

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)626/09-10
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 13 November 2009, at 8:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Tanya (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
- Members attending** : Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
- Members absent** : Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun

**Public Officers
attending** : Item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Carrie YAU, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Miss Salina YAN Mei-mei, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Miss Polly KWOK Wai-ling
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)²

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural
Services (Culture)

Item V

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Florence HUI, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Home Affairs Department

Mr David LEUNG, JP
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2)

Miss Dora FU, JP
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3)

**Clerk in
attendance** : Ms Betty FONG
Chief Council Secretary (2)²

Staff in attendance : Mrs Claren MOK
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Amy WONG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)175/09-10]

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

2. Members noted that the following papers from the Administration had been issued since the last meeting -

LC Paper No. CB(2)2348/08-09(01) -- Summary of discussion at the meeting between Legislative Council Members and members of Kowloon City District Council on 2 July 2009 on the revitalization of Ma Tau Kok Cattle Depot Artist Village into a cultural development and tourist spot

LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/08-09(01) &(02) -- A letter dated 18 June 2009 from Hon LEE Wing-tat expressing his views on the search function of the website of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for cultural programmes and the Administration's response dated 13 August 2009

LC Paper No. CB(2)2425/08-09(01) -- Letter dated 31 August 2009 from the Administration providing the progress reports on the outstanding leisure and cultural services projects of the former municipal councils at an interval of six months to the Panel

Action

- LC Paper No. CB(2)2539/08-09(01) -- Extract from the minutes of meeting between Legislative Council Members and members of Eastern District Council on 12 March 2009 on the role of the Home Affairs Department under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) in respect of handling of disputes between owners and the Owners' Corporation
- LC Paper No. CB(2)2539/08-09(02) -- Extract from the minutes of meeting between Legislative Council Members and members of Eastern District Council on 12 March 2009 on strengthening the control of indiscriminate placement of cargo compartments at roadsides
- LC Paper No. CB(2)2631/08-09(01) -- The Administration's response on review of advisory and statutory bodies
- LC Paper No. CB(2)2639/08-09(01) -- Extract from the minutes of meeting between Legislative Council Members and members of Kowloon City District Council on 2 July 2009 on the revitalization of Cattle Depot Artist Village in Ma Tau Kok
- LC Paper No. CB(2)129/09-10 -- Three bulletins prepared by the Secretariat of the Sports Commission on the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games
- LC Paper No. CB(2)233/09-10(01) -- Supplementary paper provided by the Administration on Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 3, Yuen Long

Action

LC Paper No. CB(2)239/09-10 -- Two bulletins prepared by the Secretariat of the Sports Commission on the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)232/09-10]

3. The Chairman informed members that an informal meeting was held between the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) on 9 November 2009 to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the current session. He then invited members' views on the list of outstanding items for discussion (the list), which had been revised taking into account the discussion at the informal meeting.

4. Referring to the proposal for the deletion of the item "Setting up an intermediary body for the effective enforcement of maintenance orders" from the list, Ms Cyd HO requested and SHA agreed that the Administration would update the Panel on the implementation of the improvement measures to help maintenance payees to collect maintenance payments at the meeting of the Panel in December 2009 before a decision was made on the proposal to delete the item from the list.

5. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested and members agreed that the provision of community development services, in particular those services provided by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) in collaboration with the welfare sector, should also be included in the list.

6. To facilitate the Panel's monitoring of issues relating to the development of sports and cultural software, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that an overseas duty visit should be arranged to study the experience in those Asian countries where marked achievement in these areas had been demonstrated in the last decade. The Chairman further suggested that where feasible, the proposed visit might cover : (a) initiatives to promote the development of football; (b) development of sports facilities and elite athletes; (c) initiatives to promote education on arts and culture and audience building for arts and cultural facilities such as museums; and (d) preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage such as Cantonese opera. The Chairman also requested a paper to be prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate members' further deliberation on the proposal.

Clerk

Action

7. After discussion, members agreed that the following items should be covered at the next regular meeting -

- (a) provision of an allowance for village representatives (as suggested by the Administration);
- (b) setting up an intermediary body for the effective enforcement of maintenance orders; and
- (c) proposal to undertake an overseas duty visit to study the experience relating to the development of sports and cultural software.

