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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 18 February 2005

Report of the Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development on its terms of reference

Purpose

This paper reports to the House Committee on the terms of reference of the Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development.

Background

2. The Council passed a motion concerning the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) at the meeting of 5 January 2005. A copy of the motion is in **Appendix I**. Since the WKCD development involves various policy aspects including land use and planning, arts and culture, environment and financing, to follow up on the motion, the House Committee decided on 21 January 2005 to set up a subcommittee to study the development project.

Subcommittee

3. The Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development comprises 28 members. Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit and Hon James TO Kun-sun were elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee respectively. A copy of the membership list of the Subcommittee is in **Appendix II**.

4. At its first meeting on 4 February 2005, the Subcommittee agreed on the following terms of reference:

"To study and follow up issues relating to the development of West Kowloon Cultural District including its interface with arts and cultural development, land use and planning, environmental considerations, financing implications and arrangements, and other related matters."

Advice sought

5. Members are requested to note the terms of reference of the Subcommittee.

Council Business Division 1 Legislative Council Secretariat 17 February 2005

Appendix I

Motion on "West Kowloon Cultural District development project" passed by the Legislative Council at the meeting of 5 January 2005

"That, as the Administration has decided to award the development of the 40-hectare West Kowloon Cultural District ("the WKCD development") to a single consortium in one go and allows the public only 15 weeks to comment on the three proposals selected in the first stage, such course of action has failed to ensure the optimal use of precious land resources in Hong Kong and safeguard public interests while nurturing arts and culture, this Council strongly asks the Administration to:

- (a) extend the consultation period to six months to allow sufficient time for public participation;
- (b) make public all the proposals submitted to the Government by persons interested in participating in the WKCD development, including information on financial arrangements, so as to enable the public to fully grasp the details of the development proposals during the consultation period;
- (c) remove the requirement that the canopy, which requires huge funds to construct, be a mandatory component of the WKCD development;
- (d) withdraw the decision to award the entire piece of land together with the WKCD development by way of one single tender, and break the lot into smaller pieces of land for public tender or auction in the market by batches so that small and medium developers in Hong Kong can participate in the development, with a view to maximizing the proceeds from the land sale;
- (e) formulate long-term and sustainable policies on Hong Kong's arts and culture, use part of the proceeds from the sale of the 40 hectares of land to support and promote the related policies and, in drawing up the specific details and implementing the policies, allow institutionalized participation of the civil society and, in particular, solicit and adopt the views of the local art and cultural sectors; and
- (f) set up a West Kowloon Cultural District development authority, which should be a statutory body comprising members from various sectors, to take up the planning, development and management of the West Kowloon Cultural District."

Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

Membership list	
Chairman	Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Deputy Chairman	Hon James TO Kun-sun
	Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP Hon Margaret NG Hon Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, GBS, JP Hon CHAN Kam-lam, JP Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP Hon CHOY So-yuk Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP Hon Abert CHAN Wai-yip Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip Hon LEE Wing-tat Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC Hon CHIM Pui-chung Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG Hon KWONG Chi-kin
Clerk	Miss Odelia LEUNG
Legal Adviser	Ms Bernice WONG