

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. FC86/11-12
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/F/1/2

Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 17th meeting
held at the Legislative Council Chamber
on Friday, 13 May 2011, at 5:07 pm

Members present:

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Dr Hon Margaret NG
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Members absent:

Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Public officers attending:

Professor K C CHAN, SBS, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Stanley YING, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Alice LAU, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1
Ms Elsie YUEN	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP	Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr Raymond YOUNG Lap-moon, JP	Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs
Ms Candy LAU Li-yan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Community Care Fund)
Dr LAW Chi-kwong, SBS, JP	Chairman of Executive Committee on the Community Care Fund
Ms Esther LEUNG Yuet-yin, JP	Deputy Secretary for Education (6)
Mrs Anna MAK CHOW Suk-har	Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)
Ms Rebecca LI, IDS	Director of Investigation (Private Sector) Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mrs WONG CHEUK Wai-kuen	Assistant Director (Administration), Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mr Ricky TSUI	Principal Investigator, Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mr Stephen SUI Wai-keung	Commissioner for Rehabilitation Labour and Welfare Bureau
Mrs Anna MAK CHOW Suk-har	Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)
Mrs Cecilia YUEN	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services)
Mr Simon KONG Ha-wing	Senior Architect, Social Welfare Department
Mr Kenneth CHEN, JP	Under Secretary for Education
Miss Linda SO	Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Further Education)
Dr Kitty POON Kit, JP	Under Secretary for the Environment
Mr Benny WONG Yiu-kam, JP	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1)

Ms Betty CHEUNG Miu-han	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Community Relations), Environmental Protection Department
Mr LAI Tung-kwok, SBS, IDSM, JP	Under Secretary for Security
Mr David LAU Kam-kuen	Principal Assistant Secretary for Security
Mr YU Koon-hing, CMSM	Assistant Commissioner for Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports)
Mr TAM Yat-keung	Deputy Head of Land Boundary Command, Customs and Excise Department
Mr Herman CHAN Ng-lick	Chief Engineer (Project), Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Clerk in attendance:

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
------------------	-------------------------------

Staff in attendance:

Ms Annette LAM	Chief Council Secretary (1)7
Mr Daniel SIN	Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Miss Lilian MOK	Council Secretary (1)7
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)8

Item No. 2 - FCR(2011-12)8

**HEAD 53 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT :
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New Item “Injection into the Community Care Fund”

**HEAD 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT :
EDUCATION BUREAU**

Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)

HEAD 170 – SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)

The Finance Committee (FC) resumed discussion of this item at 5:07 pm.

2. Mr Albert CHAN commented that while he would support implementing poverty alleviation measures, he did not consider CCF could achieve such an objective. He also disagreed that the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) should lead the work and the policy oversight of CCF, as HAB would tend to reduce CCF as instrument of political bargain or transfer of benefits. He was of the view that HAB's management of the account of 2009 East Asian Games did not instill public confidence in its handling of CCF. He considered it improper for the Administration to spend money from CCF before it had received the targeted and pledged donations. He said that Members belonging to the People's Power would vote against the proposal.

3. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that the community needed a caring government but not a community care fund. The Administration should overhaul the social security system rather than setting up another mechanism to try to patch up the deficiencies of the existing system. He also criticized that CCF failed to get the priority right, and those who were in urgent need could hardly benefit from CCF. He asked whether the Administration would remove the school-based fund proposal from the first batch of endorsed programmes and use the resources to provide relief to the severely handicapped patients.

4. Mr LEUNG further said that the small amount of private donations received so far reflected the lack of confidence among the business sector and the community on the ability of CCF to deliver the intended results. He suggested to salvage public confidence, and to motivate the community to contribute to CCF, the Administration should improve transparency by engaging the community to determine the programmes to be carried out under CCF.

5. SHA explained that the ten programmes announced were only the first batch of programmes to be implemented by CCF. Following members' approval of the funding injection, the CCF Steering Committee and its committees would continue to consider other worthwhile programmes actively.

6. Mr Paul TSE said that while he personally supported the school-based fund to support students from low-income families to participate in overseas learning activities, he noted that members requested for greater transparency of the operation of CCF. He said that given the large proportion of public fund in CCF, the Administration should be accountable to the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the CCF operation. This might be contrary to the original intention of implementing "quick-win" projects through an independent fund where decisions could be effected with minimum

bureaucracy.

7. As regards the administration cost of implementing programmes funded under CCF, Mr TSE asked if the Administration would recover staff cost and other overheads from CCF. PSHA explained that CCF was a new initiative, and the Administration would recover from CCF the administrative costs (including staff costs) arising from taking forward the CCF initiative and programmes.

8. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that he did not see the rationale for including in CCF a school-based fund to support students from low-income families to participate in overseas learning activities. He considered that there should be consistent eligibility criteria for receiving meal subsidy and for participating in overseas learning activities under CCF. SHA said that the school-based fund subsidising students from low-income families to take part in outbound learning activities could help students broaden their horizons and gain other learning experience.

