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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 10th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 30 April 2014, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Kenneth LEUNG (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon YIU Si-wing
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kwong, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Member absent:

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, JP

Public Officers attending:

Ms Esther LEUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1
Mr Eddie MAK Tak-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service (1)
Miss Susie HO, JP	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Mr Joe WONG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Mr Aaron LIU	Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)A
Mr TAI Keen-man, JP	Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes), Radio Television Hong Kong
Miss Leonia TAI, JP	Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments), Radio Television Hong Kong
Miss Annie TAM, JP	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mr Stephen SUI, JP	Commissioner for Rehabilitation, Labour and Welfare Bureau
Mr Donald CHEN	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2
Mrs Elina CHAN	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)3
Mr Thomas CHOW, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Mr Thomas CHAN, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)1
Mr CHAN Chi-ming, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works)2
Mr LUK Fuk-man, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)
Mr Ambrose CHEONG	Assistant Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Administration)
Mr Philip YUNG, JP	Commissioner for Tourism, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Miss Rosanna LAW, JP	Deputy Commissioner for Tourism, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

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(Developments) (DD of B(D)), in Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for five years with effect from 27 May 2014 to lead and steer the planning and implementation of new projects and services in RTHK.

3. The Deputy Chairman advised that the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting had been consulted on the proposal at its meetings on 9 December 2013 and 10 March 2014. Over half of Panel members present supported the proposal in principle whilst some members queried the justification to retain the post. Given that a number of RTHK's new projects and services, such as digital audio broadcasting services, digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting services and the establishment of a digital media asset management system, involved technical issues, some Panel members considered that the post should be taken up by an officer with the relevant technical knowledge. The Administration advised that in view of the onerous and complex tasks to be handled by RTHK in the coming five years, there was a pressing need to extend the duration of the supernumerary post. RTHK stressed that it needed dedicated steering at the senior directorate level to launch its new services and projects, including overseeing re-planning and re-tendering of the new Broadcasting House (BH) project, and the additional maintenance projects for the existing premises of RTHK.

Duration and candidate of the supernumerary post, and the need of a permanent post

4. Mr SIN Chung-kai expressed support for the proposal. He asked whether the Administration had considered the need of turning the supernumerary post into a permanent one as it was rare to create a supernumerary post for such a long period of five years. Since the Administration estimated that the new BH project would likely complete in 2020, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan enquired why the Administration had proposed to extend the DD of B(D) post to 2019 instead of 2020.

5. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (PSCED(CT)) responded that DD of B(D) would take up a number of tasks, including the re-planning and re-tendering of the new BH project and planning for the relocation of RTHK's existing premises in Broadcast Drive to the new BH. It was estimated that the new tender exercise of the new BH project and the construction and migration process would take at least two years and four years to complete respectively. As it might be necessary to make substantial modifications to the new BH project in the light of the concerns expressed by Legislative Council (LegCo) Members at the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) in January 2014, the Administration could not accurately forecast at the moment the timeframe for delivery of the project. The DD of B(D) post was extended

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for five years and the Administration would review the need of a further extension in around 2018 having regard to the progress of the new BH project.

6. Noting that the launch of RTHK's new services and projects involved knowledge and experience in broadcasting, Mr SIN Chung-kai questioned why the Administration had filled the DD of B(D) post by an AOSGB officer. While expressing support for the proposal, Mr IP Kin-yuen shared that it would be more appropriate for the post to be filled by a professional grade officer of RTHK instead of an AO. This would also contribute to continuity of the work as a number of the tasks to be carried out by the post holder were on-going in nature.

7. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung queried the justification for retaining the DD of B(D) post. He opined that the liaison and co-ordination work for the new BH project should be taken up by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, and the tasks relating to new services in RTHK should be taken up by professional staff of RTHK.

8. PSCED(CT) said that DD of B(D) had to carry out lots of liaison and coordination with other bureaux/departments (B/Ds), such as Architectural Services Department and Government Property Agency in re-planning and overseeing the new BH project, and other high-level work. DD of B(D) would not be involved in the production of RTHK's programmes. Given the work nature of the post and that planning, management, liaison and co-ordination were core competencies of AOs' work, the Administration considered it appropriate to pitch the DD of B(D) post at AOSGB rank. PSCED(CT) added that relevant departmental and technical staff in RTHK would provide assistance to DD of B(D) as necessary. She further pointed out that before creation of the supernumerary DD of B(D) post in 2011, tasks relating to new projects and services of RTHK were shared by the Director of Broadcasting and Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes) (DD of B(P)). The Administration would review the need of the DD of B(D) post towards its expiry in 2019. If the post was allowed to lapse, its on-going duties would likely be taken up by DD of B(P).

