

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 5th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 8 February 2012, at 8:30 am**

Members present:

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP (Chairman)
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Members absent:

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP

Public officers attending:

Ms Doris HO Pui-ling, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Mr WAI Chi-sing, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Thomas CHOW Tat-ming, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Ms Jasmine CHOI Suet-yung	Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Works) ²
Miss Emma LAU Yin-wah, JP	Judiciary Administrator Judiciary
Mr Arthur NG Sek-hon	Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Operations) Judiciary
Mrs Angela LO SUNG So-may	Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Corporate Services) Judiciary
Mr LEUNG Koon-kee, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mrs Priscilla TAM DAI Wai-ming	Project Director (1) Architectural Services Department
Mr Benjamin MOK Kwan-yu	Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) Home Affairs Bureau
Mr Charles CHOW Chi-ping	Project Director (3) Architectural Services Department
Mr Donald CHOY Chi-mun	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) ³ Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss Shirley CHUNG Yuk-fong	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) ² Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss Vivian KO Wai-kwan	Commissioner for Heritage Development Bureau
Mr Kenneth TAM Si-wai	Chief Heritage Manager (Antiquities and Monuments) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr HUI Chiu-kin	Chief Property Services Manager (1) Architectural Services Department
Mr Michael LAI Kam-cheung, MH, JP	Chief Executive Officer St. James' Settlement
Mr David FUNG	Senior Manager St. James' Settlement
Ms Suki CHAU	Team Leader St. James' Settlement
Mr C M LEE	Director of Conservation LWK & Partners (HK) Ltd.
Mr Eric HO	Senior Associate LWK & Partners (HK) Ltd.
Mr Andy BROWN	Executive Director Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden
Ms Idy WONG	Head of Sustainable Living and Agriculture Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden
Mr Denis NG	Head of Facilities Department Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden
Mr Billy TAM	Lead Architectural Consultant Thomas Chow Architects Limited
Mr Henry LO	Project Manager Centre for Architectural Heritage Research
Mr CHAN Chi-chiu, JP	Director of Drainage Services
Mr LUK Wai-hung	Chief Engineer (Drainage Projects) Drainage Services Department
Mr YAU Shing-mu, JP	Under Secretary for Transport and Housing
Mr Edward TO Wing-hang	Principal Assistant Secretary (Transport) ⁵ Transport and Housing Bureau
Mr LAU Ka-keung, JP	Director of Highways
Mr CHU Shun-wah	Chief Highway Engineer (Works) Highways Department
Mr LUK Wing-cheong	Chief Traffic Engineer (New Territories West) Transport Department
Mr MA Lee-tak, JP	Director of Water Supplies
Mr LEUNG Wing-lim	Assistant Director (New Works) Water Supplies Department

Clerk in attendance:

Mr Derek LO	Chief Council Secretary (1) ⁶
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Staff in attendance:

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Ken WOO	Council Secretary (1)6
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)8

Action

The Chairman advised that the Finance Committee (FC) had approved on 13 January 2012 the amendments to the procedures of FC and its two subcommittees, i.e. the Establishment Subcommittee and the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) that members should raise their hands or press the "Request to speak" button to indicate their intention to speak at meetings, and the arrangements had taken effect. As regards non-committee members wishing to speak at PWSC meetings, the Chairman advised that non-committee members should raise their hands to indicate their intention to speak.

2. The Chairman reported that a total of 15 projects amounting to \$68,889.5 million had been endorsed by PWSC in the 2011-2012 session so far. Of the total amount endorsed, \$65,397.1 million was related to capital works projects.

Head 703 – Buildings

PWSC(2011-12)45 31LJ West Kowloon Law Courts Building

3. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 31LJ to Category A at an estimated cost of \$2,723.1 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices for the construction of the West Kowloon Law Courts Building (WKLCB). The Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 20 December 2011, and Panel members supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Design of the building

4. Mr Albert CHAN expressed concern that the design of the proposed WKLCB did not project the image of a court of law. He commented that the design of government buildings such as city halls, schools and flyovers was rather monotonous, and asked whether the Administration would improve the building design to better reflect the dignity of a court of law. Prof Patrick LAU, Mr IP Kwok-him and Mr Alan LEONG also expressed the view that the building design should

be elevated to better project the image of a court of law.

