

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)2058/15-16
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 June 2016, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 2B of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu
- Members absent** : Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS (Deputy Chairman)
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
- Public Officers attending** : Item II
Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Laurie LO Chi-hong, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mr Vincent FUNG Hao-yin
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic
Affairs) 1

Item III

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Ms Elaine YEUNG Chi-lan
Assistant Director (Performing Arts)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

Staff in attendance : Miss Karen LAI
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mrs Fanny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

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I. Information papers issued since the last meeting
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1679/15-16(01), CB(2)1717/15-16(01) and
CB(2)1730/15-16(01)]

Members noted that the following papers had been issued after the last meeting:

- (a) Administration's response to letters from Dr Kenneth CHAN and Mr IP Kin-yuen;

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- (b) information paper entitled "Report on the Pilot Scheme for Priority Bidding of Selected Government Service Contracts by Social Enterprises" provided by the Administration; and
- (c) letter dated 10 June 2016 from the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") to the Panel.

Clerk

2. With reference to SHA's letter dated 10 June 2016, the Chairman sought members' views on the Administration's proposal that the Panel might consider holding a special meeting to receive public views on the consultation outcome of review of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) only after the Administration had submitted relevant legislative proposals in the next legislative term. No members raised objection. The Chairman directed that the subject be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion for follow-up by the Panel in the next term.

3. Referring to the Administration's response referred to in item (a) above, Dr Kenneth CHAN requested to put on record his strong view that SHA should apologize to the affected artist and the arts group concerned regarding the incident of the removal of the word "National" from the name of a Taiwanese university in publicity pamphlets produced by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD").

II. Youth development policy and the latest development of the Youth Development Fund

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1680/15-16(01) and (02)]

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA and the Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) ("DSHA(1)") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper.

Discussion

Youth exchange and internship

5. Noting that more than 100 funding applications had been received under the pilot Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries ("the Belt and Road Funding Scheme"), Ms Claudia MO and Mr IP Kin-yuen enquired about the estimated amount of funding to be granted, the total number of participants and the Belt and Road countries to be covered. Noting that a similar exchange programme had been launched by the

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Education Bureau, Mr IP suggested that the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") should coordinate and avoid the launching of too many exchange programmes to Belt and Road countries by various bureaux at the same time.

Admin 6. DSHA(1) explained that the vetting of the funding applications was still underway, so the amount of funding that would eventually be granted and the number of participants were not yet known. He said that the proposed destinations covered countries in Southeast/Central Asia and Europe. He undertook to provide the requisite information after completion of the vetting and approval process.

(Post-meeting note : The Administration's response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2057/15-16(01) on 20 September 2016.)

Admin 7. Dr Kenneth CHAN enquired how the objective of 'fostering a "people-to-people" bond with Belt and Road countries' would be met. DSHA(1) said that the study tours were expected to provide opportunities for participants to engage in in-depth direct exchanges and discussions with local people and organizations instead of mere sight-seeing activities. Dr CHAN requested that information on the successful applicants under the Belt and Road Funding Scheme and the activities of the study tours should be provided to enhance transparency. SHA agreed to provide the information for members' reference.

(Post-meeting note : The Administration's response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2057/15-16(01) on 20 September 2016.)

8. The Chairman said she noted that some young people in Hong Kong lacked a sense of belonging to the Mainland. She asked whether HAB would request the organizations concerned to include programmes to enhance understanding of Chinese historical and cultural development in their design of exchange tours to China. SHA said that this was essentially one of the objectives of the Belt and Road Funding Scheme, which sought to support exchange tours to Belt and Road countries for young people to deepen their knowledge of the historical and cultural development of those countries.

Youth Development Fund ("YDF")

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9. Ms Claudia MO suggested that the upper age limit of young people who applied to join the funded projects under YDF be extended from 35 to 38. She asked whether political parties were eligible to apply for a grant from YDF to organize funded projects.

