

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Changes in Titles of Heads of Expenditure and Controlling Officer

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the following changes in titles that are consequential to the reorganisation of municipal services and have taken effect from 1 January 2000 -

- (a) “Head 56 – Government Secretariat : Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau and Works Bureau” to “Head 56 – Government Secretariat : Planning and Lands Bureau and Works Bureau”;
- (b) “Head 22 – Agriculture and Fisheries Department” to “Head 22 – Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department”; and
- (c) the controlling officer for Head 22 from “Director of Agriculture and Fisheries” to “Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation”.

RETITLING

2. The Finance Committee approved at its meeting on 17 December 1999 the establishment of a new structure on 1 January 2000 for the delivery of municipal services. The structure comprises a new Environment and Food Bureau (EFB), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The reorganisation also involves the transfer of policy responsibility for environmental protection and conservation from the former Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau (PELB) to EFB, and food animal inspection and veterinary public health services from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (A&FD) to FEHD.

3. Following the transfer of policy responsibility for environmental protection and conservation to EFB on 1 January 2000, PELB has been renamed as the Planning and Lands Bureau (PLB) in charge of policy matters on building,

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lands and planning. Accordingly, “Head 56 – Government Secretariat : Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau and Works Bureau” has been changed to “Head 56 – Government Secretariat : Planning and Lands Bureau and Works Bureau” from the same date. The Secretary for Works remains as the controlling officer accountable for expenditure under this Head.

4. After the transfer of food animal inspection and veterinary public health services to FEFD on 1 January 2000, A&FD will concentrate on work in relation to agriculture and fisheries, government wholesale food markets, country parks and nature conservation. In recognition of the importance of its responsibility in nature conservation, A&FD has been renamed from 1 January 2000 as the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries (D of A&F) as the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC). Correspondingly, “Head 22 – Agriculture and Fisheries Department” has, from the same date, become “Head 22 – Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department” with DAFC as the controlling officer.

5. The changes in the titles of Heads 22 and 56 and the controlling officer for Head 22 will be reflected in the 2000-01 Estimates of Expenditure.

BACKGROUND

6. On 2 December 1999, the Legislative Council passed the Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganisation) Bill. On 8 December 1999, the Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee endorsed a new organisation structure for the delivery of municipal services. On 17 December 1999, the Finance Committee approved the new structure as recommended by the Establishment Subcommittee and supplementary provision required by the new structure in the last quarter of 1999-2000.

7. The changes in the titles of PELB, A&FD and D of A&F were promulgated in Legal Supplement No. 2 to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Gazette No. 52/1999 on 30 December 1999.