Re-planning of the new Broadcasting House project

9. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan queried the need for the Administration to formulate an entirely new proposal for the new BH project as the major concerns expressed by PWSC members were about the cost estimate and scope of the project. He opined that re-planning of the new BH project could be expedited by making modifications to the existing proposal.

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10. PSCED(CT) responded that while the Administration would make modifications based on the existing proposal of the new BH project, it was necessary to review the cost estimate, scope and delivery mode of the project, in particular whether the existing "Design and Build" approach should be replaced by the conventional "Consultancy" mode. Hence, re-planning of the project would take certain time to complete.

11. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the arrangements for the DD of B(D) post if the new BH project was eventually not approved by LegCo, and which party would decide on the matter.

12. PSCED(CT) said that PWSC members generally agreed in principle to the need for RTHK to have a new BH to re-provision its ageing and obsolete facilities and its current sub-standard accommodation. PWSC members only had concerns about the cost estimate and scope of the project. DD of B(D) had to steer and drive the revised project. In the unlikely event that the new BH project was not proceeded, DD of B(D) would have to co-ordinate a number of renovation and maintenance projects for RTHK's existing obsolete premises along Broadcast Drive to extend their service life, and cope with the expansion of RTHK's services. In such case, in accordance with the established mechanism, the Administration would have to report to the Finance Committee (FC) if there were substantial changes to the duties of the DD of B(D) post.

13. Ms Emily LAU conveyed the Democratic Party's support for constructing the new BH. However, she pointed out that there was dissatisfaction over the delay of the project and urged the Administration to review why it had failed to obtain PWSC's support for the new BH project. She asked whether the Administration could submit the revised funding proposal for the project within the Fifth LegCo.

14. PSCED(CT) said that the proposal to retain the DD of B(D) post had demonstrated the Administration's determination to build a new BH as it was necessary to re-provision the existing dilapidated accommodation of RTHK which suffered from congested and deteriorating conditions. PSCED(CT) added that while the Administration could not fully grasp the implementation timeframe of the new BH project at this juncture as it depended on the mode of delivery to be adopted, i.e. whether to continue with the "Design and Build" approach or opt for the conventional "Consultancy" mode, it was the Administration's target to submit funding proposal relating to the new BH project within the current LegCo term and the Administration would report progress of the project to the relevant Panel of LegCo as appropriate. Ms Emily LAU called on the Administration to submit the revised funding proposal of the project as soon as possible and within the Fifth

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LegCo.

Digital terrestrial television broadcasting services

15. In response to Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan's enquiry about the implementation timeframe of RTHK's DTT services, Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments), RTHK remarked that the coverage of RTHK's DTT services had reached 75% of Hong Kong's population by the end of 2013. Subject to the approval of FC on the necessary funding proposal, RTHK would establish 22 DTT fill-in stations by phases in the next few years so that RTHK's DTT network coverage would extend to around 99% of the population. RTHK had started the DTT channel trial run in early 2014 and planned to fully launch the service after the commissioning of the new BH when the required space and facilities were available.

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16. Ms Emily LAU said that the Administration should address members' concern raised at the meeting in writing. The Administration was required to provide supplementary information on:

- (a) measures taken/to be taken by the Administration to expedite re-planning of the new BH project, timetables for consulting the relevant Panel on the revised project and submission to PWSC and FC within Fifth LegCo;
- (b) the rationale for filling the DD of B(D) post by an AO instead of an officer of the relevant profession taking into account that a number of RTHK's new services and projects involved technical knowledge and issues; and
- (c) details of the liaison and co-ordination work to be carried out by DD of B(D) in carrying out her duties.

17. The item was voted on. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to FC for approval.

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EC(2014-15)2 Proposed upgrading the permanent post of Commissioner for Rehabilitation from the rank of Senior Principal Executive Officer (D2) to Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) and creation of one permanent post of Principal Executive Officer (D1) in Labour and Welfare Bureau to strengthen the directorate manpower of the Rehabilitation Team

18. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration's proposal was to upgrade the permanent post of Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R) from the rank of Senior Principal Executive Officer (D2) to AOSGB (D3) and creation of one permanent post of Principal Executive Officer (D1) in Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) to strengthen the directorate manpower of the Rehabilitation Team.

