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Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Development

**Proposed continuation of work of
the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation
of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of work of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project ("the Joint Subcommittee") and invites members of the Panel on Home Affairs and the Panel on Development to endorse the proposal for the Joint Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2013-2014 session.

Background

2. The Joint Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Home Affairs and the Panel on Development in January 2013 to monitor issues relating to the implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project, including the work of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA"), the project's interface with arts and cultural development, and other related matters. According to its work plan, the Joint Subcommittee will follow up on the recommendations of the former Joint Subcommittee formed in the Fourth Legislative Council ("LegCo") and focus its work on the following areas –

- (a) the taking forward of the Development Plan ("DP") for WKCD;
- (b) planning and development of the core arts and cultural facilities and other associated facilities;
- (c) strategy for the development of cultural software;

- (d) financial management and procurement procedures; and
- (e) governance and work of WKCDA.

Progress of work of the Joint Subcommittee

3. The Joint Subcommittee has, since 29 January 2013, held seven meetings and received views of deputations on the subject of communication and co-operation with the arts community at one of these meetings. Major issues studied by the Joint Subcommittee include -

- (a) the approved DP of WKCD;
- (b) progress in the planning and development of Xiqu Centre, M+ and the Park;
- (c) development of cultural software;
- (d) communication and co-operation with the arts community;
- (e) management and utilization of the WKCD site prior to the commencement of the construction works for the WKCD project;
- (f) integration and connectivity of WKCD with its neighbouring districts; and
- (g) financial situation of and arrangements for the WKCD project.

Need for continuation of work

Hardware and software development of WKCD

4. WKCD is a project to meet the long-term infrastructural and development needs of the arts and cultural sector in Hong Kong. According to WKCDA, the project will be developed in two phases, with Phase 1 Performing Arts facilities scheduled for completion from 2015 to 2020 and Phase 2 facilities to be delivered beyond 2020.

5. The WKCD project is in full swing and the first batch of facilities, which are scheduled for completion between 2015 and 2017, are now in a

critical stage of development. Xiqu Centre, M+ (the iconic museum for visual culture in Hong Kong) and the Park, three major facilities in WKCD, are among the first batch of facilities to be delivered. In the 2012-2013 session, the Joint Subcommittee received briefings from WKCDA on the planning of Xiqu Centre and M+. The Joint Subcommittee noted that the design competitions for Xiqu Centre and M+ were completed in December 2012 and June 2013 respectively and the winning design teams had been appointed as the design consultants for the two projects. The Joint Subcommittee will need to continue to monitor the progress of development of these as well as other core arts and cultural facilities. Major issues which require to be followed up include the detailed design and cost of M+, the design competition for the Arts Pavilion, facilities to be provided in Xiqu Centre and M+, as well as the mode of governance and business models of various facilities in WKCD, which will define the artistic and administrative accountability in respect of individual facilities.

6. At the meeting on 3 July 2013, the Joint Subcommittee was advised that following a critical review, WKCDA planned to turn the fully landscaped Park envisaged in Foster+Partners' "City Park" conceptual plan into quality open space with a simple design, to facilitate early delivery of the Park and related facilities in a cost effective manner. Members noted that public views on how the Park should be developed as a quality open space would be sought through the Consultation Panel of WKCDA and WKCDA would revert to the Joint Subcommittee on its detailed plan for the alternative Park development once ready.

7. According to WKCDA, to tie in with the target completion date of the Park in around 2015, it aims to table the proposed bylaws for the management of the Park to be made under section 37(1) of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance (Cap. 601), in LegCo in the current legislative session. WKCDA is in the course of preparing the proposed bylaws and will consult the Joint Subcommittee on the proposal in due course.

8. The Administration and WKCDA has been working out strategies and measures to promote the development of cultural software to enhance Hong Kong's artistic capacity, groom local arts talents and arts-related personnel, and build audiences for WKCD and the local arts sector. The Joint Subcommittee will need to continue to follow up the development of these matters which will have direct bearing on the planning and sustainability of the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD.

Financial situation of and arrangements for the WKCD project

9. Noting the substantial increase in the estimated cost for the Xiqu Centre at HK\$2.7 billion which doubled the cost estimate in 2006, members expressed concern about the adequacy of the \$21.6 billion upfront endowment for implementing the WKCD project. While the Joint Subcommittee was advised at its meeting on 3 July 2013 that the Administration and WKCD did not plan to seek additional funding from LegCo to supplement the original upfront endowment in the next few years until at least completion of the first batch of facilities in WKCD, members considered it necessary for the Joint Subcommittee to continue to monitor the expenditure and financial situation of the WKCD project to ensure the implementation of the project in a timely and cost-effective manner. WKCD has also undertaken to report to the Joint Subcommittee on proposed alternative financing options for the WKCD project when ready.

10. The integrated basement was an integral part of the "vehicle-free" design concept of WKCD and an essential feature to meet the statutory requirement for 23 hectares of public open space in WKCD. The Joint Subcommittee noted the Administration's proposal to fully fund the capital works of the integrated basement as general enabling works to facilitate the development of the whole WKCD project, subject to funding approval by LegCo. The Joint Subcommittee will be consulted on the proposal in due course.

Accessibility and connectivity of WKCD with its neighbouring districts

11. Accessibility and connectivity are two key planning and design principles of WKCD. During the discussion on the subject at the meeting on 10 July 2013, members expressed various concerns and made suggestions for enhancing the pedestrian accessibility to and within WKCD and the connectivity of WKCD with its neighbouring districts and other parts of Hong Kong. The Joint Subcommittee will arrange a site visit to WKCD to enable members to have a better understanding of the pedestrian connections between WKCD and its surrounding areas. Members considered that the Administration and WKCD should formulate and report to the Joint Subcommittee a more comprehensive connectivity plan and public transport scheme for WKCD.

12. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules provides that a subcommittee should complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the relevant Panel(s). If it is necessary for a subcommittee to work beyond that 12 months, the subcommittee should, after obtaining the

endorsement of the relevant Panel(s), report to the House Committee and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period. The Joint Subcommittee will have worked for 12 months in January 2014. The work of the Joint Subcommittee ties in with the progress of the Administration and WKCDA in taking forward the implementation of the WKCD project. Having regard to the major outstanding matters which need to be followed up by the Joint Subcommittee as set out in paragraphs 5 to 11 above, it is anticipated that the Joint Subcommittee will need to continue its work in the 2013-2014 session.

Advice sought

13. Members are invited to note the progress of work of the Joint Subcommittee and endorse the proposal for the Joint Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2013-2014 session. Subject to the views of members of the Panel on Home Affairs and the Panel on Development, a report will be made to the House Committee for seeking its endorsement of the proposal.

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