IV. Future development of museum services

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 232/09-10(01) and (02)]

8. SHA briefed members on improvement measures in strengthening the development of cultural software in respect of museum services as set out in the Administration's paper. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS) then conducted a PowerPoint presentation to elaborate on these measures.

(Post-meeting note: The softcopy of the PowerPoint presentation materials was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)283/09-10(01) on 16 November 2009.)

Establishment of a statutory Museums Board

9. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman expressed disappointment at the Administration's failure to revert to the Panel on the progress in the establishment of a statutory Museums Board and the implementation plan on the future governance of public museums, which were the core issues of concern in the discussion of the future development of museum services. The Chairman was worried that the uncertainty over the future mode of governance of public museums would take toll on staff morale, and was not conducive to the implementation of other measures to enhance the services of public museums as recommended in the report of the Committee on Museums (CoM) issued in May 2007.

10. Noting that CoM had recommended in its report that a statutory Museums Board should be set up in three years' time, and the Administration had indicated to the Panel in June 2007 that it would endeavour to complete the entire transformation process in three to five years, the Deputy Chairman and Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked the Administration to explain the slow progress in the implementation of the recommendation.

Action

11. SHA advised that to promote the development of museum services, the Administration had accepted in principle the recommendations put forward by CoM in its report, including the establishment of a statutory Museums Board in three years as far as practicable. While the Administration had implemented most of CoM's recommendations, it would need to deliberate carefully the proposed migration of government-run museums to museums managed by a statutory Museums Board, in view of its implication on the future operation of public museums and the many complicated issues involved, as pointed out in CoM's report. These issues included drafting of the enabling legislation, handling of necessary staff issues to ensure a stable transition of existing staff to the new institution, allocation and ownership of collections, re-alignment of roles and identities among public museums, as well as interfacing arrangements between public museums and M+, the future museum institution in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

12. SHA further advised that in accordance with the standing practice in the government, the Administration had ceased the recruitment of the curatorial grade staff for public museums pending its study on the proposed institutional structure. The Administration was however fully aware of the impact of the prolonged recruitment freeze on the morale of the staff concerned, and would continue to conduct consultation and maintain regular dialogue with museum staff on various issues relating to the proposed governance structure. As for the way forward, SHA stressed that the government would gear up its efforts in the development of cultural software (including the promotion of museum culture and audience building) in the coming years, and undertook to revert to the Panel on its decision regarding the establishment of the statutory Museums Board in three months.

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13. The Deputy Chairman remarked that the establishment of the Board was a well-considered recommendation made by CoM and the Administration should proceed with the arrangement, unless there were very strong justifications.

Measures to improve the provision of public museum services

14. Mr WONG Kwok-hing declared that he was a former member of the then Urban Council. He enquired about the handling of the time capsules laid by the two ex-Municipal Councils, which contained publications and souvenir items signifying the contributions of two Councils in municipal services. Mr WONG urged the Administration to attach importance to this crucial part of Hong Kong's public history.

15. In response, SHA informed members that the history of the ex-Municipal Councils could be included in the Hong Kong Oral History Repository Project (the Project) launched by the Administration in partnership with nine tertiary institutions at the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) in October 2009. DLCS and Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural

Action

Services (Culture) (DD(C)) further advised that in recognition of the historical role played by the two ex-Municipal Councils, the Museum of History partnered with the University of Hong Kong in 2002 and published a book entitled "A History of the Municipal Councils of Hong Kong: 1883-1999". Consideration would be given to including the history of the two Councils in the "Public History" thematic exhibition series to be launched by the Hong Kong Museum of History. DD(C) added that member's suggestion regarding the unearthing of the time capsules would be further studied.

16. In response to Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's enquiry on how the public could participate in the Project, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (PSHA) advised that members of the public might approach HKCL, which provided a one-stop service to collect from the public oral history materials on Hong Kong. DLCS added that oral history references on Hong Kong's history, social life, culture, education and politics were available to the public under the "Hong Kong Oral History Special Collection" at HKCL, and their text version would soon be uploaded onto HKCL's website to further facilitate public access.