19. The Deputy Chairman advised that that the Panel on Welfare Services had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 10 March 2014. The majority of Panel members supported the proposal. However, some Panel members considered that after upgrading the rank of C for R, the post holder still did not vest with sufficient power in discharging his duties. In the absence of an independent mechanism for monitoring the provision of rehabilitation services, Panel members urged the Administration to establish the mechanism comprising persons with disabilities as representatives.

Duties of C for R

20. Mr TANG Ka-piu sought details of the revised duty of C for R in overseeing and co-coordinating cross-bureau efforts in pursuing issues pertaining to the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities as set out in item 3 of Enclosure 2 to EC(2014-15)2. He was concerned whether upgrading the C for R post only could ensure discharge of duties in a more effective manner. Mr WONG Ting-kwong and Ms Emily LAU expressed support for the proposal but shared Mr TANG's concern.

21. Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW) responded that C for R maintained close contact with a number of B/Ds and public bodies, in particular Food and Health Bureau (FHB), Education Bureau, Department of Health and Hospital Authority. The relevant B/Ds had been supportive of the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) in Hong Kong. C for R supplemented that while C for R played the role in facilitating government-wide efforts in achieving the overall rehabilitation policy objectives and co-ordinating cross-bureau issues as necessary, individual B/Ds were responsible for the

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policies and measures under their respective purviews to ensure compliance with the spirit and provisions of the Convention. C for R remarked that while the Policy Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration would steer the formulation of major policies, C for R's co-ordination work among B/Ds concerned would be enhanced with the upgrading of its rank. PSLW supplemented that the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC), which comprised representatives from relevant B/Ds, facilitated the cross-bureau implementation of its suggestions. C for R would also receive senior level support in carrying out cross-bureau co-ordination if deemed appropriate.

22. Referring to paragraphs 6 to 11 of EC(2014-15)2, Mr TANG Ka-piu enquired why the task of devising a classification of persons with disabilities, which had impacts on Disability Allowance, had not been mentioned.

23. PSLW clarified that the paragraphs referred by Mr TANG Ka-piu were to provide examples illustrating the growth in the policy content and workload of C for R, and hence the need to upgrade the C for R post. C for R would also carry out other duties not mentioned in such paragraphs. PSLW pointed out that the Administration was conducting a review on the Disability Allowance in which C for R and the relevant Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare were heavily involved. It was envisaged that the review would be completed within 2014. C for R supplemented that the issue of the classification of persons with disabilities, which would require further deliberation and cross-bureau consultation having regard to overseas experience, would be further examined by RAC at an appropriate juncture.

24. In response to Mr WONG Ting-kwong's enquiry, PSLW confirmed that C for R would be responsible for coordinating and monitoring public education activities on rehabilitation issues organized by government departments and relevant bodies. C for R supplemented that annual expenditure on public education and publicity of the Convention had been increased from \$2 million to \$13 million. As an ongoing initiative, RAC Sub-committee on Public Education on Rehabilitation collaborated with the relevant parties, stakeholders and B/Ds in implementing public education and promotion activities on rehabilitation.

Staff establishment in the Labour and Welfare Bureau

25. Mr POON Siu-ping indicated support for the proposal and sought details of establishment changes in LWB arising from the proposal, in particular in respect of the non-directorate establishment.

26. PSLW responded that as set out in EC(2014-15)2, the proposal was to upgrade the permanent post of C for R and create one permanent post of

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Principal Executive Officer. In addition, four non-directorate civil service posts would be created in the Rehabilitation Team, including one Senior Executive Officer, one Executive Officer II, one Personal Secretary II and one Clerical Assistant posts. The former two posts were currently held by non-civil service contract staff.

27. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the establishment of the Rehabilitation Team after upgrading the rank of C for R, and whether C for R would take on new duties.

28. PSLW said that Enclosure 9 to EC(2014-15)2 aimed to show the ranks of relevant directorate officers in LWB. The proposed organization chart of the Rehabilitation Team was given in Enclosure 10 to EC(2014-15)2. She added that paragraphs 6 to 11 of EC(2014-15)2 had set out the additional workload of C for R. There would be detailed job descriptions of the respective staff in the Rehabilitation Team. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's further enquiry, PSLW pointed out that the four non-directorate posts in the Rehabilitation Team were permanent posts. The Administration would review the manpower need and organization structure of the Rehabilitation Team as necessary.

Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong

29. Ms Emily LAU considered that the Administration should specify in EC(2014-15)2 that the proposal of upgrading the rank of C for R was a response to the United Nation Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Committee)'s comments that the existing rank of C for R was not commensurate with the level of duties involved.

30. PSLW confirmed that UN Committee expressed concern in its review in 2012 about the relatively low ranking of the C for R post. The Chief Executive consequently undertook in the 2013 Policy Address to review C for R's duties, responsibilities and ranking. The upgrading proposal was formally announced in the 2014 Policy Address. PSLW added that UN Committee's review also suggested that the Hong Kong SAR Government should establish an independent monitoring mechanism on rehabilitation services. RAC, which consisted of members from various stakeholders including representatives of persons with disabilities and the rehabilitation sector, acted as an independent body in giving advice to the Government in the formulation and implementation of rehabilitation policies and programmes, and monitored the work of the Government in this respect. In response to Ms Emily LAU's further enquiry about why the Administration did not establish a dedicated committee in view of UN Committee's concern about

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inadequacy of Hong Kong's existing monitoring mechanism, PSLW remarked that the existing mechanism had been working well.

Services for persons with disabilities

31. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan enquired about the existing demand for rehabilitation service places, and the reasons for taking a long time of some ten years to provide the estimated 8 000 additional places under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Users (the Special Scheme) as mentioned in paragraph 9 of EC(2014-15)2. He also expressed concern about the manpower supply of healthcare to cater for the increase in service places.

32. PSLW responded that the Administration adopted a multi-pronged approach to meet the target of providing about 6 200 new rehabilitation service places during the term of the current Government. The Special Scheme involved re-development of land owned by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In some of proposed projects there would be a need for seeking planning permissions and/or lease modifications. It would take some time before all the 8 000 additional places to be provided therefrom to become available in phases. The Administration would monitor the progress closely and explore different means to meet the increasing demand for rehabilitation service places. C for R supplemented that at present there were over 15 000 persons waiting for various rehabilitation service places. The Administration would implement a host of measures including the provision of enhanced community support and residential care services to address the need of persons with disabilities and review the existing service mode like launching the Pilot Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes and providing home-based support services for persons with severe disabilities. On the issue of healthcare manpower, PSLW assured members that the Administration had been collaborating with relevant tertiary institutions to increase the supply of paramedical manpower and discussing with relevant organizations to provide more healthcare training. C for R added that apart from increasing the supply of paramedical manpower, FHB was also conducting an overall review of healthcare manpower demand and supply in the coming years. C for R would be heavily involved in the related reviews, and planning for the provision of service places and manpower in meeting the needs of the rehabilitation sector.

33. Mr Martin LIAO noted that the feedback of the Special Scheme was encouraging as evidenced by the some 60 applications received which involved about 40 NGOs providing some 17 000 places rehabilitation service places. He enquired about the timeframe of delivering these places, and whether the Administration would assist applicant NGOs to resolve potential

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problems, such as coordinating and facilitating the re-development projects put forward by the applicants in order to minimize disturbance caused to existing service users.

34. PSLW said that the Administration attached importance to the Special Scheme and confirmed that over 60 applications had been received. In processing the applications, the Administration would liaise with the NGOs concerned to minimize possible adverse impact to existing service users. Furthermore, the Administration would discuss with the applicants to help resolve difficulties encountered and relevant B/Ds would provide assistance as necessary, such as facilitating project planning and modification of land leases. It was envisaged that the first batch of the 8 000 additional rehabilitation service places would be available in 2017-2018.

35. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan pointed out that some parents were concerned about provision of care service for their children with disabilities. He enquired about the Administration's measures to address the issue.

36. C for R responded that currently there were 16 District Support Centre providing community support services for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, a pilot scheme on home-based services for persons with disabilities, which had been implemented for three years, had been regularized in March 2014. The "Special subsidy for persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment" scheme implemented under the Community Care Fund (CCF) for persons with severe disabilities would also be regularized in 2014. All the community support schemes would adopt a case management approach to provide one point contact and integrated support for persons with disabilities and their family carers.

