

民政事務總署
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26 February 2016

Ms Joanne MAK
Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
[Fax No.: 2509 9055]

Dear Ms Mak,

**Panel on Home Affairs
Follow up to Meeting on 18 January 2016**

The Panel on Home Affairs discussed the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) projects of the Eastern District, Kowloon City District and Tai Po District at its meeting on 18 January 2016. At the meeting, a member requested information on the number of consultations conducted by the 18 District Councils (DCs) for each of their signature projects and the mechanism for handling opposing views against individual projects. Our response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

In accordance with the policy regarding SPS, all projects are for the DCs to advocate and decide. DCs are responsible for spearheading their implementation, including conducting district consultations, preparing implementation plans, monitoring the progress and assessing the effectiveness of the projects etc.

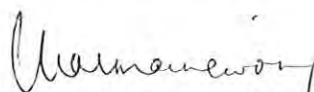
With regard to consultation on SPS projects, DCs adopted suitable channels having regard to the local circumstances to consult residents and

organisations and then discussed to select their SPS projects. During project implementation, DCs continue to hold different forms of public engagement and publicity activities to collect the views of residents and enhance their understanding of the projects. Consultation channels include public consultation sessions, briefing sessions, focus groups, questionnaire surveys, DC Members' consulting residents in their respective constituencies, views collection and information dissemination through DC websites.

DCs have considered the public views received and incorporated them in the projects, where appropriate. For instance, DCs have examined the feasibility and potential benefits to the districts of other project proposals before making the selection. In the course of design, DCs will actively discuss and examine local views on project details, such as project planning, operational arrangements, details of services etc., and adopt suitable and viable suggestions as far as possible to refine the design or operation plan, with a view to better addressing local needs. For any concerns or views raised by local residents or organisations on other aspects of the projects such as potential benefits to the residents, adequacy of the proposed facilities, or possible traffic and environmental impacts on the neighbouring areas, DCs would communicate with the residents or representatives of the organisations concerned and elaborate on the objectives, details and operational arrangements to allay their concerns as far as possible. Where appropriate, they would also be invited to attend meetings of the DCs or the relevant committees for direct exchanges. In addition, with regard to the concerns of the residents or organisations, DCs may, as appropriate, make available a dedicated session on their websites, issue press release or make media interviews, etc. so as to provide detailed explanation and correct information.

The implementation of SPS serves to achieve the objective of enhancing district administration by enabling DCs to implement projects of a larger scale at the district level with a view to addressing local needs. The 18 DCs will continue to communicate with local residents and organisations and disseminate information on their SPS projects through different suitable channels to promote stakeholders' understanding of the details of the projects.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Charmaine WONG)
for Director of Home Affairs

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