17. Prof Patrick LAU suggested that the Administration should : (a) re-develop the Hong Kong Museum of History into a flagship museum to showcase the cultural characteristic of Hong Kong as a whole; (b) re-align individual public museums for better co-ordinated services and clearer identities, and enhance public education on these museums; (c) step up its efforts in the support of private museums, for instance, enhancing the accessibility to the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences; and (d) set up a museum on the architectural history of Hong Kong.

18. DLCS explained that at the moment, the government's focus in terms of hardware development was primarily on WKCD, including M+ (a modern art museum featuring the visual culture in the 20th and 21st century), and it would be difficult for the Administration to pursue a separate flagship museum as suggested by Prof LAU in the near future. DLCS further advised members of the key directions in the promotion of cultural development through public museums, including the promotion of arts education through various public museums programmes and arts performances; and the development of cultural and heritage tourism by promoting museum services (e.g. introducing museum pass schemes) to visitors, targeting particularly those from the Pearl River Delta Region. She added that consideration would be given to Prof LAU's suggestion regarding the display of items relating to Hong Kong's history during the Japanese Occupation in public museums.

19. Ms Cyd HO highlighted the importance for the Administration to devise an overall cultural policy and corporate mission for the development of public museums, and formulate work plans with focused themes in the provision of museum services, so as to enhance the effectiveness of museum education and facilitate the development of museum culture.

Action

20. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3) (DSHA(3)) concurred with Ms HO's view. She pointed out that it was a common mission of public museums to enhance the quality of life of the community, for instance through broadening the vision and enriching the knowledge of the public. To this end, the Administration had endeavoured to promote the diversity and vibrancy of museum culture, as evidenced by the establishment of thematic museums under the streams of arts, history and natural science, while staying focused on the overall mission in the planning and development of public museums.

21. Ms Cyd HO stressed the significant role of literary art in reflecting the historical and cultural development of a place, and reiterated her support for the establishment of a literary museum in WKCD. DSHA(3) responded that the public engagement exercise for the WKCD project was still ongoing and Ms HO's views would be conveyed to the WKCD Authority accordingly. She added that the participation of Hong Kong writers in the Frankfurt Book Fair held in October 2009 had provided a useful platform for international cultural exchanges and helped promote the literature of Hong Kong.

22. Referring to the comment of a local journalist, Mr CHEUNG Ka-wai, in his new publication entitled "Hong Kong's Watershed: the 1967 Riots" that only two photos on the Riots were exhibited in the Hong Kong Museum of History, Ms Cyd HO enquired about the guidelines for the display of artifacts relating to Hong Kong's history, and whether the recommendation concerned would be subject to political vetting. DLCS responded that the display of materials for individual historical topics (such as their scope and proportion) was based solely on the professional judgment and advice of museum curators. She agreed to convey Ms HO's concern to the relevant museum.

Promotion of Patronage

23. Dr LAM Tai-fai expressed concern about the continuous decline in the total attendance of LCSD museums, viz. from 5.07 million in 2007 to 4.75 million in 2008 and 4.42 million (projected rate) in 2009. SHA explained that the higher attendance in 2007 was largely attributed to the blockbuster exhibition of the reputable "Along the River During the Qingming Festival" (清明上河圖). SHA further pointed out that attendance was only one of the many performance indicators of public museums, and its fluctuation did not represent a full picture of their performance. He added that the Administration would continue with its efforts in pursuing both high-quality programmes and blockbuster exhibitions for public museums. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the Administration should consider holding blockbuster thematic exhibitions on a quarterly basis to promote arts and cultural education as well as museum patronage.

24. In response to Mrs Sophie LEUNG's suggestion for iconic items to be identified for public museums to enhance public awareness and interest in their services, DLCS assured members of the Administration's continuous efforts in

Action

establishing clear image/branding for each museum and strengthening publicity work in a more aggressive manner so as to widen the existing audience base.

Donation of collections

25. Dr LAM Tai-fai enquired whether there was any pledge for the timely display of donation items in public museums. DLCS advised that due to the large number of donation items received in recent years and space constraints, a relatively small portion of the donated items could be arranged for display in museums. To maximise the exposure of museum collections, LCSD had been working in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organisations, District Councils and other Government departments to jointly organise thematic exhibitions at various districts and venues to bring arts, culture and history to the wider public. Moreover, information on collection items of Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Space Museum, and Hong Kong Museum of History had largely been uploaded onto their respective websites to facilitate public access.