37. The item was voted on. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to FC for approval.

EC(2014-15)3 Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in Labour and Welfare Bureau for two years with effect from 1 June 2014 to assist the Elderly Commission in formulating an Elderly Services Programme Plan and in exploring the feasibility of introducing a voucher scheme on residential care services for the elderly

38. The Chairman said that the Administration's proposal was to create one supernumerary post of AOSGC (D2) in LWB, designated as Principal

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Assistant Secretary (Special Duties) (PAS(SD)), for two years with effect from 1 June 2014 or the date of approval of FC, whichever is later, to assist the Elderly Commission (EC) in formulating an Elderly Services Programme Plan (Programme Plan) and in exploring the feasibility of introducing a voucher scheme on residential care services (RCS Voucher Scheme) for the elderly.

39. The Chairman advised that that the Panel on Welfare Services had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 10 March 2014. While the majority of Panel members supported the proposal, some Panel members opposed the proposal on grounds that there was no unanimous support from EC members for implementing the RCS Voucher Scheme, and the Administration had not conducted public consultation on the Scheme. These Panel members also considered that the Administration should not explore the feasibility of the RCS Voucher Scheme without first reviewing the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Services Voucher for the Elderly (CCS Voucher Scheme).

Planning in provision of elderly services

40. Mr TANG Ka-piu pointed out that according to recent findings of the Census and Statistics Department, less than 20% of Hong Kong people planned to retire outside Hong Kong. Coupled with the ageing population, he stressed that the Administration must make early planning on provision of elderly services. Given that the Standardized Care Needs Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services had been implemented for over ten years, Mr TANG considered that the Administration should have gathered sufficient data to formulate policies and measures on long-term care needs (LTC) for the elderly. He opined that the Administration should assess the demand for residential care services (RCS) and community care services (CCS) for the elderly and make corresponding planning on welfare premises, manpower and financial resources requirements. Mr TANG also enquired about whether EC would make proposals and develop performance indicators on RCS and CCS for the elderly, such as requirement in manpower resources and the number of new residential care homes to be constructed.

41. Ms Emily LAU concurred that the Administration should make planning on the provision of LTC services for the elderly as soon as possible. She asked why the Administration had tasked EC to conduct the relevant studies and was concerned about the role of LegCo on the matter.

42. PSLW said that Hong Kong was facing an ageing population. The Administration had all along accorded high priority to address LTC needs of the elderly persons. During the consultation exercise of the 2014 Policy Address, there were suggestions that the Administration should enhance its

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medium and long-term planning for LTC services for the elderly. The Administration had taken on board the suggestions and EC was tasked to formulate the Programme Plan within two years. EC would take into account the supply and demand of welfare premises for elderly services, related manpower needs, and the viability and desirability of different modes of service delivery in mapping out the Programme Plan. A number of schemes, like the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Users (the Special Scheme), the CCS Voucher Scheme, the pilot scheme on a carer allowance funded by CCF and the feasibility of introducing the RCS Voucher Scheme would be considered together with the relevant information and data (including the demand and supply of elderly services) in the wider context of the Programme Plan. As regards the RCS Voucher Scheme, PSLW said that EC was currently tasked to explore the feasibility of such a scheme. Should EC's study recommend that a scheme be introduced on a pilot basis, the Administration would consult the Panel on Welfare Services on the scheme before seeking the necessary funding from FC.

43. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan pointed out that the Guangdong (GD) Scheme was not well received by the elderly owing to concerns about medical care services and the lack of contact with family members in Hong Kong. Mr CHUNG suggested that the Administration should explore implementing similar plan in Hong Kong's border areas like Sha Tau Kok.

44. PSLW responded that GD Scheme allowed eligible Hong Kong elderly persons living in GD to receive the Old Age Allowance in GD without having to return to Hong Kong every year. The Administration noted that while most elderly persons preferred to stay in Hong Kong, some might choose to return to the Mainland after retirement. The Administration would introduce a trial scheme to enable elderly persons waitlisting for subsidized RCS in Hong Kong to choose to live in two residential care homes operated by Hong Kong NGOs in GD. She added that EC would take into account the viability and desirability of different modes of service delivery in formulating the Programme Plan, including the trial scheme mentioned above.

45. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired whether the Administration had assessed if the CCS Voucher Pilot Scheme and the proposed RCS Voucher Scheme could meet the demand arising from the projected ageing population in the coming three to five years. He considered that such work would be important in assessing the effectiveness of the PAS(SD) post.

46. PSLW said that paragraph 3 of EC(2014-15)3 had provided projections on Hong Kong's ageing population. EC would look into the demand for CCS and RCS under the Programme Plan. Different modes of service delivery would be taken into account when assessing the demand and

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supply of LTC services.

