

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1422/02-03

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 14 February 2003 at 10:45 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

- Members Present** : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo (Chairman)
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon NG Leung-sing, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok
Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP
- Members Absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon WONG Sing-chi
- Public Officers Attending** : Mr Y T LAM
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)²

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Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi
Assistant Director (Performing Arts),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Colin ARNOTT
Director of GHK (Hong Kong) Limited

Ms Kim TSANG
Senior Consultant of GHK (Hong Kong) Limited

Attendance by Invitation : Cheung Chau Rural Committee

Mr YUNG Chi-ming
Chairman

Mr CHO Chau-ming
Assistant to member of District Council

Kwun Tong District Council

Mr KWOK Bit-chun
Member

Mr YEUNG Pak-sing
Member

Tai Po District Council

Mr CHU King-yuen
Member

Individual

Mr LAM Wing-yin
Vice Chairman of Community Affairs Committee of Sai
Kung District Council

Mr Vincent HO

Clerk in Attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

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Staff in Attendance : Miss Lolita SHEK
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)7

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Members noted that the Chairman would be late for the meeting as he had joined the site visit to Tolo Harbour Highway in that morning, and the Deputy Chairman would chair the meeting during his absence.

I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1117/02-03 and CB(2)1118/02-03]

2. The minutes of the meetings held on 17 December 2002 and 10 January 2003 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper No. CB(2)937/02-03(01)]

3. Members noted the paper provided by the Administration on additional information on the conversion of the Bethanie into the second campus of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts issued on 16 January 2003.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendix I to LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/02-03]

4. Mr Albert CHAN expressed concern about an incident in mid January 2003 in which a host organisation had to relocate the venue for holding a large-scale outdoor concert from the old Kai Tak Airport to an indoor exhibition centre after failure to obtain approval for holding the event. Mr CHAN pointed out that the difficulties in obtaining approval for holding large-scale performances in open spaces went against the Government's initiatives to enrich people with a rich culture and to facilitate the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong. He added that the wide coverage of the incident by overseas newspapers had also affected the image of Hong Kong. He therefore suggested that the Panel should discuss this issue as soon as possible.

5. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Friday, 14 March 2003 at 10:45 am -

- (a) research on the system of advisory committees in some overseas places;
- (b) briefing on the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission; and

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- (c) issues relating to holding large-scale performances in open spaces.

(Post-meeting note : At the suggestion of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the relevant issue in respect of paragraph 5(c) above has been referred to the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works for follow-up. The Panel Chairman has also directed that "Operational and regulatory framework for authorised soccer betting" be added to the agenda for the meeting on 14 March 2003 as an replacement item.)

IV. Consultancy Study on the Provision of Regional/District Cultural and Performance Facilities in Hong Kong

6. The Deputy Chairman welcomed representatives of deputations and Administration to the meeting. He explained that the Panel had briefly discussed the findings and recommendations of the consultancy study on the provision of regional/district cultural and performance facilities in Hong Kong at the meeting on 8 November 2002. The Panel had decided to receive views from deputations and continue the discussion of this subject at the present meeting.

Meeting with deputations

7. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, 3 deputations and an individual presented their views on the consultancy study as summarised in paragraphs 8 to 12 below.

Cheung Chau Rural Committee (CCRC)
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/02-03(01)]

8. Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Chairman of CCRC, introduced the views of CCRC included in its submission as follows -

- (a) CCRC supported the policy of providing culture and arts education for all, promoting cultural activities in all districts of Hong Kong to attract tourists and strengthening District Councils' (DC's) roles and functions in community development;
- (b) Government should provide a community hall (CH) in Cheung Chau as requested by CCRC for the organisation of cultural and community activities in the island, which had all along been held in open spaces due to the lack of an indoor venue. Cheung Chau had developed very quickly in the recent years and at the same time maintained its local traditional characteristics. Its cultural

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and community activities might help attract tourists and residents from other districts to Cheung Chau;

- (c) the Administration's suggestion that cultural and community activities might be held in the indoor games hall (IGH) in Cheung Chau was not a good solution to the problem since other users of the IGH had complained against the unavailability of the hall; and
- (d) the recommendation of the consultancy study that a new facility be built in Tung Chung could not cater for the needs of residents in other parts of Lantau Island or other islands since the former was not easily accessible from the latter.

Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC)
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1115/02-03(02)]

9. Mr KWOK Bit-chun, member of KTDC and Chairman of Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee of KTDC, informed members that with a dense population and numerous arts groups in the district, Kwun Tong was in need of a civic centre for its community and cultural activities which, at present, had to be held in the open spaces in the district or Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre in Wong Tai Sin. KTDC therefore welcomed the recommendation of the consultancy study that a new Cross District Community Cultural Centre (CDC) be developed in Kwun Tong for the district, as well as for Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon City and Sai Kung.

10. Mr YEUNG Pak-sing, member of KTDC, continued to highlight the views of KTDC which were included in his submission. He said that KTDC had discussed the executive summary of the consultancy study at its meeting on 10 December 2002. KTDC considered it a good report which could reflect accurately the needs of the residents of Kwun Tong. Mr YEUNG added that KTDC suggested that the proposed CDC in Kwun Tong should include an auditorium, theatre and exhibition hall. KTDC had also expressed concern about the huge capital cost for the CDC which was estimated at \$175 million. It queried whether under the current stringent financial situation, Government would still allocate such a huge amount of funds for the facility. KTDC therefore considered that both the capital and operating costs for the CDC should be reduced. It also urged Government to construct the CDC as soon as possible.

Tai Po District Council (TPDC)

11. Mr CHU King-yuen, member of TPDC, introduced the views of TPDC as follows –

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- (a) TPDC did not agree to the result of the assessment of needs for purposely built facilities at the regional/district level of 13 districts in Hong Kong in section 2.2 of the executive summary in which the needs of Tai Po were only rated as average;
- (b) the Tai Po Civic Centre (TPCC) was reserved for the use of Tai Po Government Secondary School before 6 pm from Monday to Friday and hence was only available to other users after 6 pm. The restricted hours opened to the public had affected the use of the centre by community organisations and arts groups resulting in the under-utilisation of the centre;
- (c) the consultancy study had agreed that it was not desirable for TPCC to be shared by the School and other users. Government should therefore provide a separate cultural facility for Tai Po as soon as possible instead of waiting till 2008 to 2012 as recommended by the consultancy study in section 2.2 of the executive summary; and
- (d) if the new facility could not be provided before 2008, Government should implement measures to cater for the needs of the residents in Tai Po during the interim period. The Education and Manpower Bureau should build a new hall for Tai Po Government Secondary School so as to release TPCC for other users.

Mr LAM Wing-yin, Vice Chairman of the Community Affairs Committee of Sai Kung District Council (SKDC)

12. Mr LAM Wing-yin informed members of the views of SKDC as follows –

- (a) there had been a great demand for the provision of a regional CC in Tseung Kwan O for a very long time. A site had already been reserved for the facility in Tseung Kwan O before the dissolution of the former Municipal Councils (MCs);
- (b) the existing two CHs in Tseung Kwan O could not meet the need for a facility for organising cultural activities for the 300 000 and more population in the district; and
- (c) Tseung Kwan O, as a fast growing district with an estimated future population of more than 500 000 and was easily accessible to residents of the neighbouring districts, should be provided with a cross district cultural facility.

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Provision of CH to Cheung Chau

13. Dr TANG Siu-tong opined that in view of the rapid development of Cheung Chau and the lack of cultural and performance facility in the island, the request for a CH from the residents there was very reasonable and should be supported.

