

Panel on Home Affairs

List of outstanding items for discussion

(as at 18 March 2004)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Management and resumption of private streets

This subject was discussed at the meetings with Kowloon City District Council and Wanchai District Council respectively held on 14 March 2002 and 3 April 2003. It was suggested that the Administration should introduce legislation to improve the management of private streets. Hon IP Kwok-him moved a motion on "Resumption of private streets" at the Council meeting on 11 June 2003. The motion, as amended by Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, was carried.

To be confirmed

2. Application for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence

At the Members' meeting with Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) on 4 July 2002, KTDC members requested this Panel to follow up on the following issues -

- (a) to exempt non-profit making activities jointly organised with Government departments from application for Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) licence;
- (b) to waive the fees for PPE licences for activities organized by non-profit making organizations;
- (c) to simplify the licensing procedures for (b) above; and
- (d) to waive the fee for a certificate of compliance issued by the Director of Fire Services (a pre-requisite for a PPE licence) for activities organised by non-profit making organizations.

Response from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to the above issues was issued to the Panel vide LC Paper No.CB(2)1410/03-04(01) dated 19 February 2004.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is conducting a review on the difference in fees of an annual PPE licence in the urban and New Territories (NT) areas and the validity period of PPE licences. The Administration will report the findings to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene when the review is completed.

This item is proposed to be deleted.

3. Grant of land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organizations

An oral question was raised at the Council meeting on 13 November 2002 about the grant of government land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organisations for use as clubs or clubhouses. The Administration has been requested to review the criteria for the grant of land for sports and recreational uses.

To be confirmed

4. Enforcement of maintenance order

a. Setting up an intermediary body for the collection of maintenance payments

Item proposed by Hon CHOY So-yuk. This issue was last discussed by the Panel on 8 February 2002. The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has also requested this Panel to discuss the setting up of such an intermediary body.

To be confirmed

b. Streamlining the relevant court procedures

The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has requested the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services (AJLS Panel) to follow up with the Administration on ways to streamline court procedures in relation to enforcement of maintenance order and address the problem of evasion of service of summons by maintenance payers who have defaulted on their maintenance payments. Some members of the Bills

June 2004

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Committee have suggested that the summons should be considered to have been served so long as the summons has been served to the address provided by the payer.

Director of Administration has advised that HAB may be ready to discuss the item in January 2004. AJLS Panel has agreed that as the item falls under the policy area of HAB, it is more appropriate for the matter to be followed up by this Panel.

5. Future development of public libraries

The Panel received a briefing on the report of the consultancy study on the future development of public libraries on 13 December 2002. Members agreed that the Administration should consult the Panel before finalising its recommendations on the future development of public libraries. An interim report should be available around June/July 2004.

June/July 2004

6. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk (HYK)

At the meeting of the Duty Roster Members with representatives of the Association of NT Indigenous Residents on 16 December 2002, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the provisions of the Heung Yee Kuk Ordinance (Cap. 1097) under which the NT Justices of the Peace (JPs) also served as Ex Officio Councillors of the Full Council and Ex Officio Members of the Executive Committee of HYK. They considered that the NT JPs, and Special Councillors and Co-opted Councillors of HYK could not represent and protect the interests of the villagers and indigenous inhabitants of NT and requested that the membership of HYK should be reviewed. Their views and requests were referred to the Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

To be confirmed

This item may be considered along with item 10 on traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Promotion of youth development

At the policy briefing held on 15 January 2003, members noted that the Commission on Youth (the Commission) had submitted a draft report on unemployment problems of young people to the Chief Executive. Members requested to be briefed on how HAB would cooperate with the Commission in tackling youth problems.

To be confirmed

8. Priority of the provision of leisure and cultural services facilities

This issue was last discussed on 11 April 2003. Members requested that the subject be further discussed in June 2003 or when the results of the Consultancy Study on the Provision of Regional/District Cultural and Performance Facilities were available. A paper provided by the Administration responding to the concerns raised at that meeting was issued on 10 July 2003.

April 2004
or June/July 2004

The House Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils on 20 June 2003. According to the recommendations, this Panel should follow up the outstanding projects involving leisure and cultural facilities and receive periodic progress reports by the Administration on these projects.

Consideration can be given to combining this item and item 5 on the future development of public libraries when discussed.

