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Panel on Housing

Meeting on 3 December 2012

Setting up of a subcommittee on the Long Term Housing Strategy

Purpose

This paper seeks the views of the Panel on Housing ("the Panel") on the setting up of a subcommittee on the Long Term Housing Strategy ("LTHS") as suggested by Hon Abraham SHEK at the Panel meeting on 5 November 2012. It also sets out for members' consideration the proposed Terms of Reference and work plan of the subcommittee.

Background

2. To take forward the pledge of the Chief Executive in his election manifesto, the Administration is undertaking a review of LTHS with the objective of ensuring optimal use of the existing land and housing resources to meet the housing needs of the community in the short, medium and long term. Specifically, the review covers –

- (a) compilation, collation and comprehension of all relevant housing-related information;
- (b) ways to increase housing supply, including optimization of the usage of existing public and private housing stock, in the short, medium and long term; and
- (c) projection of housing demand for both public and private sectors to meet the needs of various groups in the community, including young people, the elderly, poorly-housed households, first-time home buyers and upgraders, etc.

3. The Administration has set up a two-tier institutional framework to take forward the review. The Steering Committee¹, chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing and comprising key stakeholders from different sectors, is established to have an overview and offer advice on various housing aspects and initiatives under LTHS. The Steering Committee is supported by an inter-departmental Working Group, which is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing) and comprises representatives from relevant government bureaux and departments.

4. It is the Administration's target to issue a consultation document by around mid 2013, followed by a three-month public consultation. A report on the public consultation will be issued by end 2013. Before producing the consultation document, the Administration will collect views from the general public through the e-platform and focus group discussions.

5. In view of the importance of LTHS, Hon Abraham SHEK suggested at the Panel meeting on 5 November 2012 that a subcommittee should be set up under the Panel on the LTHS review so that members could take an active part in the review and make timely recommendations on the formulation of LTHS.

Proposed Terms of Reference of the subcommittee

6. "To study all relevant housing-related information and ways to increase housing supply to meet the needs of various groups in the community, and make recommendations on the Long Term Housing Strategy."

Proposed work plan of the subcommittee

7. The subcommittee will focus on studying the following issues, which will be examined by the LTHS Steering Committee, and make recommendations to the Administration as appropriate –

- (a) the changing housing needs and aspirations of specific groups in the community, including young people, the elderly, poorly-housed households and first-time home buyers, and the measures to address their housing needs;
- (b) the forecast of housing demands for both public and private sectors and their implications on housing supply;

¹ The LTHS Steering Committee is chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing and comprises 15 non-official and three official members, namely, the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing), the Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands), and the Government Economist.

- (c) ways to maximize and rationalize the existing public housing resources;
- (d) setting of priorities for different groups in the community; and
- (e) current planning and land use, as well as public and private housing policies and practices.

Proposed time frame for completion of work

8. Taking into account the time frame of the LTHS review and the public consultation exercise, it is expected that the subcommittee will complete its work within the current legislative session. A report on the subcommittee's work will be submitted to the Panel at the end of the session.

Advice sought

9. Members are invited to consider the proposed Terms of Reference and work plan of the proposed subcommittee as set out above, and decide on the setting up of the subcommittee.

10. Subject to members' endorsement, the Secretariat will invite Panel members to signify membership for the proposed subcommittee and make arrangements for the first meeting.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 November 2012