

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB (2)551/14-15

Ref: CB2/T/16

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 9 January 2015

Proposed extension of period of work of subcommittees on policy issues

Purpose

This paper invites Members to consider the proposed extension of period of work of two subcommittees on policy issues.

Background

2. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules ("HR") specifies that a subcommittee on policy issues should complete work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the House Committee ("HC") or relevant Panel(s) as appropriate. Should such a subcommittee consider it necessary to work beyond 12 months, it should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel(s) if it is appointed by a Panel(s), report to HC and give justifications for an extension of the period.

3. The maximum number of subcommittees on policy issues under HC and Panels that may be in operation at any one time is 10¹. Pursuant to HR 26(b), any new subcommittees formed after the quota has been filled will be put on a waiting list, and HC will act as the clearing house for the activation of subcommittee(s) on the list.

Proposed extension of period of work of subcommittees

4. The two subcommittees seeking the permission of HC for extension of the period of their work are -

¹ Under HR 26(a), the maximum number of subcommittees on policy issues that may be in operation at any one time is eight. With additional resources being allocated to the Secretariat in the 2013 Resource Allocation Exercise, the Secretariat is able to utilize such resources to service up to two more subcommittees on policy issues on top of the quota of eight specified in HR 26(a) with effect from 1 April 2014.

- (a) the Subcommittee on Poverty under HC; and
- (b) the Subcommittee on Retirement Protection under the Panel on Welfare Services.

5. The Subcommittee on Poverty and the Subcommittee on Retirement Protection commenced work in November 2012 and February 2014 respectively. The former subcommittee was given permission by HC in November 2013 to extend its work for a period of about 12 months after expiry of the initial 12-month period. These two subcommittees have recently reviewed their work progress and consider it necessary to extend the period of their work. Their proposals are summarized as follows -

Subcommittees on policy issues	Date of first meeting	End date of approved period of work	Proposed time frame for extension of work	Proposed duration of extension of work
1. Subcommittee on Poverty under HC	5 November 2012	18 January 2015	Until 31 January 2016	about 12 months
2. Subcommittee on Retirement Protection under the Panel on Welfare Services	25 February 2014	24 February 2015	2014-2015 session (i.e. until 30 September 2015)	about 7 months

6. Details of the progress of work of the two subcommittees and their proposals for extension of period of work are given in **Appendices I to II**.

Considerations for proposed extension of period of work of subcommittees on policy issues

Broad principles for activation, operation and extension of period of work of subcommittees on policy issues

7. To ensure the completion of work of subcommittees on policy issues within a specified time frame so that slots can be vacated within a reasonable time for the activation of other subcommittees, as well as effective and flexible use of resources, Members agreed at the HC meeting on 15 November 2013 to adopt the following broad principles for the activation, operation and extension of period of work of such subcommittees –

- (a) where a subcommittee considers it necessary to extend the period of its work but there are subcommittees on the waiting list awaiting activation, HC may, if considered appropriate, give permission for the subcommittee to continue to operate for three more months in the first instance after the expiry of its period of work to allow time for it to wrap up its current stage of work, after which the subcommittee will, if necessary, be placed on the waiting list for re-activation of work. Upon re-activation, the subcommittee shall complete its work within the remainder of the extension period originally sought, unless decided otherwise by HC. HC can decide the order of activation/re-activation of subcommittees on the waiting list; and
- (b) the number of subcommittees under each Panel operating at the same time should not exceed two. For this purpose, a joint subcommittee will be counted as one subcommittee for each of the Panels concerned.

Current position of subcommittees on policy issues

8. At present, apart from the two subcommittees currently seeking the permission of HC for extension of their period of work, there are eight other subcommittees on policy issues under Panels in operation. The position of these 10 subcommittees on policy issues is in **Appendix III**. Currently, there is no subcommittee on policy issues on the waiting list.

Advice sought

9. Pursuant to HR 26(c), Members are invited to consider the proposed extension of period of work of the two subcommittees on policy issues as set out in paragraph 5.

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Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)555/14-15

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 9 January 2015

**Proposed extension of period of work
of the Subcommittee on Poverty**

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of work of the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee"), and the need for the Subcommittee to extend the period of its work and continue to operate in the 2014-2015 legislative session.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the House Committee ("HC") in October 2012 to study relevant policies and measures for easing the disparity between the rich and the poor as well as alleviating poverty, follow up the work of the Government's Commission on Poverty ("CoP") and make timely recommendations.
3. The terms of reference and membership of the Subcommittee are set out in **Annexes I and II** respectively.