9. Sports policy review and problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations

The new administrative structure for sports development was discussed by the Panel on 14 and 29 July 2003. Supplementary information on the arrangements for the new administrative structure was issued to members on 24 October 2003 under LC Paper No. CB(2)178/03-04.

June/July 2004

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

At the meeting on 9 October 2003, Hon Albert CHAN proposed to discuss problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations (NSAs). He considered that the Administration should look into problems relating to the administration, financial arrangements, structures and selection of members of NSAs.

10. Traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT

At LegCo Members' meetings with HYK Councillors on 10 June 2003 and 2 March 2004, issues relating to the enactment of legislation to implement Article 40 of the Basic Law and exemption from payment of Government rent were discussed. Members agreed that the issues involving policy consideration about the traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers in NT should be referred to this Panel for follow-up. Members also suggested that HYK Councillors should be invited to attend the relevant meetings to give views when the issues were discussed.

April/May 2004

This item can be discussed together with item 6 on membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of HYK.

11. Human rights reports

At the meeting on 9 October 2003, Hon Emily LAU proposed that the Panel should convene a meeting to receive views from deputations on the following two reports -

June/July 2004

- (a) the Second Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China in the light of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and
- (b) the Report of the HKSAR under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At members' request, the Administration has provided the following information -

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- (a) China's initial report under ICESCR, of which the second report of HKSAR forms a part, is scheduled for hearing in the April/May 2005;
- (b) HKSAR's second report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) will be submitted in 2004. The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee will advise on the hearing date after receiving the report;
- (c) HKSAR's second report under the International Convention in the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) will form part of China's combined 10th and 11th reports. HAB will initiate the customary pre-drafting instructions when the Central People's Government (CPG) calls for contribution to its report;
- (d) HKSAR's second report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was submitted in early 2004 as part of China's combined 4th and 5th reports. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has yet to announce the hearing date;
- (e) CPG has asked HKSAR to submit contribution to its third report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) by the end of 2004. HAB will initiate pre-drafting consultations shortly. The UN Committee Against Torture will announce the hearing date after CPG has submitted the report; and
- (f) the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has scheduled the hearing of China's second report under the Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) (of which the initial report of the HKSAR forms a part) for May 2005.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

12. Request for the Government to formulate a child policy as well as measures to improve the living environment of poor children and assist them to eradicate poverty based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

To be confirmed

At the meeting of Duty Roster Members (DRM) with representatives of the Society for Community Organisation (SOCO) on 20 November 2003, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the Government's failure to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They considered that the Government should formulate a child policy as well as measures to improve the living conditions of poor children. A survey report on the overcrowded living conditions of poor children was provided to DRM members. The subject has also been referred to this Panel and the Panels on Welfare Services and Housing for consideration.

This item may be considered along with item 11 on human rights reports (in relation to CRC).

13. Research study on the economic and social impacts of hosting selected international sports games

May/June 2004

The Panel endorsed the paper on "Proposed research outline of the study on the economic and social impacts of hosting selected international sports games" prepared by the Research and Library Services Division at the meeting on 13 February 2004. The research study is scheduled for completion in May 2004.

14. Review of advisory and statutory boards

The Panel discussed this subject on 12 March 2002 and 13 February 2004. The Panel has deliberated the progress report on the review of advisory and statutory boards submitted by HAB. The review will be completed by the end of 2004. The Administration will then conduct a second round of consultation on the review in early 2005, after which a final report will be provided to this Panel.

April 2004

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

15. Impact of authorised football betting

At the Council meeting on 9 July 2003, the Administration undertook to review its policy of authorisation of football betting against certain benchmarks, such as changes in the intensity of illegal gambling activities and prevalence of problem and pathological gamblers, and report the findings to this Panel after authorised football betting had been implemented for two years.

To be confirmed

The Panel discussed "Measures to address gambling-related problems" at the meeting on 12 December 2003 and "Codes of Practice for the conduct of football betting and lotteries" on 13 February 2004.

16. Final report of the Subcommittee to study discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation

At the meeting on 13 February 2004, the Panel requested the Administration to provide a written response to the issues and concerns raised in the report, such as launching of a public consultation exercise on the need to legislate against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation.

To be confirmed