Enhancement of residential care services for the elderly

47. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern that some elderly persons on the Central Waiting List for Subsidized Long Term Care Services for the Elderly (the Waiting List) had passed away before they were allocated with service places. She also enquired how PAS(SD) would improve the provision of LTC services for the elderly, particularly in enhancing RCS and reducing the waiting time. Ms LAU was dissatisfied that the Administration only carried out studies and stressed that it must acknowledge the problem and take concrete measures to address the issue promptly.

48. PSLW responded that there were some 30 000 elderly applicants on the Waiting List and the waiting time was about 20 to 30 months in general. Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)³ supplemented that in the past five years, an average of about 5 000 elderly persons on the Waiting List passed away each year. PSLW pointed out that the Administration was aware of the pressing need for RCS for the elderly and would implement a number of measures to address the demand. She remarked that based on the rough estimation by the participating NGOs under the Special Scheme, some 7 000 additional RCS places could be provided in the next five to ten years. The Administration would also increase the number of places through bought place schemes. It was envisaged that some 5 000 additional RCS places would be made available during the term of the current Government if the RCS Voucher Scheme was implemented. She reiterated that relevant supporting services/schemes like day care services, home-based services and the pilot scheme on a carer allowance would also be provided/implemented to assist elderly to age in the community.

49. The Chairman enquired if subsidized places cover bought places as well. She also asked whether the Administration had assessed the efficacy of the service mode of "money followed the users" as well as constraints, such as inadequate land supply, in enhancing RCS for the elderly.

50. PSLW confirmed that a bought place was a kind of subsidized place and the Administration had been increasing the number of bought places over the years. She pointed out that the concept of "money followed the users" was being tested under the CCS Voucher Pilot Scheme and the 1 200 vouchers under the first phase of the Pilot Scheme had already been taken up by users. She reiterated that EC was tasked to conduct a feasibility study on the introduction of a RCS Voucher Scheme but not on its implementation. As regards constraints in increasing RCS places, PSLW confirmed that the shortage of land was a major problem. The Administration would, under the

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Special Scheme, follow up with the relevant NGOs to increase the provision of RCS places for the elderly persons. If all of the relevant applications materialized, around 7 000 additional RCS places for the elderly could be available in the next five to ten years.

51. Ms Emily LAU enquired about whether the Administration could expedite the provision of RCS places for the elderly under the Special Scheme by providing more subsidies to the NGOs concerned. PSLW responded that the relevant NGOs could apply for funding from the Lotteries Fund, into which FC had approved an additional injection of \$10 billion. The time required for re-zoning the land, modifying land leases and formulating suitable transitional arrangements for existing service users would affect the implementation timetable. The Administration would offer assistance to help expedite the process as appropriate.

Position of the Elderly Commission on the proposal

52. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry about EC members' views on the staffing proposal and the RCS Voucher Pilot scheme, PSLW remarked that the Administration consulted EC at its meeting on 4 March 2014. There was unanimous support from EC members on the staffing proposal. While some EC members expressed different views on RCS voucher, it was agreed that a study should be conducted to explore the feasibility. PSLW clarified that should the Administration decide to take forward the RCS Voucher Pilot Scheme, it would seek financial resources from FC.

53. The item was voted on. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to FC for approval.

EC(2014-15)4 Proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) in Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) and three supernumerary posts of one Government Engineer (D2) in Development Bureau (Works Branch) and two Chief Engineer (D1) in Civil Engineering and Development Department up to 31 March 2019 to provide additional support at the directorate level and lead teams dedicated to taking forward the multi-pronged strategy to increase land supply through land production and site tracking

54. The Chairman said that the Administration's proposal was to create one permanent post of AOSGB (D3) in Development Bureau (Planning and

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Lands Branch) and three supernumerary posts of one Government Engineer (D2) in Development Bureau (Works Branch) and two Chief Engineer (D1) in Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) up to 31 March 2019 to provide additional support at the directorate level and lead teams dedicated to taking forward the multi-pronged strategy to increase land supply through land production and site tracking.