9. The Chairman put the item to vote. As requested by Mr IP Kwok-him, the Chairman ordered a division. A total of 33 members voted, with 27 members voted for the proposal and six voted against. 12 members abstained from voting. The voting results of individual members were as follows:

For:

Ir Dr Raymond HO Chung-tai
Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun
Mr WONG Yung-kan
Mr LAU Wong-fat
Mr Tam Yiu-chung
Mr Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
Dr Joseph LEE Kok-long
Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen
Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Ms Starry LEE Wai-king
Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Mr IP Wai-ming
Dr PAN Pey-chyou
(27 members)

Mr CHAN Kam-lam
Dr Philip WONG Yu-hong
Mr LAU Kong-wah
Mr Timothy FOK Tsun-ting
Ms LI Fung-ying
Mr WONG Kwok-hing
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung
Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming
Prof Patrick LAU Sau-shing
Dr LAM Tai-fai
Mr CHAN Kin-por
Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mr IP Kwok-him

Against:

Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye
Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip
(6 members)

Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung
Mr WONG Yuk-man

Abstain:

Mr Albert HO Chun-yan
Dr Margaret NG
Ms Audrey EU Yuet-mee
Mr KAM Nai-wai
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che
Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit
(12 members)

Mr Fred LI Wah-ming
Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong
Mr LEE Wing-tat
Mr Paul CHAN Mo-po
Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun
Ms Tanya CHAN

10. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 3 -FCR(2011-12)9

CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND

Head 710 – COMPUTERISATION

Independent Commission Against Corruption

New Subhead “Implementation of a New Generation Operations Department Information System”

11. The Chairman advised that the Committee was invited to approve a new commitment of \$57,457,000 for the implementation of a New Generation Operations Department Information System of the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The Panel on Security had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 10 February 2011.

12. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

Item No. 4 - FCR(2011-12)10
LOTTERIES FUND
Head 341 – NON-RECURRENT GRANTS

13. The Chairman advised that the Committee's approval was sought for an allocation of \$44,427,000 from the Lotteries Fund for fitting-out works and acquisition of furniture and equipment for a new Integrated Rehabilitation Services Centre (IRSC) at Kau Wah Keng, Kwai Chung. The Panel on Welfare Services had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 14 March 2011.

14. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Chairman of the Panel on Welfare Services, reported that while the Panel supported the proposal in principle, Panel members had expressed the following concerns –

- (a) the Administration should formulate long-term plans for increasing the provision of residential care home services for persons with disabilities to ease the acute shortage of subsidized residential care home places;
- (b) the Administration should earmark suitable sites at planning stage of new development or redevelopment projects for setting up residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs); and
- (c) as the design and fitting-out of the former O Pui Shan Boys' Home (OPSBH) was not for RCHD purpose, the Administration should consider revising the scope of the development project, demolishing the existing premises and constructing a new RCHD so as to optimize land use.

15. The Chairman said that the Administration had provided a breakdown of the subvention for the IRSC allocated under "Other Charges", which was tabled at the meeting for members' reference.

16. While indicating support for the funding proposal, Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that the additional places provided by the IRSC at Kau Wah Keng were far from adequate in meeting the growing demand for day training and residential care services for persons with disabilities. He expressed concern about the long queue for services and asked whether the Administration had any long-term plans to increase the supply of both day training and residential care places, particularly in New Territories West. He also asked

Action

whether any suitable premises, such as the ground floor of public housing estates, and sites in new development projects and New Development Areas would be earmarked for rehabilitation services.

17. The Commissioner for Rehabilitation, Labour and Welfare Bureau (C for R) responded that the Administration was mindful of the acute shortage of residential care places. A total of 1 046 additional subsidized places would be provided in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. On top of this, 10 suitable sites in new development projects had been earmarked for setting up RCHDs. It was estimated that over 1 000 additional subsidized residential care places for persons with disabilities would come on stream over the next five years. As regards day training services, a total of 478 day activity centre training places, including those to be provided by the proposed Kau Wah Keng IRSC, would become available in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 to shorten the waiting time for such services. C for R assured members that continued efforts would be made to bid for more resources, and identify suitable sites for increasing the provision of subsidized residential places.

18. Mr Albert CHAN supported the proposal in principle. He urged the Administration to expedite the preparation and construction works for an early completion of the IRSC so as to help relieve the demand pressure on residential and day care services. In view of the convenient location of Kau Wah Keng and the difficulties in securing suitable sites elsewhere for setting up RCHDs, Mr CHAN said that the Administration should consider expanding the project scope of the proposed Kau Wah Keng IRSC by making use of the adjacent land for the construction of additional buildings, thereby increasing the supply of the much-needed rehabilitation services.

19. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung enquired whether the Administration had conducted any feasibility study to examine the use of land in the neighbouring areas of the Kau Wah Keng IRSC. He also called on the Administration to examine options for expanding the capacity of the Kau Wah Keng IRSC, such as revising the plot ratio and relaxing the height restrictions of the site, so as to provide more residential and day care services.

