

**For information**

**Bills Committee on Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003**

**Submission of Draft Plans to the Chief Executive in Council for Approval**

**Purpose**

At the Bills Committee meeting on 13 May 2004, members requested the Administration to explain how the Chief Executive in Council (CE in C) considers a draft plan, including information on whether the CE in C is divided into small groups to consider different subjects and statistics on the time taken by the CE in C in making a decision on a draft plan. This paper provides the requested information.

**Provisions in the existing Town Planning Ordinance**

2. Under section 8 of the existing Town Planning Ordinance, the Town Planning Board (TPB) is required to submit a draft plan to the CE in C for approval within nine months upon expiry of the plan exhibition period. Once approved, the approval should be notified in the Gazette and the approved plan shall be made available for public inspection.

**Existing Practice**

3. Upon completion of the objection consideration procedures, the TPB Secretariat will prepare a Memorandum for submission to the CE in C. The Memorandum, together with the draft plan and a full set of files containing all objections to the draft plan, correspondence between the TPB and the objectors, TPB papers and minutes of TPB meetings relating to the consideration of the objections will normally be considered by the Lands and Works Sub-Committee under CE in C in the first instance. The Sub-Committee has only an advisory role and has no authority to make decisions. It recommends a course of action to the full CE in C which retains the ultimate decision-making authority.

4. If approval is granted by the CE in C, it will be notified in the Gazette. In addition, the approval will be advertised in newspapers and a press release and a Legislative Council Brief will be issued on the same day.

5. In 2003, a total of 33 draft plans were submitted to the CE in C for approval. The normal time taken for CE in C to approve a draft plan was around one month.

### **Proposals in the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003**

6.. The Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003 (the Bill) does not propose any material change to the procedures mentioned in paragraphs 3 to 5 above. The only difference is that instead of objections, all representations, comments on the representations and further representations will be included in the submission to the CE in C for consideration, following the same procedure as mentioned above.

**Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau**  
**Planning Department**  
**May 2004**