14. Mr Michael MAK enquired about the explanations given by the Administration for not providing a CH for Cheung Chau despite the repeated requests from the residents. He also asked whether, if a CH was provided and large-scale activities were held in Cheung Chau, the transportation network and manpower of the Police in the island could cater for the increase in the number of visitors attracted to the island. Mr MAK expressed concern that the transportation constraints would prevent the full utilisation of the CH and that the public order in Cheung Chau would be adversely affected with the increase in visitors.

15. In response, Mr YUNG Chi-ming informed members that the Administration was still considering the request for a CH from Cheung Chau and had not explained why a decision had not been made so far. He suspected that the Administration had under-estimated the demand from the residents for the facility and hence had not provided the CH as requested. Mr YUNG stressed that the heavy demand for such a facility could be reflected by the fact that more than 37 community and cultural activities were organised in Cheung Chau annually. He urged Government to provide a CH to Cheung Chau so that these activities would not need to be held in the open spaces and affected by bad weather.

16. As regards the public order and transportation in Cheung Chau, Mr YUNG Chi-ming explained that public order in Cheung Chau was maintained by the Cheung Chau Division of the Marine Police, the station of which was located in the island. Both Mr YUNG and Mr CHO Chau-ming, Assistant to member of DC, assured members that efficient ferry service was provided by the New World First Ferry Services Ltd. with a ferry sailing between Cheung Chau and Central every half an hour. They added that the frequency could be adjusted and special ferry service could be arranged with the company when large-scale activities were held. Mr CHO supplemented that overnight ferry service was also available.

Provision of CHs and CCs

17. Referring to the requests from the deputations for the provision of cultural and performance facilities, Mr Albert CHAN drew members' attention to the differences between CHs and CCs. He explained that CHs provided venues for a range of community, recreational and cultural activities free of charge at the district level. On the other hand, CCs provided venues for mainly

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cultural and performance activities in the districts concerned and rent would be charged for the use of the facilities. He sought clarification from the deputations on the type of facilities they requested for their districts.

18. Mr YUNG Chi-ming confirmed that the residents in Cheung Chau had requested for a CH while a CC was requested for Tung Chung. Mr KWOK Bit-chun and Mr YEUNG Pak-sing advised that a CDC as suggested by the consultancy study had been requested for Kwun Tong. Mr LAM Wing-yin clarified that a regional CC was required in Tseung Kwan O.

19. Mr Albert CHAN opined that the style of management of CHs and CCs by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and LCSD had not been conducive to the full utilisation of the facilities. The recommendations of the consultancy study reflected that Government would no longer be willing to undertake the management of the facilities. Mr CHAN invited views from the deputations whether the facilities should be self-financed and whether management committees should be formed by representatives from district organisations to oversee the operation of the facilities.

20. Mr YUNG Chi-ming responded that the issue would need to be discussed by CCRC in greater detail. Mr KWOK Bit-chun suggested that Government should discuss the issue in detail with community organisations.

21. Mr Albert CHAN said that he was supportive of the request for a CH from Cheung Chau. In fact, he considered that a CH should be provided for every district by Government. He informed members that according to the planning standard of the Administration, a CH was used to be provided for a district with a population of 30 000 to 50 000. However, claiming that a review on the planning standard would be conducted, Government had not provided the newly developed districts such as Tin Shui Wai with CHs even though their population had reached or exceeded that size. He requested the Administration to release the result of the review.

(The Chairman took over the chair at this juncture.)

Meeting with the Administration

22. In response to the views of members on and the requests from the deputations for the provision of cultural and performance facilities, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture) 2 (PAS(HA)C2) explained that CHs were managed by HAD while CCs were overseen by LCSD. The current consultancy study had not covered the provision of CH. PAS(HA)C2 undertook to relate the views and requests from members and deputations relating to CH to HAD for consideration.