26. In response to Prof Patrick LAU's enquiry on the display of donation items as stated in paragraph 7 of the Administration's paper, DD(C) highlighted that exhibitions had been/were being organised for these items, including exhibitions on the Cantonese opera items from the Tai Ping Theatre and the collections of the late Lydia Shum in the Hong Kong Heritage Museum exhibitions; and the works of the artists Huang Boye and Ding Yanyong in the Hong Kong Museum of Art. DD(C) further advised that the Administration was planning to publish books on the film archives of the Cathay and the Shaw Studio upon the completion of the relevant studies on these materials.

27. Mrs Sophie LEUNG enquired about the legislative provisions, if any, for the protection of private artifacts/items on long-term loan to public museums. DLCS advised that there were standing mechanisms for handling items on loan to museums. Should the loan arrangement incur financial implications, the proposal would be examined by senior museum staff and assessed by a team of Museum Expert Advisers.

Development of private/community museums

28. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong opined that the Administration should encourage the development of community museums in the community, which had rich collections featuring specific, lively and interesting themes. In his view, the collections of community museums should supplement those in public museums. Mr CHEUNG further suggested that the Administration should introduce a legislative framework to provide for an accreditation system for private/community museums with a view to promoting a more vibrant museum culture. Mrs Sophie LEUNG shared similar views. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che enquired about the collaboration between LCSD museums and community museums.

Action

29. SHA responded that under the existing policy, government support for private/community museums would be assessed based on a number of criteria, such as the scope and quality of their services, transparency of their governance and operation, and effectiveness of their management structure. The proposal for the establishment of a legislative regime would need careful deliberation. PSHA clarified that community museums were a type of private museums showcasing a variety of subjects such as local culture and heritage. While it was the government policy for these museums to be operated with full autonomy on a self-sustainable basis, different forms of support (such as venue or financial subsidy) might be considered, subject to the merits of individual cases. She added that the degree of collaboration between public and private museums would largely depend on the mission and mode of operation of the museums concerned.

Museum education at schools

30. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che enquired about the role of public museums in the implementation of Liberal Studies under the New Secondary Curriculum. PSHA advised that LCSD had cooperated with the Education Bureau (the lead Bureau) to promote art to school teachers and include museum education in the new Curriculum. Efforts would continue to be made in promoting students' interactive studies on diversified topics on arts and culture provided by LCSD museums. With the support of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, interactive guided tours to public museums were also arranged to enhance students' interest in visiting museums.

V. Funding for diversified community activities

[LC Paper No. CB(2)232/09-10(03) and (04)]

31. Under Secretary for Home Affairs (USHA) briefed members on the proposal regarding the allocation of a one-off sum of \$180 million to organise diversified community activities (the Fund), including the objectives and proposed allocation of the Fund, as detailed in the Administration's paper. USHA then conducted a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the four main themes based on which these activities would be organised (viz. fostering of community cohesion, arts and culture, sports, and local tourism).

(Post-meeting note: The softcopy of the PowerPoint presentation materials was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)283/09-10(02) on 16 November 2009.)

Allocation of the Fund

32. In reply to Prof Patrick LAU's enquiry about the distribution of the Fund, USHA advised that the Administration proposed to allocate \$108 million (i.e. 60% of the Fund) equally to 18 District Councils (DCs) for district

Action

organisations to organise a variety of diversified community activities; \$45 million (i.e. 25% of the Fund) for government departments, in consultation with DCs concerned, to centrally coordinate territory-wide or cross-district thematic activities/programmes, such as "Sports for All", "Arts for All" and "Cultural/Ecological Tourism for All"; \$18 million (i.e. 10% of the Fund) for HAD to employ contract staff to assist DCs and the department in implementing the above programmes/activities; and \$9 million (i.e. 5% of the Fund) for publicity and contingency.

33. While Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming expressed support for the funding proposal which in his view supplemented cultural software development at district level, he was concerned about the sustainability of government funding to support activities initiated under the Fund upon their conclusion in 15 months. USHA advised that the one-off Fund was intended to set the course and provide useful reference for DCs in the organisation of diversified community activities around the four main themes as mentioned in paragraph 1 in future. She added that DCs might continue to promote these activities using the annual recurrent provisions for community involvement programmes, having regard to the experience gained from the proposed initiative.

