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

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 24 November 2014**

**Proposed extension of a supernumerary Principal Government Engineer
post and a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post
relating to the West Kowloon Cultural District project**

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the Administration's proposal to extend a supernumerary Principal Government Engineer ("PGE") (D3) post and a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") (D2) post relating to the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project. It also summarizes the views and concerns raised by Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members on the two supernumerary posts.

Background

2. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance ("WKCDAO") (Cap. 601) was enacted in July 2008 to establish the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") to take forward the development of WKCD. On 13 June 2008, the Finance Committee ("FC") approved the creation of three supernumerary posts for the WKCD Office in the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB"), including one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B, one AOSGC and one Chief Treasury Accountant for a period of two years from 1 July 2008 to support the operation of WKCDA in its initial years of establishment. The WKCD Office in HAB was disbanded in end June 2010 after the senior management of WKCDA assumed duty in mid-2010.

3. At its meeting on 17 March 2010, the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") was consulted on the Administration's proposal to create a

supernumerary PGE post and a supernumerary AOSGC post in HAB from 1 July 2010 to 31 March 2015 to monitor the implementation of the WKCD project and coordinate the related interface issues. The PGE, designated as Project Manager(HAB), would monitor the progress of the WKCD development and coordinate the planning and construction of the infrastructure works and communal facilities in WKCD. The AOSGC, designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (WKCD) ("PAS(WKCD)"), would oversee and monitor at the policy level the cultural interface issues between the facilities in WKCD and the facilities operated by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, such as strategic positioning, audience building and arts education, etc. within the overall arts and cultural policy in Hong Kong with a view to maximizing the synergy effect. Members of the Panel were generally supportive of the proposal to create the two supernumerary posts. The proposal was subsequently endorsed by the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") on 28 April 2010 and approved by FC on 14 May 2010.

Members' views

4. The major views and concerns raised by Members at various LegCo committees (including the Panel meeting on 17 March 2010, the ESC meeting on 28 April 2010 and the FC meeting on 14 May 2010) on the supernumerary PGE and AOSGC posts relating to the WKCD project are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

The post of PGE (Project Manager (HAB))

5. Given the extensive scope of the engineering discipline, Members had enquired about the professional qualifications required of the candidate to be appointed to the post of Project Manager (HAB). While some Members indicated that they had no strong views on the Administration's proposal to fill the post through internal deployment, there was a view that the prospective candidates for the post should not be confined to existing Government staff with engineering backgrounds and the recruitment should be open to other professionals, such as architects, who had relevant experience in leading large-scale projects.

6. The Administration explained that it was a common practice to assign engineering professionals to oversee the development of major government works projects. As Project Manager (HAB) would be required to work closely with various government bureaux and departments in monitoring the progress of the works of WKCD as well as coordinating complicated engineering and infrastructure works in WKCD and its vicinity, the Administration considered it appropriate to deploy an experienced engineer from the civil service with

abundant experience in monitoring and coordinating large-scale public works projects to take up the post.

The post of AOSGC (PAS(WKCD))

7. There was a view that as WKCDA would employ its own staff to oversee the planning, development and management of WKCD, it would not be necessary to create the post of PAS(WKCD) to avoid duplicating the work of WKCDA. The Administration explained that while WKCDA would discharge its duties under WKCDAO to plan, construct and operate the facilities of WKCD, the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") had the responsibility of overseeing WKCDA to ensure timely implementation of all the capital works projects and proper application of the \$21.6 billion upfront endowment approved by FC. As the WKCD Office in HAB was scheduled to disband by end June 2010, it was necessary to create the post of PAS(WKCD) to provide senior level administrative support to HAB, which was the policy bureau overseeing arts and cultural policies, and to monitor the work of WKCDA to ensure that it could meet the community expectations in various aspects. The creation of the post of PAS(WKCD) would also help enhance liaison and coordination among government bureaux and departments, and facilitate smooth implementation of the WKCD project.

8. Concern was raised as to how PAS(WKCD) could effectively assist SHA to monitor the performance of WKCDA, given that the Chairman of the Board of WKCDA was the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") who was of a much more senior rank. Noting that PAS(WKCD) was tasked with a wide range of responsibilities, some members also expressed concern about the coordination between HAB and WKCDA in taking forward the WKCD project.

9. The Administration clarified that the role of PAS(WKCD) was to monitor the performance of WKCDA but not the work of CS as Chairman of the Board of WKCDA. PAS(WKCD) would actively participate in the meetings with WKCDA and monitor its work in areas such as programme development, implementation of mode of governance, formulation of venue hiring policies, collaboration with the arts and cultural sectors as well as public consultation, etc. PAS(WKCD) would also coordinate the work of the Government, WKCDA and other arts and cultural organizations in software development and oversee the interface issues between the arts and cultural facilities operated by WKCDA and those operated by the Government to avoid duplication of resources and unhealthy competition. PAS(WKCD) would not only assist SHA to oversee the progress of the WKCD project, but also provide assistance to the Chairman of the Board of WKCDA in his/her work.

10. There was a view that the post of PAS(WKCD) should be taken up by an officer with relevant experience or knowledge in the arts and culture given PAS(WKCD)'s role in coordinating and managing arts and culture-related issues. An enquiry was also raised as to whether open recruitment would be conducted for the post. The Administration advised that WKCDA would be fully responsible for the arts and cultural positioning and planning of WKCD. As PAS(WKCD) would take charge of the interface, coordination and communication issues between WKCDA and the Government, the Administration considered it appropriate to deploy an administrative grade officer with good public administration experience to take up the post of PAS(WKCD).

Latest development

11. The supernumerary PGE and AOSGC posts relating to the WKCD project will lapse on 31 March 2015. The Administration will consult the Joint Subcommittee on the proposal to extend the two supernumerary posts for a period of four years from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2019 at the meeting on 24 November 2014.

Relevant papers

12. A list of the relevant papers with their hyperlinks on the LegCo Website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 November 2014

Appendix

**Relevant papers on
Proposed extension of a supernumerary Principal Government
Engineer post and a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff
Grade C post relating to the West Kowloon Cultural District project**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Home Affairs	17.3.2010 (Item VI)	Agenda CB(2)1082/09-10(05) Minutes
Establishment Subcommittee	28.4.2010 (Item 3)	Agenda EC(2010-11)3 Minutes
Finance Committee	14.5.2010 (Item 1)	Agenda FCR(2010-11)10 Minutes

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