55. The Chairman advised that the Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 25 February 2014. Panel members supported the proposal to create the four new posts in general. On the other hand, four Panel members opposed the proposal. Some Panel members considered that information provided by the Administration failed to justify creation of the four new posts. Given that most of the initiatives to increase land supply were still in planning stage and might not materialize eventually, some Panel members were of the view that it was inappropriate to create the four posts at the present stage. A Panel member opined that it might be more appropriate to create the AOSGB post in the Development Bureau (DEVB) on a supernumerary basis as the workload on land development would reduce with increase in land supply in the future. Some other Panel members were concerned about non-directorate support in DEVB and other works departments. The Administration had provided supplementary information to address Panel members' concerns vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1145/13-14(01).

Need for carrying out major infrastructure projects in phases

56. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan supported the proposal and noted from paragraph 21 of EC(2014-15)4 that CEDD would redistribute the duties and responsibilities of some of its directorate posts. Mr CHUNG expressed concern about implementing a number of major infrastructure projects (such as Kai Tak Development, Tung Chung New Town Extension and Wan Chai Development Phase II) in parallel, and the adverse impacts on land demand and stringent manpower position in the construction industry. He enquired whether the Administration would consider implementing the major infrastructure projects in phases.

57. Deputy Secretary for Development (Works)2 responded that, the planning of major infrastructure projects took a long time, often four or more years to complete. While the Administration had outsourced planning work in easing the workload, relevant B/Ds still suffered from manpower shortage. Thus, CEDD had re-organized its structure to rationalize the distribution of workload. He pointed out that many major infrastructure projects were still in various planning stages and their construction would not be carried out at the same time.

Suggestions on increasing land supply

58. Ms Emily LAU pointed out that various initiatives to increase land supply had aroused public controversies. Noting that the public, LegCo Members and relevant stakeholders had put forward suggestions to increase land supply through better utilization of developed land, Ms LAU enquired whether the Administration had considered such suggestions.

59. Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) responded that the existing shortage of land was partly attributed to suspension in planning and land production work of the Government during economic downturns in the past. The Government had resumed relevant planning and land development work since 2010 with the objective to supply land for housing and other economic activities and build up a land reserve as mentioned in the 2010-11 Policy Address. The Government adopted a multi-pronged approach to increase land supply through better utilization of developed land and undertaking major land development projects to produce new land, for example, reviewing land use of existing sites and vacant government quarters land, and taking forward new development areas including making better use of brownfield sites. The Government would continue to engage the public and relevant stakeholders on measures to increase land supply. Various measures to increase land supply, such as planning of new development areas and development of brownfield sites, had been discussed at meetings of the Panel on Development and the Government had provided relevant papers to the Panel. The Government welcomed practicable suggestions from members of the public and other stakeholders and would not give up any such opportunities.

Admin 60. At Ms Emily LAU's request, the Administration was required to provide supplementary information on:

- (a) Administration's responses to suggestions made by the public, LegCo Members and the relevant stakeholders to increase land supply through better utilization of developed land (e.g. development of brownfield sites and vacant government premises/quarters); and
- (b) Administration's follow-up actions on the suggestions which are considered pursuable.

61. The item was voted on. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to FC for approval.

EC(2014-15)5 Proposed retention of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Tourism Commission of Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch) for three years with effect from 1 January 2015 for providing policy input and co-ordination in promoting the development of cruise tourism in Hong Kong and overseeing the development and operation of the Hong Kong Disneyland

62. The Chairman said that the Administration's proposal was to retain one supernumerary post of AOSGC (D2), designated as Assistant Commissioner for Tourism 4 (AC(T)4), in the Tourism Commission (TC) of Commerce and Economic Development Bureau for three years with effect from 1 January 2015 for providing policy input and co-ordination in promoting the development of cruise tourism in Hong Kong and overseeing the development and operation of the Hong Kong Disneyland (HKDL).

63. The Chairman advised that the Panel on Economic Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 24 March 2014. Panel members in general supported retaining the AC(T)4 post to promote the development of cruise tourism in Hong Kong and oversee the development and operation of HKDL. Some Panel members suggested that the supernumerary post should be made permanent as the work to promote the development of cruise tourism and HKDL was on-going in nature. On the other hand, a Panel member considered that the daily lives of the public had been seriously affected with the excessive influx of Mainland tourists, he therefore opposed the proposal.

64. The Chairman said that she held the shares of The Walt Disney Company.

Duties of AC(T)4

65. Mr WONG Ting-kwong enquired whether AC(T)4 would be responsible for overseeing the development of the Ocean Park (OP) in addition to KTCT and HKDL, and whether the Administration had considered the synergy between KTCT and OP.