Use of the Fund

34. Mr WONG Sing-chi and Mr KAM Nai-wai considered it necessary to implement more stringent measures in monitoring the use of DC funds for community involvement activities, in order to plug any potential loopholes for transfer of interests and ensure that the activities organized would achieve their designated objectives. They indicated that Members of the Democratic Party had reservation on the funding proposal, which did not seem to address the above issue.

35. Mr WONG Sing-chi and Mr KAM Lai-wai urged HAD and DC Secretariats to : (a) devise more specific guidelines and recommendations on the allocation and use of the Fund for the consideration of DC members; (b) prioritize the use of the Fund for programmes and activities which promoted economy and created job opportunities for the community; (c) propose more thematic activities for DCs to facilitate the best use of the Fund; (d) review critically the professionalism and experience of organizers for community involvement activities; (e) encourage cross-district participation of voluntary agencies and non-governmental organizations of the arts and culture sector in organizing the relevant programmes, and (f) closely monitor the progress and examine the effectiveness of the activities in achieving the objectives of the Fund.

36. USHA highlighted that members' view on the need for thematic activities, participation of professional groups in organizing these activities and proper monitoring of the Fund, had also been the direction shared by the government in the use of the Fund. She assured members that the Government

Action

would draw up a set of guidelines, modelled on the current "Manual on the Use of District Council Funds" with suitable modifications to ensure the continuity, professionalism and inclusiveness of the programmes organised under the Fund. To illustrate how the Fund could be utilized to create continuous benefits, USHA cited the example of training programmes for local tour guides for various geo-sites of Hong Kong National Geopark and other heritage spots or paths at districts. Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2) (DD(2)) supplemented that priority would be given to projects which sought to plant seeds for more similar activities in future through, for example, cultivating collaboration or partnership between local organizations and small-to-medium sized arts troupes.

37. Referring to some members' suggestion for HAB to develop further guidelines on district activities, Mrs Sophie LEUNG remarked that it was a common goal shared by the respective DCs that they should exercise autonomy in the planning of community activities to suit the local needs, having regard to the broad principles set by the Administration. She did not consider it appropriate to request HAD's further intervention in such matter. The Chairman welcomed the funding proposal which in his view would promote the organization of community, cultural and local tourism activities at district level and benefit local residents, particularly the underprivileged. He considered that the existing criteria governing the use of DC Funds in various community involvement activities was fair and adequate.

38. USHA responded that the proposal relating to the Funds was made in consultation with DCs and the Administration would continue to consult DCs on measures to ensure that the district activities organised would meet the objectives of the Fund as well as the needs of the local community.

39. Mrs Sophie LEUNG considered that group and family activities should be organized for children and young people with a view to promoting their well-being and family value. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Fund could be used to support small and medium sized arts groups for staging arts performances at public open spaces, community centres and schools, with a view to establishing a long-term relationship between these arts groups and the local community.

40. USHA confirmed that the promotion of family value and community cohesion was one of the objectives of the Fund and district activities would be organised along this line. DD(2) added that as an initiative to strengthen cultural software in the community, the Administration would encourage small and medium sized arts groups to organise workshops on arts and culture in various districts, and enhance the technical support and reception service at designated community halls.

Action

Manpower support for implementing the proposal

41. Ms LI Fung-ying welcomed the proposal but expressed concern about the impact of the government's initiative on the workload of frontline staff of HAD and LCSO. She urged the Administration to strengthen their communication with these staff and take positive actions to address their concerns and grievances.

42. In response, USHA and DD(2) emphasized that the Administration attached great importance to maintaining close communication with staff and the relevant staff unions, and had briefed staff on the objectives and impact of the initiative under the Fund. DD(2) further advised that to promote a happy and healthy workforce, HAD would launch a "work smart programme" with different grades of frontline staff to streamline the work procedures and enrich their job content. He said that the implementation of community programmes would straddle over a period of some 15 months and additional contract staff would be employed. These measures should help alleviate the workload on frontline staff.

43. To conclude the discussion, the Chairman advised that members' views would be conveyed to the Finance Committee for consideration at its meeting on 4 December 2009.

VI. Any other business

44. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:30 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
24 December 2009

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