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23. Mr Colin ARNOTT, Director of GHK (Hong Kong) Limited, supplemented that the consultancy study had focused on community needs for cultural and performance facilities at the regional and district level as well as the provision of these facilities. He confirmed that CHs had not been included in the study. Mr ARNOTT then summarised the recommendations of the study as follows –

- (a) existing cultural facilities under the management of LCSD should be rationalised to cater for the needs of different districts and regions;
- (b) a new CDC should be developed in Kwun Tong to meet the cultural needs of Kwun Tong and its neighbouring districts including Sai Kung, taking into account the transportation arrangements in the region;
- (c) a new form of facility, the Community Cultural Centre (CCC), should be developed in each of eight different districts including Sai Kung and Tai Po to meet their cultural needs. It was also recommended that the CCC in Sai Kung should be located in Tseung Kwan O; and
- (d) in some districts such as Islands where the communities were small with strong community ties and identities, and played a significant role in the promotion of heritage and tourism, non-dedicated facilities such CHs might better meet their needs for venues for community and cultural activities.

Provision of CCCs

24. Mr Albert CHAN enquired about Government's decision on the recommendation in section 3.3.2 of the executive summary of the consultancy study for the development of eight new CCCs. He said that some of them had in fact been included in the implementation schedule of the former MCs and the districts concerned had already waited for a very long time for the facilities.

25. In reply, PAS(HA)C2 explained that Government had commissioned the consultancy study on, among other things, the types of facilities required to meet the community needs for cultural and performance facilities at the regional/district level, and how these needs could be met in an effective manner. Public consultation on the findings and recommendations of the consultancy study was still being conducted and the recommendations of the study had not yet been finalised. Government would consider the recommendations of the study and take into account all the relevant factors before making a decision on the issue.

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26. In response to the enquiry from Dr David CHU, PAS(HA)C2 informed members that the consultancy study had initially recommended the development of new CCCs for Islands, Kowloon City, North District, Sai Kung, Sham Shui Po, Southern, Tai Po and Yau Tsim Mong.

27. Mr Albert CHAN remarked that according to past experience, Government had used consultancy studies as a tactic to delay the development of facilities for the districts. He sought clarification on the number of consultancy studies on the provision of public facilities and services to be commissioned by Government. He also expressed concern that even if the works projects of the former MCs were recommended by the consultancy study, Government would use other excuses such as the lack of funding to further delay or permanently shelve the projects. He pointed out that if MCs had not been abolished, these projects would have been implemented already. He sought for confirmation when the first CCC would be built.

28. PAS(HA)C2 clarified that at his briefing given to the Panel on 15 January 2003 on the Policy Agenda of HAB in the eighteen months following January 2003, Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) announced that eleven items would be implemented under the guiding principle of enlightening people with a rich culture. Three consultancy studies had been commissioned by HAB/LCSD on public libraries, cultural and performance facilities, and museums separately. The reviews and their follow-up work would be one of the priority areas of HAB in the eighteen months.

29. Both the Chairman and Mr Albert CHAN were of the view that Government should expedite the development of the outstanding works projects of the MCs, in particular those which were also recommended in the present consultancy study. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide details of the implementation plan for these projects.

30. Echoing the views of the Chairman and Mr Albert CHAN, Mr WONG Yung-kan pointed out that Tai Po District had requested for a CC for a very long time. It was one of the outstanding works projects of the MCs and a site had already been reserved in the district for the CC. He said that the existing facilities in Tai Po could not cater for the needs of the residents and urged Government to provide a CC to the district as soon as possible.

31. Mr LAM Wing-yin informed members that the MCs had originally planned to provide two CCs to the Sai Kung District by 2006. He asked when the CCs would be constructed and which of the eight districts recommended in the consultancy study would be accorded priority for the provision of CCCs.

32. To address the concerns of members and deputations, PAS(HA)C2 advised that in considering the recommendations of the consultancy study and the implementation schedule for the recommendations adopted, Government

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would take into consideration factors such as the availability of suitable sites and resources, as well as the planning schedule. He explained that if problems involved in any of these aspects had been solved, the projects concerned might be implemented earlier.