20. C for R noted Mr LEUNG's suggestion. He highlighted that the Administration had critically examined various options for setting up the Kau Wah Keng IRSC having regard to the technical constraints on the land use. The current project proposal was considered the most viable option to provide residential care and day training places in the shortest possible timeframe. He added that the adjacent land, constrained by slopes and a reservoir, was considered not a suitable site for setting up rehabilitation facilities. Nonetheless, the Administration had identified an open space in the vicinity and

Action

would undertake a study to explore the feasibility of constructing additional buildings on the land for RCHD purpose or other services. The feasibility study would examine, among other things, factors such as the foundation of the site, accessibility and traffic flow etc.

21. In response to Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and the Chairman's enquiry about the timeframe of the study, C for R and Senior Architect, Social Welfare Department advised that the feasibility study, including liaison with relevant Government departments on fire safety and drainage issues and the public consultation process, was expected to take six months to one year to complete.

22. The Chairman requested the Administration to take note of members' views and to revert to the Panel on Welfare Services as soon as the report findings were available.

23. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

Item No. 5 - FCR(2011-12)11

Head 341 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT :

EDUCATION BUREAU

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New item “Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund”

24. The Chairman advised that the Committee's approval was sought for a new commitment of \$2.5 billion for establishing the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund (the Fund). The Chairman said that the Panel on Education had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 14 February 2011.

25. Ms Starry LEE, Chairman of the Panel on Education, reported that while Panel members generally supported the proposal, members had expressed the following concerns –

- (a) the amount of scholarships offered by the Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme (the SPSS) to be set up under the Fund was insufficient to help the large number of students pursuing self-financing post-secondary programmes;
- (b) as various scholarships offered by private organizations were currently available, the Administration should make use of the

SPSS for the specific purpose of helping needy students to receive self-financing post-secondary education; and

- (c) the Administration should conduct a thorough review of the development of self-financing post-secondary education with a view to enhancing the quality of post-secondary education and widening the choices for students.

26. Ms Cyd HO said that the Government should commit more resources to increase the provision of publicly-funded university places for eligible students rather than establishing the Fund for the development of the self-financing post-secondary sector. Ms HO noted that assuming an investment return of 5%, an annual investment income of around \$125 million would be generated to finance the schemes under the Fund. She asked whether part of the principal of the Fund would be used to make up for any shortfall should the annual investment return fall below the target percentage. The Under Secretary for Education (US(Ed)) replied that where necessary, the Administration would use part of the principal of the Fund to support the operation of the schemes under exceptional circumstances. Indeed, part of the principal of the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund had been used to finance its schemes in 2008 due to market volatilities at that time.

27. Referring to the proposed membership of the Steering Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund (Steering Committee) tabled at the meeting, Ms Cyd HO noted that members could be co-opted to the Steering Committee as and when necessary. She enquired about the number of co-opt members and the circumstances under which members would be co-opted. US(Ed) responded that there was no specific plan for co-opt members at this stage. The provision of co-opt members in the proposed membership was intended to allow flexibility for the Steering Committee to tap relevant experience and expertise from different sectors as and when necessary. Ms HO remarked that in the absence of specific details, the Panel on Education should be consulted before appointing any co-opt members. US(Ed) assured members that the Steering Committee would exercise due diligence in making appointments, and undertook to keep the Panel on Education posted.

28. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

Item No. 6 FCR(2011-12)13

Head 341 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New item “Capital Injection into the Environment and Conservation Fund”

29. The Chairman advised that the Committee's approval was sought for the creation of a new commitment of \$500 million for capital injection into the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). The Chairman said that the Panel on Environmental Affairs had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 28 March 2011.

30. Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Chairman of the Panel on Environmental Affairs, reported that while Panel members did not object to the proposal, members had expressed views on issues including co-operation with the business sector, the programme on source separation of waste, and the nature conservation projects under the Management Agreement scheme. The Administration would provide a written response on matters as requested at the Panel meeting.

31. Ms Cyd HO noted that ECF was instrumental in promoting public awareness of environmental protection. With the support of ECF, a number of environmental education programmes and greening activities covering various environmental themes had been carried out in schools and at community level to help spread green messages. She was however concerned that while the community had responded positively to the various environmental initiatives, the Government had not made sufficient effort, particularly in the area of legislation, to address the community concern on environmental issues such as light pollution.

32. The Under Secretary for the Environment replied that apart from promoting students' awareness of environmental protection through various environmental education programmes funded by ECF, continued efforts would be made to raise the general public's awareness towards green technologies and enhance community participation in green campaigns through territory-wide educational and community involvement campaigns. Action had also been taken to strengthen environmental protection in Hong Kong through legislative control. In this regard, the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610) and its subsidiary regulations had been enacted. The Administration would soon consult the public on the issues of light pollution.

33. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

Action

Item No. 7 - FCR(2011-12)14

Head 31 – CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment

New item “Replacement of Two Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning Systems”

34. The Chairman advised that the Committee's approval was sought for the creation of a new commitment of \$101,440,000 for the replacement of two Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning Systems of the Customs and Excise Department. The Panel on Security had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 1 March 2011.

35. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

36. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

25 April 2012