10. DSHA(1) said that having regard to the age limit for other similar programmes and after discussion with the Commission on Youth ("CoY"), the Administration had decided to set the age limit of young people to join the funded projects under YDF at 18 to 35. Various types of non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"), including non-profit making charitable bodies, business associations, universities and professional bodies, could apply for grants from YDF to support their youth entrepreneurship projects. DSHA(1) explained that as NGOs would have to offer not only entrepreneurial capital, but also a mentorship programme and relevant guidance support to assist the youth participants in obtaining business information and establishing business network, any interested bodies should consider whether they were able to provide the relevant mentorship programme/guidance support in deciding if they would apply.

11. Expressing support for YDF, Mr Christopher CHEUNG asked about the criteria for approving grants from YDF. DSHA(1) replied that grants would be offered to NGOs which possessed adequate knowledge and connection with various business sectors. In reply to Mr CHEUNG's further enquiry, DSHA(1) said that NGOs had to offer a mentorship programme to match the youth participants with appropriate mentors. In other words, the youth participants would not be required to look for their own mentors. DSHA(1) added that an NGO succeeded in applying for a grant from YDF should start disbursing funding to the youth participants within one year after receiving the grant, and all funding should be disbursed within three years.

12. Mr WU Chi-wai and Miss CHAN Yuen-han considered that the high rental level of premises was a hindrance to young people in starting their own business. They suggested that the Administration should make available premises at affordable rent to assist young people in starting their own business. SHA said that HAB would make sustained efforts in developing more arts space at an affordable rent for local artists or arts groups to support their engagement in artistic creation. In 2015-2016, HAB had supported the collaboration between the Tai Po District Council ("DC") and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to establish an arts centre by retrofitting Tai Po Government Secondary School. Besides,

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HAB had proposed to provide arts space and arts facilities in the future development at a land sale site in Aberdeen. SHA added that concerted efforts would be made by HAB in collaboration with DCs to identify suitable premises for similar use.

Commission on Youth

13. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed concern about the age profile of the incumbent members of CoY. She considered that more young people aged below 35 should be appointed as members, so as to better understand the aspirations of young people and solicit their views. SHA responded that the Government all along encouraged young people to contribute to the society by joining different advisory and statutory bodies. As far as CoY was concerned, over half of the 31 incumbent members were aged 35 or below when first appointed, whereas the rest of them were experienced in community work including the promotion of youth development.

Other youth development measures

14. Dr LAM Tai-fai considered that the Administration should study the needs of young people and formulate effective youth policy to address their needs. SHA said that HAB and various bureaux had been performing their respective duties in implementing diversified youth development measures which covered education, employment and whole-person development. HAB had implemented measures such as funding schemes for youth life planning activities, youth exchange and internship programmes as well as YDF to cater for young people's development needs.

15. The Chairman asked how the effectiveness of initiatives such as life planning programmes and services of uniformed groups was evaluated and relevant criteria. DSHA(1) explained that apart from submitting audited financial reports, participating NGOs/uniformed groups were required to provide reports of activities with feedback from participants to CoY and HAB. Members of CoY and HAB officers might also attend the activities as observers and meet with participants. The Chairman considered that young people should be encouraged to make use of their creativity to promote government policies. She requested the Administration to consider engaging young people in the publicity of sports and cultural activities organized by the Government or CoY.

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III. Management of public open space under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1680/15-16(03) and (04)]

16. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper.

Discussion

Management of public open space

17. In view of the earlier controversy over the Tsim Sha Tsui ("TST") Waterfront Revitalization Plan, Mr MA Fung-kwok asked how the Administration would strike a balance between efficient use of public open space and refraining from over-commercialized development. SHA gave an account of successful examples of projects operated under a partnership approach. He said that having regard to the views received in the latest public engagement exercise, LCSD had decided to revise the design of the TST East Promenade by adopting a simpler design and maintaining the area as a passive public open space. The revitalized design of Avenue of Stars was being revised and the Administration would consult the stakeholders on the revised design in due course. The entire project was expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2018.

18. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that it was generally considered that too many restrictions were imposed on the use of park facilities (e.g. no stepping on lawns), which should be relaxed so as to enhance visitors' enjoyment. The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") advised that LCSD had suitably relaxed restrictions on the use of lawn areas in public parks such as the Tamar Park and the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Park in response to public views.