Work of the Subcommittee

4. Since 5 November 2012, the Subcommittee has held 24 meetings with the Administration and received views from deputations at 10 of these meetings. Issues discussed by the Subcommittee include –
 - (a) poverty line;
 - (b) elderly poverty;

- (c) working poverty (including the Administration's proposed Low-income Working Family Allowance scheme);
- (d) Hong Kong's poverty situation in 2013;
- (e) alleviating poverty through information technology and promoting community economy;
- (f) promoting the development of social enterprises;
- (g) support for disadvantaged groups¹;
- (h) policy initiatives relating to CoP's work set out in the Chief Executive's 2014 Policy Address;
- (i) work of CoP and its Task Forces;
- (j) injection of \$15 billion into CoP's Community Care Fund ("CCF") and work progress of CCF;
- (k) student financial assistance schemes for needy students of various education levels; and
- (l) relationship between housing and poverty.

5. The Subcommittee has completed two reports, one on poverty line and the other on working poverty. These two reports have been forwarded to CoP for consideration and response. In addition, a delegation of the Subcommittee had conducted a duty visit to Taiwan and Japan in 2013 to study their experience in alleviating poverty and the findings of the visit were discussed by the Subcommittee. A motion debate on the delegation's report, which contained the findings and the Subcommittee's deliberations, was held at the Council meeting of 18 June 2014.

Need for continuation of work in the 2014-2015 session

6. The Subcommittee has yet to discuss the following issues which

¹ These groups include persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, new-arrivals and single-parent families.

have been identified for its study –

- (a) women in poverty;
- (b) promoting support for community economy through the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund, social enterprises and bazaars, in order to enhance the employment opportunity of people in poverty;
- (c) relationship between public health condition and poverty;
- (d) social security system; and
- (e) intergenerational poverty (including children and youth in poverty).

7. The Subcommittee is tasked to follow up the work of CoP, the previous term of which expired on 30 November 2014. According to the Administration, the current term of CoP is conterminous with the current-term Government and therefore runs from 1 December 2014 to 30 June 2017. The structure of the current-term CoP has been suitably adjusted. In the current term, CoP has set up four Task Forces which are responsible for promoting youth mobility, supporting the special needs groups, as well as administering CCF and the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund respectively. CoP deals with the subjects of social security and retirement protection direct. Working groups will be formed on an ad-hoc basis to take forward specific projects. The terms of reference of the Task Forces have been reviewed to reflect CoP's work direction. The Subcommittee will need to monitor such restructuring of CoP as well as the progress of the restructured CoP and its Task Forces in taking forward poverty alleviation initiatives. The Subcommittee will also discuss issues which have been studied by the restructured CoP and its Task Forces.

8. Apart from the above work, the Subcommittee will be consulted prior to the Administration's launching of brand-new CCF programmes which are pilot in nature and the funding provision of which is expected to exceed \$100 million. The Subcommittee will also be briefed regularly on the funding position of CCF and the implementation progress of its programmes every six months.

Proposed extension of period of work

9. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules provides that if a subcommittee on a policy issue appointed by HC considers it necessary to work beyond 12 months of its commencement, it should report to HC and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period. In accordance with the said House Rule, approval was previously given by HC at its meeting on 15 November 2013 for the Subcommittee to extend the period of its work until 18 January 2015.

10. Having regard to the outstanding matters which need to be followed up by the Subcommittee as set out in paragraphs 6 to 8 above, Members may wish to consider the need for the Subcommittee to continue to work for completing the tasks mentioned above. If Members decide to do so, it is envisaged that the Subcommittee will need to continue its work for about 12 months until 31 January 2016.

Advice sought

11. Pursuant to rule 26(c) of the House Rules, Members are invited to note the progress of work of the Subcommittee and endorse the proposal of the Subcommittee to extend the period of its work until 31 January 2016.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 January 2015

Subcommittee on Poverty

Terms of reference

To study relevant policies and measures to ease the disparity between the rich and the poor and alleviate poverty, follow up the work of the Government's Commission on Poverty and make timely recommendations.

Subcommittee on Poverty

Membership list

Chairman	Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Deputy Chairman	Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Members	Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Hon LEE Cheuk-yan Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (since 11 December 2012) Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP (up to 23 January 2013) Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung Hon WONG Yuk-man Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP (since 11 December 2012) Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (since 11 December 2012) Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki Hon KWOK Wai-keung Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP (Total : 22 Members)
Clerk	Mr Colin CHUI
Legal adviser	Miss Mimi CHANG
Date	2 July 2014

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)560/14-15

Ref : CB2/PS/4/12

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 9 January 2015

**Continuation of work of the Subcommittee on Retirement Protection
under the Panel on Welfare Services**

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of work of the Subcommittee on Retirement Protection ("the Subcommittee"), and the need for continuation of its work in the 2014-2015 session.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on 14 January 2013 to study issues relating to the protection of retirement life of all people, and to follow up on the proposal of setting up and implementation of universal retirement protection for all people in Hong Kong. According to its terms of reference and work plan, the Subcommittee would focus its work on the following areas -

- (a) review of the existing three-pillar retirement protection model;
- (b) the feasibility of setting up and implementation of universal retirement protection for all people in Hong Kong; and
- (c) way forward on retirement protection in the light of an ageing population in Hong Kong.

