

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1557/06-07(01)

Ref : CB2/PS/5/04

Panel on Home Affairs

**Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and
Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils**

Work plan of the Subcommittee

Purpose

This paper informs the Panel on Home Affairs of the work plan for the Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils (the Subcommittee) and the time frame for completion of work which have been endorsed by the Subcommittee by circulation.

The Subcommittee

2. In his 2005 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the Government had initially identified 25 leisure and cultural services (LCS) projects for priority treatment after having reviewed outstanding projects of the former municipal councils (ex-MCs). When the Panel on Home Affairs discussed the review of these outstanding projects of ex-MCs at its meeting on 21 March 2005, members expressed disappointment at the delay in the implementation schedule of these projects. The Panel decided to set up a subcommittee to monitor the Administration's work with a view to expediting the implementation schedule of the outstanding LCS projects of ex-MCs.

3. The Terms of Reference of the Subcommittee are "To monitor the Government in following up the outstanding leisure and cultural services projects of the former municipal councils and implementing other relevant projects." This Terms of Reference were endorsed by the Panel on Home Affairs at its meeting on 13 May 2005.

4. Since its appointment in May 2005, the Subcommittee has held eight meetings to discuss with the Administration the implementation schedule of the

139 outstanding LCS projects of ex-MCs. The Subcommittee has received views from District Councils at two of these meetings. The Subcommittee has also held a discussion with representatives of professional bodies in the construction sector on possible measures to rationalise the procedures and shorten the lead time for implementing these LCS projects.

Subcommittee's work plan

5. The Subcommittee notes that a steering committee co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) has been established to oversee the implementation of LCS projects, and to explore ways to expedite their implementation. At the Subcommittee's request, the Administration has undertaken to report to the Subcommittee on a regular basis, about once every three months, on the progress made in expediting the implementation of LCS projects (including the ex-MC and new projects).

6. The Subcommittee plans to focus its work on the following major areas in the coming 12 months:

(a) Measures to expedite the implementation of LCS projects

The Subcommittee will request the Administration to report on the achievements made by the Steering Committee in expediting the implementation of LCS projects. The Subcommittee will also discuss with the Administration measures to expedite the implementation of these projects, including possible relaxation of the plot ratio requirement and enhancement of inter-departmental co-ordination during the implementation process.

(b) Implementation schedule of the 25 priority projects

The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the implementation progress of the 25 priority projects for which the Administration has agreed to adopt a fast-tracked programme.

(c) Planning work and implementation schedule of another 21 LCS projects

Among the 139 ex-MC projects, over 30 projects have either been completed, under implementation or with funding earmarked. The Administration has reviewed the 74 outstanding LCS projects which have not been accorded priority and has agreed to proceed with the planning work for 19 of these projects and two new projects, and adopt the fast-tracked programme for these 21 LCS projects. The Subcommittee will monitor closely the planning work for these 21 LCS

projects to ensure their timely delivery to meet the needs of the community.

(d) Review on the priorities of the remaining 55 projects

The Administration has undertaken to conduct annual reviews with District Councils to examine the priorities of the remaining 55 projects. The Subcommittee will study the review outcome having regard to the views of District Councils and monitor development.

(e) Implementation of new LCS projects

The Subcommittee notes that, apart from implementing the outstanding LCS projects of ex-MCs, the Administration will identify new projects to cope with the changing needs of the community. The Subcommittee will oversee the overall position of the implementation of LCS projects to ensure that LCS facilities are adequately provided at district level.

Time frame for completion of outstanding work

7. The Subcommittee will hold its next meeting in early May 2007 and will meet regularly thereafter until April 2008 in order to achieve the above objectives. The Subcommittee will present a report to the Panel on Home Affairs in June 2008.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to note the work plan and the time frame for completion of work of the Subcommittee.

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12 April 2007