19. Miss CHAN Yuen-han suggested that LCSD might wish to explore designating zones in public parks for holding performances and bazaars. Mr Alvin YEUNG asked whether LCSD would delegate the responsibility of managing public parks and playgrounds to DCs, and inviting the public and residents' organizations to give views on the use of public open space. DLCS said that LCSD had been working closely with the District Facilities Management Committees under DCs on the management of recreational facilities in districts. LCSD would relay any views and suggestions of improvements from residents and the public to DCs concerned for consideration.

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20. Mr MA Fung-kwok and Mr WU Chi-wai were concerned that the installation of large-scale artworks and creative furniture in public parks might reduce the space available for visitors' leisure enjoyment. DLCS said that the Park Déco pilot scheme was launched in selected public parks in consultation with DCs concerned. It aimed to make public space more vibrant and to provide venues for display of artworks, which would not only help nurture the creativity of young artists but also provide more opportunities for the public to appreciate art.

21. Mr CHAN Han-pan and Mr WU Chi-wai took the view that more elderly fitness equipment should be installed in the outdoor leisure venues under the management of LCSD to meet the needs of the ageing population. The Chairman requested LCSD to shorten the time needed for the maintenance and repair of such equipment. DLCS advised that the installation of about 150 sets of new elderly fitness equipment in the outdoor leisure venues in the 18 districts would be completed in 2017-2018. LCSD would liaise with the technical support teams to shorten the time required for repairing the elderly fitness equipment and keep enough stocks for replacement of parts and accessories when necessary.

22. Mr NG Leung-sing suggested that swimming pools (preferably heated pools) and bowling green should be provided in each of the 18 districts. Referring to the proposed 50 square metre swimming pool in Tai Po, he requested the Administration to explore the feasibility of building a smaller swimming pool and using the remaining area of the site for lawn bowl facilities. The Administration noted the suggestion.

23. Mr CHAN Han-pan and Mr WU Chi-wai considered that the play equipment for children in public parks lacked variety. They considered that LCSD should regularly review the design. DLCS said that the design of the play equipment for children in public parks had taken into account the local residents' needs and safety concerns. She added that LCSD would continue to enhance the design and variety of the play equipment in public parks from time to time.

Pet gardens

24. The Chairman expressed the view that the Administration should provide more pet gardens in promenades to meet the needs of the public. She specifically requested LCSD to explore the feasibility of allowing the

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entry of pets to the Tamar Park on Saturdays and Sundays as suggested by a concern organization. DLCS said that the concern organization was welcome to make this suggestion, and LCSD would consider the suggestion in consultation with the DC concerned. She said that pet gardens with accesses were currently provided in Central and Western District Promenade (Central and Sheung Wan sections) and Quarry Bay Park, and pet corners were also set up in various leisure venues.

Noise nuisance at public parks

25. The Chairman enquired whether LCSD would deploy additional manpower to impose more stringent control on the use of amplifiers for entertainment/performances in public parks, particularly the Tuen Mun Park and the Hoi Sham Park, so as to mitigate the noise nuisance caused to residents in the vicinity.

26. DLCS said that LCSD implemented noise control measures in public parks such as the Tuen Mun Park, the Hoi Sham Park and the Butterfly Beach Park, and more staff had been deployed for the task. The assistance of the Police would be sought where necessary. LCSD would also educate the performers to use the entertainment zones and explore the need to tighten up the control of the use of amplifiers in public parks/playgrounds.

Other issues

27. Dr Kenneth CHAN criticized the Government's plans to demolish the Cadogan Street Temporary Garden in Kennedy Town and to permit the use of a sitting-out area in Ap Lei Chau for property development, which in his view were unfair to local residents and deprived them of their public leisure space. He urged HAB and LCSD to take a tougher stance on such matters and to adhere to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. Mr IP Kwok-him took the view that the above plans served to address the housing needs of the community, which was also very important. SHA explained that it was the established practice that the relevant policy bureau would consult DCs concerned on land use issues.

28. The Chairman considered that the Administration should explore with school management the possibility of opening up sports and recreational facilities (e.g. basketball courts) in schools for public use during public holidays. DLCS said that the Administration intended to collaborate with sports organizations to implement such a scheme in government schools on a trial basis.

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IV. Any other business

29. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:28 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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