more cost-effective way. DLCS further said that the Administration would study the formulation of effective key performance indicators for the proposed system in consultation with the Public Libraries Advisory Committee as appropriate. In response to Mr MA Fung-kwok's enquiry, USHA said that the serviceable life of the proposed system was about 10 years according to the preliminary information. Mr Charles MOK reminded the Administration that the system software would usually become obsolete earlier than the hardware.

23. Mr CHAN Chun-ying suggested that digital payment should be accepted for library fees and charges and he urged the Administration to implement the digital payment system as soon as possible. Referring to the new features of the proposed system, Mr CHAN expressed concern about the protection of patrons' personal data, including their e-IDs, when the big data of public libraries were shared as open data. He also enquired how the proposed system would support the development of Hong Kong as a Smart City.

24. DLCS said that the proposed system would support the development of Hong Kong as a Smart City by facilitating the capturing and analysis of big data which could be shared as Public Sector Information for use by both public and private sectors for analysis, research and innovative application. She assured members that the privacy of patrons would be protected when relevant data were shared as open data. DLCS further said that the proposed system would be implemented by phases while enhancement to the current two major library information technology systems, namely the Next Generation Integrated Library System ("NGILS") and the Multimedia Information System ("MMIS"), would continue to be made where appropriate to improve the library services. The proposed system would replace NGILS and MMIS, with wider use of information and communications technology and self-service facilities enabled with Radio Frequency Identification ("RFID") technology. DLCS added that online payment was readily accepted by HKPL.

25. Mr Charles MOK, Mr KWONG Chun-yu and the Deputy Chairman shared the view that the Administration should address the increasing demand

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of the public for extension of the opening hours of public libraries. They enquired whether the proposed system would enable the extension of library opening hours. The Deputy Chairman considered that existing differences in the opening hours of various public libraries should be reviewed. Mr MOK suggested that the introduction of user-friendly self-service facilities should be further enhanced. HKPL should arrange more locations for patrons to borrow and return books.

26. USHA responded that the Administration had put in a lot of efforts in recent years to enhance library services, including the extension of the opening hours of public libraries. DLCS said that the opening hours of public libraries varied according to their respective types and functions. At present, the Hong Kong Central Library, the 37 major/district libraries and 32 small libraries opened for 74 hours, 71 hours and 50 hours a week respectively. DLCS further said that the extension of library opening hours would entail a large amount of staff resources under the existing system and its mode of operation. In future, the adoption of innovation and new technology supported by user-friendly facilities, such as RFID-enabled multi-functional self-service kiosks, would enable HKPL to explore the extension of library hours in a more cost-effective way. In response to the Deputy Chairman's comments, DLCS said that sitting area was provided near the Self-service Library Station at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

27. Mr LUK Chung-hung suggested that a more robust search function should be provided in the proposed system and the contents of physical books should be made searchable as far as possible. DLCS responded that various library resources including physical books, e-books and e-databases could be searched via a single platform in future. The Administration would request publishers to provide excerpts of printed books as far as possible to facilitate searching.

(At 10:18 am, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for 5 minutes beyond the appointed ending time.)

28. Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr LUK Chung-hung considered that measures should be taken to promote reading culture in Hong Kong. Mr LUK said that the reading habits of young people had changed significantly in the age of Internet and the Administration should strengthen its efforts in promoting reading among the youth. He sought information on the age distribution of public library patrons. Mr MA Fung-kuok suggested that the Administration should consult local writers and publishers where appropriate on measures to promote reading, local literary arts and publishing.

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29. DLCS responded that an analysis of the loan of library materials of HKPL by age groups revealed that about 27% were borrowed by users aged below 20, whereas about 23% were borrowed by users aged between 40 and 49. She said that HKPL had spared no efforts in promoting reading in Hong Kong and a series of promotional activities targeting kindergarten, primary and secondary students would be launched under the theme of "Discover and Share the Joy of Reading". DLCS further said that the Administration had collaborated with writers and publishers on various fronts with a view to supporting the promotion of local literary arts and publishing.

30. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that members raised no objection to the submission of the funding proposal to FC for consideration.

IV. Any other business

31. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:34 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 March 2019