5. Judiciary Administrator (JA), Judiciary advised that the present design of WKLCB catered for the functional needs of the courts and tribunals to be relocated there, and the design was acceptable to the Judiciary. She welcomed suggestions from members and the advice of the Architectural Services Department (ASD) on improvements to the design.

Adjacent open space

6. Prof Patrick LAU expressed appreciation of the Administration's prompt response to his earlier advice on improving the design of the proposed WKLCB. He commented that the design of the proposed future open space (FOS) adjacent to WKLCB should go together with the design of the building so that the proposed FOS could serve as a piazza outside WKLCB. Prof LAU considered that a properly designed piazza consistent with the design of the court building could be used for a range of activities, such as press interviews of lawyers, which could help bring the court closer to the public. Mr Alan LEONG shared Prof LAU's views.

7. Director of Architectural Services (D Arch S) responded that the design of the proposed WKLCB had been refined with the views of Prof Patrick LAU taken into consideration. ASD would work with the relevant departments when designing the proposed FOS with a view to ensuring compatibility between the proposed WKLCB and FOS.

8. Mr IP Kwok-him considered that the front elevation of the proposed WKLCB should face the proposed FOS instead of the West Kowloon Corridor. He was also concerned about the noise proofing measure of the building given its close proximity to the West Kowloon Corridor. D Arch S advised that to minimize the noise impact posed by the West Kowloon Corridor, the public waiting areas would be located on the side of the building facing the West Kowloon Corridor, while the courtrooms would be located at the centre of the building.

9. The Chairman advised that the proposed FOS was outside the scope of the proposal, and he requested the Administration to take note of members' views that the proposed FOS should be compatible with the proposed WKLCB.

Admin

Provision for dining facilities

10. Mr Alan LEONG commented that there was no cafeteria in the

proposed WKLCB for court users, judicial officers and supporting staff. As there was a lack of dining places in the vicinity of the court building, he considered that some dining or refreshment facilities should be provided for court users and staff.

11. JA, Judiciary explained that following the Director of Audit's report and the subsequent deliberations of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Public Accounts Committee, the Administration had tightened the provision of canteens for government office buildings, including the Judiciary premises. At present, the magistracies were not provided with canteens and this had not created difficulties for judicial officers and court users. As for the proposed WKLCB, a convenience store would be provided as there were eating places in the vicinity.

12. Mr Alan LEONG said that the proposed WKLCB would house quite a number of courts and tribunals and the number of court users was expected to be higher than other magistracies. He pointed out that the High Court and District Court were provided with a canteen and a café respectively despite they were located in convenient business districts. He considered it justifiable to provide dining facilities in the proposed WKLCB, and queried the criteria for the provision of dining facilities in court buildings.

13. JA, Judiciary explained that a canteen was provided in the High Court to meet the special service needs, while the café in Wanchai Tower was provided to the cluster of government office buildings in Wan Chai and not provided for the exclusive use of the District Court.

14. Prof Patrick LAU opined that a café could be provided at the proposed FOS. He commented that dining facilities in law court buildings provided suitable venues for discussion between the litigating parties. This might be conducive to resolving their disputes and hence shortening the time and reducing the resources required in the litigation process. Ms Miriam LAU expressed similar views. She urged the Administration to consider providing dining facilities in either the proposed WKLCB or FOS in view of the lack of dining places in the vicinity.

15. Ms Cyd HO considered it necessary to provide a quiet eating place for judicial officers and court users particularly the deceased's family members attending the Coroner's Court hearings. She suggested that provision of quiet and partitioned dining facilities should be made a standard requirement in all law court buildings. Mr Albert CHAN supported the suggestion of providing café or dining facilities in law

court buildings to facilitate court users and judicial officers.

16. JA, Judiciary responded that the Fu Cheong Estate adjacent to the proposed WKLCB provided convenient eating places offering a variety of foods for court users, judicial officers and supporting staff. The proposed convenience store in WKLCB would also meet the needs for light refreshments. To address the concern on the lack of meeting rooms for court users, the proposed WKLCB would provide sufficient consultation rooms for the litigating parties. As for the Coroner's Court, waiting rooms designated for the use of the deceased's family would be provided.

