

立法會

Legislative Council

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Subcommittee to consider the formation of new Panel(s) in relation to the provision of municipal services

Paper for Meeting on 28 December 1999

Introduction

This paper sets out the options raised at the House Committee meeting on 17 December 1999 on how Legislative Council Panels should be restructured to monitor issues relating to the provision of municipal services.

2. At the House Committee meeting on 17 December 1999, Members were invited to consider whether new Panels should be formed and /or whether the work of existing Panels should be adjusted in anticipation of the establishment of the new administrative structure for the provision of municipal services on 1 January 2000. LC Paper No. CB(2) 631/99-00 was prepared for the House Committee's consideration.

Options

3. Four options on how Panels could be restructured were raised in the course of the deliberation at the House Committee meeting. They are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Option One: Formation of Two New Panels

4. Some Members are in favour of forming two new Panels i.e. a Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and a Panel on Leisure, Culture and Sport, as proposed in paragraphs 8 and 12 of the paper presented to the House Committee (LC Paper No. CB(2) 631/99-00). The former would oversee issues relating to food safety, environmental hygiene, food animal inspection and veterinary public health, while the latter would deal with matters relating to the provision of leisure and cultural services. The proposed terms of reference of the two new Panels are set out in Appendices III and VII of the same House Committee paper.

Option Two: Formation of One New Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

5. Some Members prefer forming a new Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene only. They consider that the ambit of the Panel on Home Affairs should be expanded to also cover the provision of leisure and cultural services. This option is proposed in paragraphs 8 and 11 of the House Committee paper (LC Paper No. CB(2) 631/99-00). The proposed terms of reference of the new Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the proposed amendments to the terms of reference of the Panel on Home Affairs are set out in Appendices III and V of the paper.

Option Three: Formation of One New Panel on Municipal Services

6. There is a suggestion that one new Panel be formed to oversee all issues relating to the provision of municipal services, i.e. all services currently provided by the two Provisional Municipal Councils, including environmental hygiene, food safety, food animal inspection, and leisure and cultural services.

Option Four: No New Panel to be Formed

7. There are also Members who hold the view that the existing structure of Panels should be as streamlined as possible. These Members do not favour setting up any new Panels. Instead, they propose that food safety and environmental hygiene should come under the ambit of the Panel on Environmental Affairs, while issues relating to leisure and cultural services should be dealt with by the Panel on Home Affairs.

8. A Member has also suggested that the opportunity be taken to review whether the work of the relevant Panels could be adjusted. For instance, issues relating to human rights, currently within the terms of reference of the Panel on Home Affairs, could be taken up by the Panel on Constitutional Affairs.

Members' Advice

9. Members of the subcommittee are invited to note the four options raised at the House Committee meeting on 17 December 1999 on how Panels should be restructured to monitor issues relating to the provision of municipal services.

Legislative Council Secretariat

22 December 1999