3. The terms of reference and membership of the Subcommittee are set out in **Annexes I and II** respectively.

Progress of work of the Subcommittee

4. The Subcommittee has since February 2014 held eight meetings with the Administration and received views of deputations at seven of these meetings. The Subcommittee has studied the following major issues -

- (a) efficacy of the existing three-pillar model for retirement protection;
- (b) key features of the proposed models on retirement protection put forward by community organisations and political parties; and
- (c) study report entitled "Research Report on Future Development of Retirement Protection in Hong Kong" ("the Research Report"), which was conducted by the consultancy team commissioned by the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") and was released on 20 August 2014.

Need for continuation of work in the 2014-2015 session

Major work ahead

5. In the Research Report (referred to in paragraph 3(c) above), the consultancy team has set out the quantitative assessment on five selected proposals on retirement protection and recommended the setting up of the demo-grants at \$3,000 per month for all Hong Kong permanent residents aged 65 and above and levying of a payroll old age tax from employers and employees according to the employee's level of salary to finance the proposed demo-grants.

6. The Subcommittee has been briefed on the findings and recommendations of the consultancy team at its meeting on 29 August 2014, and has held two further meetings on 11 October and 15 November 2014 respectively to receive public views on the Research Report. Members have strongly urged the Administration to demonstrate clearly its determination and commitment to implement a comprehensive retirement protection scheme. Members have also requested the Administration to launch immediately a consultation exercise on the Research Report, as well as put forward a concrete proposal and an implementation timetable in the Chief Executive's 2015 Policy Address.

7. According to the Administration, it maintains an open mind on the issue of retirement protection, which is a highly complex subject. The

Research Report has provided useful reference for future discussion on retirement protection. As CoP has just been presented with the Research Report at its meeting on 20 August 2014, it has agreed that the subject has to be taken forward prudently and that more time will be needed to examine the Research Report and discuss relevant issues in depth. CoP has discussed the Research Report at its meeting on 24 November 2014 and will convene meetings to further discuss in detail the Research Report. Given that the Government has yet to take a stance on the subject, it is incumbent upon the Subcommittee to press ahead with the launch of the public consultation on the Research Report by the Government, follow up the findings of the public consultation, and the proposals to be put forward by the Government for the implementation of a comprehensive retirement protection scheme.

Proposed extension of period of work

8. 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 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.

9. The work of the Subcommittee ties in with the progress of the Administration's work on taking forward the retirement protection scheme. Having regard to the outstanding matters which need to be followed up by the Subcommittee as set out in paragraph 7 above and the time required by the Subcommittee to conclude its work and finalize its recommendations, the Subcommittee considers it necessary to continue its work in the 2014-2015 session. The Panel on Welfare Services has agreed that the Subcommittee should seek the endorsement of the House Committee accordingly.

Advice sought

10. Pursuant to rule 26(c) of the House Rules, Members are invited to note the progress of work of the Subcommittee and endorse the proposal of the Subcommittee to extend its work and continue to operate in the 2014-2015 session (i.e. until 30 September 2015).

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Retirement Protection

Terms of reference

To study issues relating to the retirement life of all people, and to follow up on the proposal of setting up and implementation of universal retirement protection for all people in Hong Kong.

Work plan and time frame

2. The Subcommittee will focus its work on the following major issues -

- (a) review of the existing three-pillar retirement protection model;
- (b) the feasibility of setting up and implementation of universal retirement protection for all people in Hong Kong; and
- (c) way forward on retirement protection in the light of an ageing population in Hong Kong.

3. The Subcommittee will, in accordance with Rule 26(c) of the House Rules, complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the Panel on Welfare Services.

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Retirement Protection

Chairman Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP

Deputy Chairman Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

Members Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

(Total : 15 members)

Clerk Miss Betty MA

Legal Adviser Miss Mimi CHANG

Date 15 November 2014

**Position of subcommittees on policy issues currently in operation
(as at 7 January 2015)**

Subcommittees on policy issues	Date of first meeting	End date of approved period of work
1. Subcommittee on Poverty under the House Committee	5 November 2012	18 January 2015*
2. Subcommittee on Retirement Protection under the Panel on Welfare Services	25 February 2014	24 February 2015
3. Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets under the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	25 March 2014	24 March 2015
4. Subcommittee on Hawker Policy under the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	15 April 2014	14 April 2015
5. Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways under the Panel on Transport	30 November 2012	30 September 2015*#
6. Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme under the Panel on Health Services	12 December 2012	30 September 2015*#
7. Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project under the Panel on Home Affairs and the Panel on Development	29 January 2013	30 September 2015*#
8. Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of Free Kindergarten Education under the Panel on Education	27 October 2014	26 October 2015
9. Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Development of Chinese Medicine under the Panel on Health Services	5 November 2014	4 November 2015
10. Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence under the Panel on Welfare Services	3 December 2014	2 December 2015

* These subcommittees had obtained the permission of the House Committee in November 2013 to extend the period of their work beyond 12 months.

These subcommittees had obtained the permission of the House Committee in October 2014 for further extension of the period of their work.