

Panel on Home Affairs

List of issues suggested to be considered

(as at 11 October 2004)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Management and resumption of private streets

This subject was discussed at the Legislative Council (LegCo) Members' meetings with Kowloon City District Council (DC) and Wanchai DC on 14 March 2002 and 3 April 2003 respectively. Some DC members suggested that the Administration should introduce legislation to improve the management of private streets.

To be confirmed

Mr IP Kwok-him moved a motion on "Resumption of private streets" at the Council meeting on 11 June 2003. The motion, as amended by Mrs Sophie LEUNG, was carried.

2. 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 asked to review the criteria for the grant of land for sports and recreational uses.

To be confirmed

3. Enforcement of maintenance order

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

Item proposed by Miss 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 requested this Panel to discuss the setting up of such an intermediary body.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

b. Streamlining the relevant court procedures

To be confirmed

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 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.

AJLS Panel suggests that as this item falls under the policy area of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), it is more appropriate for it to be followed up by this Panel.

4. Future development of public libraries

The Panel received the Administration's briefing on the consultancy report on the future development of public libraries on 13 December 2002. Members requested the Administration to consult the Panel before finalising its recommendations and provide an interim report to the Panel when it was available.

To be confirmed

5. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk

At the meeting of the Duty Roster Members (DRMs) with representatives of the Association of the New Territories (NT) Indigenous Residents on 16 December 2002, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the Heung Yee Kuk (HYK) Ordinance (Cap. 1097) under which the NT Justices of the Peace (JPs) 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

To be
confirmed^{Note}

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

could not represent and protect the interests of the villagers and indigenous inhabitants of NT and requested that the HYK membership should be reviewed. Their views were referred to this Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item along with item 8 on traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT.

Note

The Administration has advised that it does not propose that this item and item 8 to be discussed in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

6. 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. The Panel requested to be briefed on how HAB would cooperate with the Commission in tackling youth problems.

To be confirmed

7. 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 provided by the Administration on the new administrative structure was issued to members on 24 October 2003 under LC Paper No. CB(2)178/03-04.

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 October 2003, Mr Albert CHAN proposed to discuss problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations (NSAs) in the areas of administration, financial arrangements, structures and selection of members.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. 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 of this Panel to give views when the issues were discussed.

To be confirmed^{Note}

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item together with item 5 on membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of HYK.

Note

The Administration has advised that it does not propose that this item and item 5 to be discussed in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

9. 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

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

To be confirmed

10. Impact of authorised football betting

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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.

11. Review of built heritage conservation policy

The subject was last discussed on 22 March 2004 after HAB releasing a consultation document on 18 February 2004. The public consultation exercise was scheduled for completion on 18 May 2004. The Administration agreed to provide a progress report on the review in June/July 2004. However, the progress report has not yet been provided to the Panel.

To be confirmed

12. Provision of leisure and cultural services facilities

The subject was last discussed on 16 April 2004. According to the recommendations of the Subcommittee to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils, this Panel should follow up those outstanding projects involving leisure and cultural facilities and receive periodic reports from the Administration.

To be confirmed

At the LegCo Members' meeting with North DC members on 27 May 2004, request for the provision of a new civic centre in the North District was discussed. Some Members suggested that policy issues relating to the construction of civic facilities in various districts should be followed up by this Panel.

Further to the meeting, a case conference was held on 20 July 2004 to discuss the request for the provision of a new civic centre in the North District. The Administration undertook

to give a written response by the end of October 2004.

At the LegCo Members' meeting with Eastern DC members on 10 June 2004, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the delay in the construction of Siu Sai Wan Complex which was once included in the Government Priority Project Programme but had been deferred due to financial constraints. Members agreed that the above concerns raised by Eastern DC members should be referred to this Panel for consideration.

13. The Centre for Youth Development Project

The Panel discussed a progress report on the project on 14 July 2004. The Administration would commission a consultancy study to review the provision of facilities at the Centre for Youth Development (CYD) to see what adjustments should be made to ensure that they could attract high usage, cater for youth development needs and operate on a self-financing basis. The review would also assess the feasibility of constructing and operating CYD through an appropriate public-private partnership approach.

To be confirmed

The Administration agreed to provide information, including the response of non-governmental organisations and other organisations to the offer of running the centre, the views of the Steering Committee on the contracting out arrangements, and problems anticipated to arise under the Limited Company model, early in the following legislative term for further discussion.

14. Review of advisory and statutory bodies

The Administration provided three progress reports on the review of advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) in the public sector to the Panel during the 2003-04 session. The progress reports comprised 12 interim reports on these topics: policy responsibility, classification, gender balance, remuneration of members, the six-year rule, the six-board rule, handling of conflict of interest, diversity in appointments to ASBs, review of the Central Personality Index System, review of non-departmental public bodies and

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proposal for the establishment of a consultative forum.

The Administration will submit further interim reports on individual topics in future. A draft final report will be prepared after it has completed the current round of reviews.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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