

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

System Development and Implementation of the Public Works Programme Information System

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the following regarding the Public Works Programme Information System (PWPIS) -

- (a) how the Administration had explored the feasibility of deploying existing in-house staff in the concerned bureau and departments to provide technical and project management support to the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and Works Departments (WDs)¹ in the tendering, system development and implementation stages of the system instead of engaging external service providers; and
- (b) the accessibility of the proposed PWPIS among government departments, including those bureaux/departments which could not access the system at present.

BACKGROUND

2. On 7 March 2003, Members approved a commitment of \$28,767,000 under Head 710 Computerisation for developing and implementing the PWPIS for ETWB for more effective management of the Public Works Programme (PWP) projects. At the meeting, Members asked the Administration to provide supplementary information on the issues in paragraph 1 above.

/FEASIBILITY

¹ Architectural Services Department, Civil Engineering Department, Drainage Services Department, Highways Department, Territory Development Department and Water Supplies Department.

FEASIBILITY OF RE-DEPLOYMENT OF EXISTING STAFF

3. To provide both technical and project management support to ETWB and WDs throughout the tendering period and system development and implementation stages of the system from April 2003 to November 2004, ETWB needs the following additional staff resources -

<u>Staff required</u>	<u>Total no. of man-months required</u>
2 Engineers	33.0
1 Senior Project Manager (SPM)	7.5
1 Senior System Analyst (SSA)	14.4

4. As regards the two engineers required, ETWB had tried in January 2003 to identify suitable engineers within the Bureau and WDs for re-deployment to take up the tasks but in vain because the existing engineers were fully occupied. With improvement in the progress of a few PWP projects and re-prioritizing of works, we now manage to re-deploy two engineers for 28 man-months for the engineering tasks while the remaining job for tender preparation and evaluation work will be absorbed by existing staff in ETWB. We will therefore freeze an amount of \$2,275,000 being the estimated cost of engaging external service providers for the engineering tasks that has been included in the project commitment of \$28,767,000.

5. As regards IT staff, including 1 SPM and 1 SSA, the Information Technology Services Department (ITSD) has been engaging external service providers to supplement its existing staff capacity to cope with the heavy workload. Hence it is not possible to re-deploy any of its existing staff for the tasks. The estimated cost of engaging external service providers for the IT tasks is \$1,314,000.

/ACCESSIBILITY

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED INFORMATION SYSTEM AMONG GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

6. One of the objectives of the PWPIS is to facilitate communication between the system and the WDs' own departmental information systems (DISs). Project information including project estimates, target implementation dates, progress and milestones will be conveyed from the DISs to PWPIS and financial information will be transferred to the WDs' DISs. Contract expenditure information will also be made available to the PWPIS initially from the existing Ledger Accounting and Financial Information System (LAFIS) and later the Government Financial Management Information System in the Treasury which is expected to replace LAFIS in 2006.

7. The PWPIS will comply with the Interoperability Framework (IF) promulgated by ITSD. The IF, which is a collection of technical and data specifications that define the interface between interacting applications, is designed to enable the seamless flow of information across individual departmental systems. Government departments with their information systems being IF compliant will be granted access to use the data content of PWPIS on a need basis. All new inter-bureaux/ departments systems are required to be IF compliant with effect from 2 January 2003. At present, other than ETWB and WDs, 15 bureaux/departments² which are provided with terminals to access the existing Public Works Management System will be able to access to the PWPIS upon its implementation.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
May 2003

² Economic Development and Labour Bureau, Education and Manpower Bureau, Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Home Affairs Bureau, Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau, Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, Security Bureau, Audit Commission, Environmental Protection Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Home Affairs Department, Housing Department, Lands Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Transport Department.