17. The Chairman advised that the provision of dining facilities in government office buildings involved policy considerations, and the matter should be pursued at the relevant LegCo Panel.

Admin 18. Mr Albert CHAN requested the Administration to provide written response to the following suggestions before the relevant meeting of FC:

- (a) to refine the design of the elevations of the proposed WKLCB to better reflect its use as a court of law; and
- (b) to make provisions for dining facilities or a place for court users to consume light refreshments in the building.

19. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2011-12)46 429RO Open space in Area 117, Tin Shui Wai

20. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 429RO to Category A at an estimated cost of \$232.3 million in MOD prices for the development of an open space in Area 117, Tin Shui Wai. An information paper on the proposed works had been circulated to the Panel on Home Affairs on 10 January 2012.

Provision of a sports pitch

21. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong were supportive of the proposal, as there were only two full-sized football pitches in Yuen Long District (including Tin Shui Wai) and the one in Yuen Long Stadium was commissioned as early as in 1960s. An additional football pitch was required to meet the needs of the growing population of Yuen Long District, which was expected to reach 662 900

by 2019. As there was keen demand for football training facilities in the district amongst various local sports groups, including one professional Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) First Division Team (Tin Shui Wai Pegasus) and one HKFA Second Division Team, he was concerned that there should be sufficient seating capacity in the proposed football pitch for hosting HKFA matches.

22. Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport), Home Affairs Bureau (PAS(R&S), HAB) responded that owing to spatial constraint of the site and the need to maintain a safety margin around the pitch, there was only sufficient space to construct a spectator stand with a maximum seating capacity of 200. If more seats were to be provided, the sightline of the spectators in the back rows might be affected. HKFA had advised that the proposed pitch would be fit for training but not for holding high level football matches.

23. While expressing support for the proposal, Mr Albert CHAN questioned if it was appropriate to use artificial turf for the proposed football pitch, given that there would be frequent violent contacts with the ground during rugby activities, and that artificial turf was more harmful to human health and skin compared with natural turf.

24. PAS(R&S), HAB responded that artificial turf pitches were currently provided in other parts of the territory for holding rugby events. The Hong Kong Rugby Football Union was supportive of the proposal as there was no public pitch designated for rugby use in the New Territories. As regards Mr CHAN's concern about the arrangement for cooling down the artificial turf which would get very hot under the sun, Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (AD(LS)3, LCSD) advised that the pitch would be well-sprinkled before use.

25. Prof Patrick LAU opined that the proposed pitch should be open for use by the nearby schools in the daytime when the utilization was expected to be low. He also commented that the proposed changing rooms were too far away from the proposed pitch, the design of the pillars for the proposed covered spectator stand was too complicated for such a minor structure, and the proposed jogging trail should be lengthened.

26. AD(LS)3, LCSD advised that the Administration would keep in view the utilization of the proposed pitch upon commissioning. The pitch would also be made available for the use of the nearby schools according to existing policy. D Arch S explained that the length of the jogging trail was set at 250 metres to make it easy for users to calculate the distance

ran. The Administration would take into account Prof LAU's views in the detailed design for the changing rooms and the pillars for the covered spectator stand.

Provision of cycle parking spaces

27. Mr Albert CHAN said that residents of Tin Shui Wai had long been urging the provision of more public open space and sports facilities, and he requested providing some cycle parking spaces around the proposed landscape areas and the pavement adjacent to the proposed sports pitch. He also urged the Administration to draw reference from Amsterdam in providing underground and double-deck cycle parking spaces to save space. AD(LS)3, LCSD advised that although the provision of cycle parking spaces was not included in the scope of the project, the Administration would explore the feasibility to provide such facility where appropriate.

Integration with surrounding developments

28. Prof Patrick LAU considered that the planning for other developments in the adjacent area (currently earmarked for Government/Institution/Community uses) should be taken forward together with the proposed public open space and football pitch, and that the existing cycle track abutting the Wetland Park Road should be connected to the proposed developments under the project. PAS(R&S), HAB responded that the Administration planned to provide a beach volleyball pitch and a sports centre on the vacant sites to the left and right of the proposed car park respectively. Efforts would be made to enhance the integration between the related developments.

