

立法會
Legislative Council

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by the Administration)

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**Subcommittee to follow up on the outstanding capital works projects
of the two Provisional Municipal Councils
for inclusion into the Government's Public Works Programme**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 14 January 2000 at 8:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members Present : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Chairman)
Hon HO Sai-chu, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sa-lan
Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP

Absent with Apology : Hon CHAN Yuen-han
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Public Officers attending : Miss Elizabeth TSE
Deputy Secretary for the Treasury

Mr Paul TANG
Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Food (A)

Miss Eva TO
Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment
and Food (A) 3

Mr Arthur NG
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (4)

Ms Lolly CHIU, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Administration)

Mr Johnny WOO
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Michael MAK
Assistant Director (Library & Development)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Robert CHONG
Senior Staff Officer (Planning)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Y T LAM
Assistant Director (Special Duties) I
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr P L KWAN
Deputy Director of Architectural Services

Mr WONG Shiu-kwan
Project Director 3, Architectural Services Department

Clerk in Attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

Staff in Attendance : Miss Mary SO
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)8

I. Election of Chairman

Mr Fred LI Wah-ming was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee.

2. The Chairman had accepted the late membership of Mr LEE Wing-tat on grounds of absence from Hong Kong under rule 23(1) of the House Rules.

II. Meeting with the Administration on the outstanding capital works projects of the two Provisional Municipal Councils for inclusion into the Government's Public Works Programme

[FCRI(1999-2000)17, PWSC(1999-2000)76, PWSCI(1999-2000)31, PWSC 43/99-00, CB(2) 837/99-00(01) to (02)]

3. The Chairman welcomed representatives of the Administration to the meeting.

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Food (DS(EF)) briefed members on the Administration's paper [Paper No. CB(2)837/99-00(01)] about the latest position of the capital works projects of the two former Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs). DS(EF) said that of the 12 projects which already had policy and funding approval of the former PMCs, eight projects were now ready for upgrading to Category A of the Government's Public Works Programme (PWP), and a submission would be made to the Public works Subcommittee (PWSC) in February 2000. Four other projects were currently under review, one of which would involve land resumption. As regards the remaining 169 projects which had not received all necessary approvals from the former PMCs, DS(EF) said that they were at different planning stages, and the majority was still at a relatively early stage of development. The Administration was reviewing the scope and programme of these projects and would brief the relevant LegCo Panels as soon as practicable.

The 12 projects with funding set aside

5. Referring to paragraph 3(c) of the Administration's paper that the Administration would conduct a review of the scope of facilities of the three projects, namely, the Hammer Hill Road District Park, the Tai Kok Tsui Complex and the Stanley Complex, the Chairman enquired whether there was a possibility that the Administration would abandon or reduce the scope of these projects.

6. DS(EF) assured members that the Administration had set aside funding for these 12 projects and would honour its commitment to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) of LegCo as appropriate. Since the implementation of these projects now became the responsibility of the Administration following the dissolution of the two PMCs on 1 January 2000, the Administration would need to ensure that the proposed facilities were user-

friendly, viable and cost-effective. The Administration would review the scope of three projects with a view to identifying what further improvements could be made to these projects.

7. On the Tai Kok Tsui Complex, Assistant Director (Special Duties) of Food and Environmental Hygiene (AD(SD)) said that the project was to re-provision the two temporary markets at Tai Kok Tsui and Boundary Street as well as the two temporary cooked food bazaars at Tai Kok Tsui and Canton Road. The project was worthy of support as the re-provisioning would improve the environmental hygiene in the vicinity and the land so vacated could be used for provision of leisure facilities. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (DS(HA)) pointed out that it was a new concept to provide swimming pools, gymnasium and libraries together with markets under one roof within a municipal complex. The Administration considered it prudent to conduct a review to ensure that the project was viable and cost-effective, and to address concerns about crowd control and management difficulties.

8. With regard to the Stanley Complex, AD(SD) said that in view of the recent re-location of the old Stanley Street market to the temporary market in the vicinity, and with the anticipated opening of a 20 000 square feet superstore in the nearby Ma Hang in March 2000, the Administration would have to consider carefully the viability of the proposed market facilities in the Complex, given that Stanley and Ma Hang only had a population of 7 000 to 8 000. Consideration had also to be given to whether a big complex providing indoor markets and refuse collection facilities would be truly compatible with the unique character of Stanley as a major tourist spot. As regards the provision of leisure facilities, DS(HA) said that the current utilization of the mobile library at Stanley and indoor sports centre in the Southern District was rather low. The Administration would therefore need to review the need for providing similar facilities in the Stanley Complex.

