

Bills Committee on Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003

Major issues raised at the meeting on 18 September 2003

- (1) Independence and impartiality of the Town Planning Board (TPB) - should the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and secretaries of TPB and of its committees be public officers?
- (2) Power of the Chief Executive - what is the difference between Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003 and Town Planning Bill 2000 in terms of the power of Chief Executive (CE) in the planning process?
- (3) Availability of judicial review - whether decisions made by the CE in Council under the Bill are subject to judicial review and what are the implications of the provisions in the Bill in this respect?
- (4) Application of the Bill - why is there a disparity of treatment between Government and the private sector in the plan making and plan amendment process? It has been said that over 95% of amendments of plans are initiated by Government; and
- (5) Stages of amendment to the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO) - should amendments to TPO be expedited and fundamental issues such as independence and transparency of TPB be included in the present stage of amendments?

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 September 2003