29. Prof Patrick LAU welcomed the provision of sports facilities at the adjacent vacant sites. He commented that the Administration should provide information on the planning for these sites in the discussion paper to facilitate members' understanding and discussion of the proposal. The Chairman advised the Administration to provide all relevant information in its discussion papers to PWSC and FC to enhance members' scrutiny of the proposals.

Other planning issues in Tin Shui Wai

30. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming asked about the progress of the provision of a swimming pool in Area 107, as this had the support of the Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) and the local community. PAS(R&S), HAB advised that the Administration was following up the

relevant proposal and would consult YLDC in due course.

31. Mrs Regina IP asked whether the Administration would consider setting up a morning bazaar in northeast Tin Shui Wai to enable small traders, who were forced to close their business subsequent to the closure of the Chung Fu Shopping Centre managed by The Link, to continue their small businesses. The Chairman advised that as the issue was not directly related to the proposal, the Administration could give a brief response to Mrs IP's question. PAS(R&S), HAB advised that the matter would be referred to the relevant bureau for consideration as appropriate.

32. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 708 – Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment
PWSC(2011-12)47 16QW Revitalization Scheme —
Revitalization of the Blue House
Cluster into Viva Blue House

33. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade the remaining part of 16QW to Category A at an estimated cost of \$75.4 million in MOD prices for the selected non-profit-making organization, St. James' Settlement (SJS), to revitalize the Blue House Cluster (BHC) into Viva Blue House (VBH) under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. The Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 16 July 2011, and Panel members supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Access by persons with disabilities

34. Mr Albert CHAN expressed support in principle for the proposal. He enquired whether an elevator system would be provided in the proposed VBH to facilitate access by persons with disabilities (PWDs). Mr C M LEE, Director of Conservation, LWK & Partners (HK) Ltd. (LWK) responded that the proposed VBH would be barrier-free to PWDs. The project would provide a lift and a link bridge connecting the three separate building blocks. There would be some units in the proposed VBH inaccessible to PWDs due to the difference in the floor height between the building blocks. Commissioner for Heritage, Development Bureau (C for H, DEVB) added that those units inaccessible to PWDs would be assigned for use as SJS's offices or be leased to able-bodied persons. Mr Eric HO, Senior Associate, LWK and Chief Heritage Manager (Antiquities and Monuments), Leisure and Cultural Services

Department supplemented that there were structural constraints in making the BHC completely barrier-free to PWDs. The present proposal was to strike a balance between preserving the historic buildings and making the buildings available for public use.

Clerk

35. Mr Albert CHAN was unconvinced of the explanation. He suggested that the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) should be consulted to ensure that the proposed VBH was barrier-free to PWDs. The Chairman advised the Secretariat to seek the Administration's clarification on whether EOC had been consulted on the matter.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration and SJS provided further information on 16 February 2012 and 6 March 2012 vide LC Paper Nos. PWSC33/11-12 and PWSC37/11-12 respectively that in planning for the project, the project team had taken into account the barrier-free access design requirements as stated in the "Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008" promulgated pursuant to section 84 of the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap 487). The Administration therefore believed that members' concern on the provision of barrier-free access in the proposed VBH had been addressed.)

Financial viability of the proposal

36. Prof Patrick LAU, Chairman of the Panel on Development, said that some members of the Panel were pleased to note that existing tenants were allowed to continue to live in the revitalized VBH. He said that a member of the Panel had expressed concern as to how a non-profit-making social enterprise could operate a heritage revitalized project in a financially sustainable manner without further funding support from the Government. Regarding the financial viability of the project, Ms Suki CHAU, Team Leader, SJS advised that there were items generating revenue for the project, such as rental income from residential tenants, and income from the running of two restaurants and cultural and educational programmes.

Selection of tenants and rental payable

37. As BHC was located in prime business district, Prof Patrick LAU expressed concern that the rental payable by tenants would be soaring if it was determined by making reference to the market rate. Mr Michael LAI Kam-cheung, Chief Executive Officer, SJS explained that the rental for existing tenants would remain at about \$5 per square feet. While the rental for new tenants would be determined by making reference to the

market rate, it would be set at an acceptable level. As an example, he said that the rental of a typical unit would not exceed \$10,000 per month when the market rental rate of residence of similar age and condition in local district was \$20 per square feet in 2009.