9. Referring to the Administration's argument that Stanley was in close proximity to Ma Hang, Mr HO Sai-chu said that residents in Stanley would need to take public transport to Ma Hang and it would cause much inconvenience to them if Stanley was not provided with its own market. AD(SD) responded that it would only be a very short walk from Stanley to Ma Hang.

10. On the Hammer Hill Road District Park, DS(HA) said that as the nearby Chi Lin Nunnery already had an exhibition centre, the Administration would review the need for providing another exhibition venue in the Park.

11. Miss Cyd HO objected to the proposal to scrap the exhibition centre from the project. She considered that the Administration should endeavour to provide an environment for the pluralistic development of arts and culture in the District. Mr HO Sai-chu commented that, without the exhibition centre, the Hammer Hill Road District Park would have less appeal to the tourists.

12. The Chairman enquired whether changes to the scope of facilities of the Hammer Hill Road District Park, the Tai Kok Tsui Complex and the Stanley Complex would lead to project delays and increase in consultant fees and construction costs.

13. DS(EF) responded that it would depend on the nature and extent of the changes. There could be savings in construction time and costs if the scope of projects was reduced. He stressed, however, that the review was not aimed at cost-saving, but to improve on the design and scope. Deputy Director of Architectural Services supplemented that as the bulk of design and planning works of the three projects were done in-house, there should not be significant increase in the consultant fees arising from changes to the scope of these projects. However, his staff would need to revise the design and contract documents for these projects.

14. Miss Cyd HO said that the Hammer Hill Road District Park, the Tai Kok Tsui Complex and the Stanley Complex had already been considered and received funding approval from the former Provisional Urban Council (PUC) which was an elected body. She said that the Administration should respect the decision of the former PMCs and she would not support any reduction to the scope of these projects unless the Administration could provide very strong justifications for doing so. Mr HO Sai-chu said that while he agreed with the Administration that it had the responsibility to ensure that projects of the two former PMCs were viable, user-friendly and cost effective, he shared Miss HO's view that the Administration should provide very good reasons for any proposed changes to the approved projects.

15. The Chairman said that the Legislative Council would decide in the coming meeting how the existing Panels should be restructured to monitor issues relating to the provision of municipal services following the dissolution of the two former PMCs. In the meantime, he suggested that the Subcommittee should follow up on the progress of the review on the Hammer Hill Road District Park, the Tai Kok Tsui Complex and the Stanley Complex. Miss Cyd HO suggested that members of the Panel on Home Affairs should be invited to attend the Subcommittee discussion of the Hammer Hill Road District Park project when the details were available. Members agreed.

16. DS(EF) reiterated that the Administration would not renege on its

commitment to the 12 projects already agreed. In view of the urgency of the eight projects which would be upgraded to Category A, the Administration would like to have the support of the Subcommittee before forwarding the proposals to PWSC. He emphasized that the review of the Hammer Hill Road District Park, the Tai Kok Tsui Complex and the Stanley Complex was to ensure that these projects were viable, user-friendly and cost effective. As regards the review of the provision of market facilities the Stanley Complex, DS(EF) added that the Director of Audit had in his report published in 1997 stressed the need for Government to assess the viability and the demand for such facilities in planning new markets.

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17. At the request of the Chairman, DS(EF) agreed to provide details of the three projects under review, together with the original papers for PUC approval, the design and layout plan, the estimated project costs and the justifications for changes to the approved plan.

18. In reply to the Chairman, Senior Staff Officer (Planning), Leisure and Cultural Services Department confirmed that all four projects in Category I of the Provisional Regional Council had been included in the list of the 12 projects earmarked for inclusion in Category A of the PWP.

Position of the remaining projects of the PMCs

19. Miss Cyd HO expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration's paper did not give sufficient details of the outstanding projects of the two former PMCs.

20. The Chairman said that the Administration had undertaken to brief the relevant Panels on major projects and to submit detailed proposals for scrutiny by PWSC.

21. The Chairman enquired about the position of the Stage II projects of the former PUC which were not included in the list of projects in the PWP. AD(SD) replied that all such projects had been included except those minor projects of an estimated cost at \$15 million or below which would not require FC approval for funding, and those which had already been funded under other departments or organizations. AD(SD) assured members that all Stage II projects of the former PUC had been dealt with by the Administration.

