

Bills Committee on Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003

**List of follow-up actions arising from discussion
at the meeting on 6 January 2004**

The Administration was requested:

- (a) to provide the names of organizations consulted on its proposed amendments to the plan-making system under the Bill (CB(1)700/03-04(01));
- (b) to consider relaxing the types of persons who could lodge objections to proposed amendments made by the Town Planning Board (TPB) at the second stage of plan-making. Some members are of the view that if any person could make comments at the first stage of plan-making, the same rule should apply to the second stage as the proposed amendments made by the TPB could be material;
- (c) to provide a paper to explain existing measures and measures contemplated by the Administration to publicize draft plans, amendments to draft plans and approved plans and planning applications after enactment of the Bill. Members have quoted many cases which show inadequacy of the existing measures;
- (d) to provide information on the plan-making systems in the United States and the United Kingdom;
- (e) to reconsider the merits of third party appeal in respect of planning applications. The Chairman considers it inappropriate to perceive development as beneficial or detrimental to the community. An applicant for planning permission is not necessarily the owner of the land concerned or even a local resident but he is entitled to a right of appeal. On the same basis, the right of appeal should be extended to third party. To minimize frivolous and vexatious appeals, some conditions may be set to restrict the right of third party appeal as in the case of the US; and
- (f) to provide a paper to the Bills Committee after consultation with the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works on the Second Stage Amendment to the Town Planning Ordinance. In this connection, some members have called for opening up of TPB meetings and enhanced representation in the composition of the TPB such as by allocating a certain number of seats to directly elected Legislative Council members.