

EXTRACT

**立法會**  
*Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(1)/13-14  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/HG/1

**Panel on Housing**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 2 December 2013, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH (Chairman)  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kiwok, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

**Member attending** : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP

**Members absent** : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

**Public Officers attending** : **For item III**

Mr D W PESCOD, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)

Ms Ada FUNG, JP  
Deputy Director (Development & Construction)  
Housing Department

Mr Harry CHAN  
Chief Planning Officer 2  
Housing Department

**For item IV**

Mr D W PESCOD, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)

Ms Ada FUNG, JP  
Deputy Director (Development & Construction)  
Housing Department

Mr Ken CHEUNG  
Chief Architect 3  
Housing Department

Mr Kenneth WONG  
Chief Civil Engineer 1  
Housing Department

Mr Eric HUI, JP  
Assistant Director (2)  
Home Affairs Department

Ms Carmen YU  
Assistant District Officer (Kwun Tong)  
Kwun Tong District Office  
Home Affairs Department

Mr KOK Che-leung  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Subventions)  
Social Welfare Department

Mr Kenneth WOO  
Chief Executive Officer (Subventions/Planning)  
Social Welfare Department

**For item V**

Mr D W PESCOD, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)

Miss Agnes WONG, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)

**Clerk in attendance :** Ms Miranda HON  
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

**Staff in attendance :** Mr Ken WOO  
Senior Council Secretary (1)5

Miss Mandy POON  
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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**V. Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in the Housing Department for the implementation of the initiatives under the Long Term Housing Strategy review**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)411/13-14(07) — Administration's paper on "Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff

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Grade C in the Housing Department for the implementation of the initiatives under the Long Term Housing Strategy review")

PSTH(H) briefed members on the Administration's proposal to create a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") (D2) in the Strategy Division of HD with effect from 1 April 2014 for two years to cope with the increased workload relating to the implementation of the recommendations arising from the LTHS review.

2. Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked why the proposed supernumerary AOSGC post was not created at the early stage of the LTHS review when the workload arising from policy formulation should be the heaviest. He also questioned why the Administration only proposed to create the post for two years, given that it would take years to implement the various initiatives relating to LTHS. PSTH(H) responded that upon completion of the three-month public consultation on the LTHS, the LTHS Steering Committee ("the Steering Committee") would consolidate the views collected and compile a report for submission to the Government. The Government would take into account the wide range of views collected, such as those concerning increased land supply and housing production and subdivided flats, in formulating the LTHS and relevant policy measures. The proposed supernumerary AOSGC post was suggested to be created starting from 1 April 2014 for two years with a view to ensuring that the policy formulation and various LTHS initiatives could be taken forward as soon as possible.

3. Mr Tony TSE pointed out that as the Steering Committee had yet to submit its report to the Government and the way forward was not yet known, it might be premature to take forward the establishment proposal at this stage. PSTH(H) explained that the Administration had to work on some of the recommendations as set out in the Consultation Document on the LTHS for the time being, and would take into account the community's feedback on the recommendations when the Steering Committee's report was available. In response to Mr Tony TSE's question on the work schedule of the Steering Committee, PSTH(H) advised that the Steering Committee would hold a series of meetings in December 2013 and January 2014, and would submit its report to the Government in the first quarter of 2014 for consideration. The next step would be policy review, development and implementation. The Administration had carefully considered the timing of the start of the post and this was the reason why it was proposed to be created starting from April 2014.

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4. Mr Albert CHAN commented that the expansion of the directorate establishment in the Government in recent months had been unprecedented. Pointing out that the average annual housing supply target of the present-term Government at about 47 000 units was in fact far below that of the Government of the previous terms at about 85 000 units, he queried the justifications for increasing HD's manpower. He also said that he was opposed to the establishment proposal. PSTH(H) explained that when the then Housing Bureau was combined with HD in 2002 and for the single housing organization to be taken up by the then Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau, HD had reduced its establishment substantially, including directorate posts. Currently, the number of posts in HD was still far below that of its establishment in 2002. Moreover, PSTH(H) clarified that the proposed directorate post for the implementation of the initiatives under the LTHS review was related to the policy side instead of the construction side.

5. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok declared that he was a member of the Building Committee and Tender Committee of the Hong Kong Housing Authority ("HA"). He asked whether HA and other departments would be tasked to implement the initiatives arising from the LTHS review upon expiry of the proposed supernumerary AOSGC post. PSTH(H) responded that depending on the outcome of the consultation and the Steering Committee's report, implementation of the LTHS initiatives would involve different government departments. The proposed post was important as it would be responsible for liaising with relevant bureaux and departments as well as other stakeholders to follow up on the agreed initiatives and take forward the LTHS. In reply to Ir Dr LO's further question, PSTH(H) advised that the Administration planned to consult the Panel in early 2014 on the proposed creation of directorate posts in HD for coping with the additional workload arising from the new public housing production targets, during which members' support would be sought for the creation of technical and professional grade posts for implementing the public housing construction programme. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok said that he supported the staffing proposal.

6. The Chairman proposed to extend the meeting until all items on the agenda had been dealt with. There was no dissenting voice to the proposal.

7. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that he remained unconvinced of the justifications of the proposal and he did not support it. Dr CHEUNG also requested that the proposal, if eventually submitted to the Finance Committee for approval, should be voted on separately. The Chairman clarified that the proposal would be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee before the Finance Committee. Mr Albert CHAN reiterated his request for more information on the changes in HD's staff establishment since the 1990's to

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justify its need for additional posts despite the decreased public housing production volume as compared to the past.

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8. In response to members' concerns, the Administration was requested to provide the following additional information to justify the creation of the supernumerary AOSGC post –

- (a) a comparison between the staff establishment of HD and the Transport and Housing Bureau (and its equivalent) when public housing production peaked in the 1990's and as at today, and the volume of public housing production at the relevant years; and
- (b) more details on the duties and responsibilities of the proposed supernumerary AOSGC post.

9. The Chairman concluded that the Panel would discuss the proposal again at the next meeting to be held on 6 January 2014 after receiving the additional information.