Admin

22. Referring to Annex A to the Administration's paper, Mr Edward HO said that it would be useful if the Administration could provide an updated position of the target commencement and completion dates of those projects in the relevant PWSC papers.

23. The Chairman asked about Government's plans for the remaining 169

projects and how they were prioritized. DS(EF) said that as the new administrative structure had been set up for only two weeks, the departments would need time to examine these projects and to ascertain their present stage of development before making any recommendations. DS(HA) added that Government would take into account factors such as the urgency for providing the facilities and the cost effectiveness of the projects.

24. Mr HO Sai-chu agreed with the Administration that it would need to categorize the 169 projects according to their different stages of development. In this connection, he hoped that the Administration would have regard to the priorities set by the former PMCs on these projects. Miss Cyd HO agreed with Mr HO, saying that the Administration should give very strong justifications for altering the PMC priorities. She reminded the Administration that it had undertaken previously that there would be no reduction in the provision of cultural and leisure services after re-organization.

25. DS(EF) responded that the remaining 169 projects had not received the necessary funding approval from the former PMCs and that the majority was still at an early stage of planning. DS(EF) stressed that Government would take into account the views of the former PMCs in reviewing the need of the projects to ensure that public money was spent in a prudent manner in meeting the needs of the community. The relevant LegCo Panels would be consulted after the review.

26. Mr Timothy FOK urged the Administration to expedite the improvement projects necessary for bringing the sports facilities up to international standards for hosting the Asian Games in 2006. He said that the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong (SF&OC) would need to submit its proposal on hosting the 2006 Asian Games to the Olympic Council of Asia by the end of February 2000. The Chairman also enquired whether these improvement projects were separately funded by Government or included under the 169 projects.

27. DS(HA) replied that detailed evaluation of the upgrading requirements for the hosting of Asian Games was now underway. These improvement projects would be separated from the 169 projects. Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services supplemented that one of the 12 projects earmarked for upgrading to Category A of the PWP, namely the water sports centre at Stanley Main Beach, would be of international standard and could be used for the Asian Games.

28. Mr Timothy FOK said that although the Government had indicated that it would not construct new sports venue solely for the hosting of the 2006 Asian Games, he hoped that an early decision could be taken on the construction of those sports facilities already planned to meet Hong Kong's long-term needs. DS(HA) said that Government was now working under a tight schedule on the proposal to host the 2006 Asian Games, and would revert to the Panel and seek funding from the Finance Committee as soon as practicable.

29. As some of the remaining 169 projects involved both Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) and Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), the Chairman asked about the co-ordination of the two bureaux and the role of the Architectural Services Department (ASD) in dealing with these projects.

30. DS(EF) replied that the EFB and the HAB maintained close liaison through meetings and discussions, and ASD would provide professional advice on the design and specifications of the projects.

31. The Chairman referred to a letter from the former Sham Shui Po Provisional District Board requesting early implementation of the nine capital works projects of the former PUC in its district [Paper No. CB(2)837/99-00(02)]. The Chairman inquired whether the Administration would consult the District Councils (DCs) before determining the priority of the remaining 169 projects. DS(EF) replied that the Provisional District Boards concerned had been consulted previously on the 169 projects. If changes were to be proposed to the scope of these projects after the review, the Government would consider consulting the relevant DCs.

32. Miss Cyd HO enquired about the mechanism for initiating new capital works projects for the provision of municipal services now that the two PMCs were dissolved.

33. DS(EF) replied that proposals would be initiated by the two executive departments, LCSD and FEHD, and they would have regard to views from the DCs and LegCo Panels. The departments would consider the views and suggestions received with regard to the needs and priorities of the districts before seeking policy and funding support. DS(HA) added that interested parties such as the Sports Development Board and the SF&OC could also make suggestions on new projects. In response to members, Deputy Secretary for the Treasury also explained the existing procedures for inclusion of new capital works projects in the PWP.

34. Miss Cyd HO expressed concern about the criteria to be adopted by the Administration in determining the priorities of new capital works projects for the provision of municipal services, especially when there would be competing bids from the 18 DCs. The Chairman expressed similar concern. Miss HO suggested that it would be useful if the Administration could provide a paper describing the mechanism for initiating new capital works projects for the provision of municipal services at both district and territory-wide levels, as well as the selection or prioritization of these projects. At the request of the Chairman, DS(EF) agreed to co-ordinate a paper to provide the information.

Admin

IV. Date of next meeting

35. Members agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, 1 February 2000 at 10:45 am.

36. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:50 am.

Legislative Council Secretariat

27 April 2000