66. Commissioner for Tourism, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CT) said that OP was an important tourist attraction in Hong Kong and the Administration would continue to work with the industry and the Hong

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Kong Tourism Board to promote OP to tourists. He added that while overseeing the development of OP was under the purview of another Assistant Commissioner for Tourism, there was effective coordination among the Assistant Commissioners to derive synergy.

67. Mr WONG Ting-kwong considered that the AC(T)4 post should be made permanent given that tourism was one of Hong Kong's four pillar industries. CT agreed that the duties to be discharged by AC(T)4 were on-going in nature. As the public and LegCo Members expected that the Administration should exercise vigilance in creating permanent directorate posts, the Administration had therefore proposed to retain the supernumerary post for three years, subject to further review towards expiry of the three-year period.

Operation of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal

68. Mr WONG Ting-kwong pointed out that leasing of commercial area in KTCT was progressing in a slow manner. He enquired whether AC(T)4 would look into the matter and expedite the progress. Mr WONG also stressed that the Administration and the operator of KTCT should collaborate in improving transport linkages for the cruise terminal.

69. While expressing support for the proposal, Mr YIU Si-wing considered that there was room for improving the operation of KTCT. For instance, a number of construction works were still underway in the terminal building despite the fact that KTCT had commissioned for almost a year. There were long queues waiting for public transport at the terminal during the berthing of cruise vessels. Moreover, as fees were charged for coaches at the carpark of KTCT when the terminal was receiving cruise vessels, local visitors had to walk a long distance to the terminal building and this had caused safety and congestion problems at KTCT. Ms Emily LAU concurred that transport linkages for and management of KTCT should be improved.

70. CT responded that KTCT had an ancillary commercial area of about 5 600 square metres. It was envisaged that retail stores and restaurants would be opened in phases starting from mid-2014. Regarding the construction works at KTCT, CT pointed out that while the major construction works had completed, the remaining works were either fitting-out works of retail stores and restaurants in the commercial area or minor improvement works (e.g. extension of the covered walkway in the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Park). These remaining works would complete in the coming few months. As regards transport linkages for KTCT, CT agreed that there was room for improvement and AC(T)4 was tasked to work with relevant parties on this. CT added that after the berthing of Queen Mary 2 on 2 April 2014, the

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Administration had urged the terminal operator to make improvement and the situation for the subsequent three berthings were improved. As for the parking fees for coaches during the berthing of cruise vessels at KTCT, the terminal operator would liaise with the industry to follow up the issue having regard to the need to ensure smooth berthing of cruise vessels at the terminal and safety of the public.

71. The Chairman was concerned about the operation of KTCT and the Administration's supervision and monitoring over the terminal operator.

72. CT said that the current terminal operator had been selected through an open tender for a tenancy of ten years. The operator was subject to supervision at two levels. Firstly, AC(T)4 would liaise closely with and provide guidance to the operator in improving the service level. A Management Committee consisting of representatives from the Government, the terminal operator and the cruise industry had also been established to ensure smooth operation of KTCT and monitor the performance of the operator. CT added that the number of ship calls at KTCT was increasing. The Administration and the Management Committee would closely monitor the performance of the terminal operator. On the Chairman's suggestion that the Administration should consider introducing a demerit point system to strengthen supervision of the terminal operator, CT remarked that the Administration could terminate the tenancy agreement with the terminal operator for serious breach of obligations under the agreement.

Enhancement of tourist attractions in Hong Kong

73. Referring to the criticism on the Mega Events Fund in the Director of Audit's Report No. 62, Ms Emily LAU was of the view that the Administration should step up its supervision over HKDL. Ms LAU also pointed out that KTCT had become an attraction for local visitors as there was a lack of tourist attractions in Hong Kong. She called on the Administration to develop more tourist attractions.

74. CT responded that KTCT had attracted some 8 000 visitors per day including local people as there were a number of attractive features, including the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Park. He assured members that the Administration would liaise with the terminal operator in improving the operation and management of KTCT. It was anticipated that KTCT would attract more visitors with the opening of retail facilities and restaurants in the commercial area, and other projects in Kai Tak Development Area like the Kai Tak Fantasy.

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75. The item was voted on. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to FC for approval.

76. The Chairman enquired whether it was necessary for the five proposals considered at this meeting to be voted on separately at FC meeting to be held on 16 May 2014. No members requested for the arrangement.

77. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:48 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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