38. Ms Cyd HO welcomed the appointment of SJS to be the agent for preserving BHC. Referring to the revitalization of the Pawn in Wan Chai to accommodate high class restaurants and was thus inaccessible to the majority of the public, she considered it important that the proposed VBH should facilitate public access and the holding of diversified cultural activities. She hoped the proposed development would not become another luxurious property development project later on.

39. Mr Michael LAI Kam-cheung of SJS advised that SJS had adopted a "bottom-up" approach since the early stage in planning the revitalization project. The Blue House Living Rights Concern Group formed by local residents had also been invited to take part in the relevant planning proposal. SJS had no plan to raise the rental of VBH to make it a lucrative property development project. Ms Suki CHAU of SJS added that the price of the foods to be provided by the proposed restaurants would be affordable to the grassroots.

40. Regarding the composition of the selection committee and the criteria for identifying suitable applicants as new tenants, Ms Suki CHAU of SJS advised that apart from SJS, representatives from the Wan Chai District Council and local organizations, including the Blue House Living Rights Concern Group, Community Cultural Concern and Heritage Hong Kong Foundation Limited, would also be invited to be members of the selection committee. The criteria on selection of new tenants included applicants' experience in community participation, capability of participating in the project and housing needs. A "Good Neighbor Scheme" would also be introduced with a view to attracting new tenants who brought vibrancy to the proposed VBH.

41. The item was voted on and endorsed.

42. Mr Albert CHAN requested that this item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

(Post-meeting note: Mr Albert CHAN informed the Secretariat on 28 February 2012 his decision to withdraw the request for separate voting.)

**PWSC(2011-12)48 17QW Revitalization Scheme —
Revitalization of Old Tai Po Police
Station into a Green Hub**

43. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade the remaining part of 17QW to Category A at an estimated cost of \$50.3 million in MOD prices for the selected non-profit-making organisation, the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation (KFBG), to revitalize the Old Tai Po Police Station (OTTPS) into a Green Hub under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. The Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 16 July 2011, and Panel members generally supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

44. Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed support for the proposal. He requested the Administration to exercise due care in protecting the old and valuable trees during the revitalization process. In anticipation that the Wan Tau Kok Lane leading to the proposed Green Hub would be frequently used by tourism coaches, he enquired about the plans for improving the road which was steep and narrow.

45. Mr Andy BROWN, Executive Director, KFBG replied that KFBG was experienced in trees maintenance. While five trees in poor and dying conditions would be felled with permission, the two old and valuable trees would be properly preserved. Regarding parking space for coaches, C for H, DEVB advised that OTTPS was provided with convenient public transport facilities in its vicinity. The public would be encouraged to use public transport to reach the proposed Green Hub. As the traffic condition of Wan Tau Kok Lane upon the commissioning of the Green Hub would be manageable, the Administration currently had no plan to carry out any improvement works. Responding to Mr CHAN Hak-kan's query about demolishing part of the existing structures of OTTPS, Mr Billy TAM, Lead Architectural Consultant, Thomas Chow Architects Limited (TCAL) advised that a temporary structure made up of tin plate, which was not part of the main structure of OTTPS, would be demolished to preserve the integrity of the historic building.

46. Referring to paragraph 25 of the Administration's paper, Ms Cyd HO considered it far from adequate to showcase only a small portable solar oven for demonstrating the use of renewable energy. She opined that more simple examples, such as the installation of tiny solar panels along with the outdoor illumination system, could be provided to enhance the education value of the project. The Chairman requested the

Admin Administration to provide further information on the provision of facilities using renewable energy under the project. The Administration agreed.

47. Mr Albert CHAN considered that the proposed Green Hub should be barrier-free to PWDs. Mr Billy TAM of TCAL confirmed that the project would be barrier-free to PWDs with the provision of appropriate access ramps and toilets.

48. Prof Patrick LAU, Chairman of the Panel on Development, said that when the Panel was consulted on the proposal, there were views that the proposed Green Hub should promote healthy eating and "slow food culture". He asked about the details of programmes in this respect. Mr Andy BROWN of KFBG advised that the project would provide a range of courses and training in transformative education. These included five-day international transformative education course and two/three-day courses with ecological and conservation themes. While the former would be targeted at community leaders and scholars from Hong Kong and the region, the latter would be targeted at local teachers, community leaders and working professionals. In addition, its cookery training area would promote low carbon food culture for school groups and some 100 schools had indicated interest to join the programme. Free guided tours to the heritage site would also be arranged for the public.

49. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 704 – Drainage

PWSC(2011-12)49 152CD Drainage improvement works in upper Lam Tsuen River, She Shan River, upper Tai Po River, Ping Long and Kwun Hang

50. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to increase approved project estimate (APE) of 152CD by \$141.9 million from \$426.3 million to \$568.2 million in MOD prices. The Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 16 January 2012. Panel members in general supported the proposed increase in APE. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

51. Mr Albert CHAN expressed support for the proposal. However, he emphasized the need to step up site supervision for the project to avoid the recurrence of the flooding accident in July 2010 at the Sha Po Tsai Village which resulted in a death case and damage to property. Director

of Drainage Services (DDS) replied that there was currently a standing practice to conduct a safety audit prior to the commencement of all works projects. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) would also follow up the recommendations made by the Coroner's Court to avoid the recurrence of similar accident. In response to Mr CHAN's suggestion on planting trees of local species along the embankments of the proposed channels, DDS advised that the heavy use of gabions along with the planting of over 1 000 trees along the embankments would be useful in fortifying and beautifying the embankments.

52. Prof Patrick LAU, Chairman of the Panel on Development, said that supplementary information provided by the Administration on the landscaping design of the proposed channel works was inadequate. He sought more detailed information before the relevant meeting of FC.

53. DDS explained that the proposed works involved the construction of three sections of drainage channels amounting to 4.4 kilometres in length. Instead of providing voluminous information on the landscaping design at different parts of the proposed channel sections, a typical landscaping design was provided for the ease of reference of Members after the relevant Panel meeting. He assured members that Landscape Architects from both DSD and its project consultant would be available for the design to ensure a good blending between the proposed channels and their surrounding environment. DSD also had quarterly meetings with six environmental concern groups during which views on its works projects were collected. Addressing the concern of Prof LAU, DDS agreed to provide additional information on the landscaping design of the proposed channel works.

Admin

54. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 706 – Highways

PWSC(2011-12)50 798TH Improvement to Pok Oi Interchange

55. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 798TH to Category A at an estimated cost of \$264.8 million in MOD prices for the improvement to Pok Oi Interchange. The Panel on Transport had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 5 January 2012, and Panel members supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

56. Ms Cyd HO referred to the discussion of the Panel on Transport on the proposal. She relayed members' request for withholding the

installation of noise barriers along the southern approach road (northbound) of the Pok Oi Roundabout pending the Administration's confirmation to provide the proposed two schools in its vicinity. She was concerned about the need for future road works and hence the traffic impact if the noise barriers were not provided along with the project.

57. Under Secretary for Transport and Housing (USTH) explained that the Administration was obliged to implement the measures recommended in the approved Environmental Impact Assessment report and conditions of environmental permit for the project, which included the provision of noise barriers for nearby planned schools. It was therefore necessary to secure funding for the installation of noise barriers. In response to the views of the Panel, the Administration would complete the foundation of the noise barriers in association with the proposed road works first. The installation of the noise barrier panels would be carried out later when the commissioning of the nearby schools was confirmed. In this manner, the future impact on traffic would be much reduced. In reply to Ms HO's further question, USTH advised that the Administration had no plan to provide the above schools in the coming five years.

Admin

58. Ms Cyd HO considered it important to have an accurate estimate on the demand and supply of school places. She requested the Administration to provide information on the programme for the planned construction of the two schools and the estimated number of school places to be offered.

59. The item was voted on and endorsed.

60. Ms Cyd HO requested that this item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

Head 709 – Waterworks

PWSC(2011-12)51 237WF Mainlaying along Fanling Highway and near She Shan Tsuen — stage 2

61. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 237WF to Category A at an estimated cost of \$225.5 million in MOD prices for the laying of additional water mains to improve integration between the Sheung Shui water treatment works and the Tai Po water treatment works. An information paper on the proposed works had been circulated to the Panel on Development on 5 January 2012.

62. The item was voted on and endorsed.
63. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:27 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 April 2012