33. The Chairman expressed concern whether the earlier remarks of the Financial Secretary on the need to review the priorities of public works project under the present stringent financial situations would affect the provision of cultural and performance facilities. These projects might not be able to meet the criteria for priority treatment as they might not bring much benefit to the economy of Hong Kong. He reckoned that there would not be any problems concerning the planning and availability of sites for the eight CCCs recommended by the consultancy study. The only consideration would therefore be the availability of funding. He urged the Administration to advise its policy on the provision of these facilities for the districts in the face of budgetary constraints. Sharing similar concern, Mr WONG Yung-kan asked whether these projects would be dropped because of lack of funds even though they were recommended by the consultancy study.

34. In reply, PAS(HA)C2 stressed that besides the cost efficiency of the projects, Government would also take into account the recommendations of the consultancy study, and the views of the residents and organisations concerned as well as other members of the public in considering the recommendations of the consultancy study and setting the priorities of the provision of cultural and performance facilities. He added that the availability of resources would also be a major consideration.

35. Ms Emily LAU commented that Government had tried to shift to the consultancy study the responsibility for not implementing those projects which were not recommended by the study. For projects which were recommended by the study, she considered that Government should develop the facilities for the districts concerned as soon as possible and should not use budgetary constraints as an excuse for not implementing them. PAS(HA)C2 reiterated that Government had not yet made its decision on the provision of cultural and performance facilities as it still awaited the final recommendations from the consultant. He assured members that Government would take into consideration all the relevant factors such as the availability of funds and the views of deputations before finalising its decision.

Funding of cultural facilities

36. In response to the question from Ms Emily LAU whether the consultancy study would explore other sources of funding for the provision of facilities, PAS(HA)C2 advised that the study had made initial proposal on alternative Government funding approaches in the executive summary for the development and management of the facilities.

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37. Referring to these recommendations on funding approaches in section 4.3 of the executive summary, Ms Cyd HO noted that partnership with the private sector in the management of cultural facilities and covering costs by direct charges had been proposed. She expressed concern that similar recommendations had been made in other consultancy studies on public facilities which indicated that Government had planned to shift the operating costs of these facilities to the community. PAS(HA)C2 assured members that Government had not made a decision on the issue and would take into account the concern of Ms HO when considering the recommendations of the consultant.

Priority of the provision of cultural facilities

38. Referring to the prioritisation of needs for purpose built facilities at the regional/district level in section 2.2 of the executive summary, the Deputy Chairman noted that the consultancy study had recommended the provision of facilities in medium term between 2008 and 2012 and long term from 2013 and beyond. He sought clarification whether Government had set the priority for the provision of facilities for the districts. PAS(HA)C2 clarified that this was only a recommendation of the consultant. Upon receipt of the final report (in the form of a Summary of Consultation) on the consultancy study after expiry of the public consultation period, Government would consider the recommendations taking into account all relevant factors.

39. Referring to the same prioritisation of needs for purposely built facilities in section 2.2 of the executive summary, Dr David CHU commented that the need assessment conducted by the consultant based on demand for and supply of such facilities could not reflect the actual needs of those districts which had not been provided with such facilities. He opined that the assessment should be based on the population of the districts concerned. Sharing the view of Dr David CHU, Mr LAM Wing-yin suggested that Government should allocate a certain portion of Government rates for the development of cultural and performance facilities for individual districts in proportion to their population.

40. The Chairman requested the Administration to revert to the Panel upon the release of the 2003-04 Budget how it would set the priorities of the provision of cultural and performance, libraries, and museum facilities and in the implementation of the recommendations of the relevant consultancy studies under the present stringent financial situations. PAS(HA)C2 responded that the Administration would require some time to examine the Budget in relation to its policies. Ms Cyd HO suggested and members agreed that SHA should brief members on the above policy at a future Panel meeting.

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V. Any other business

41. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:20 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
13 March 2003