

## **ITEM FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **HEAD 63 – HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

#### **Subhead 700 General non-recurrent**

**New Item “Signature Project Scheme (Southern District) – Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services”**

**New Item “Signature Project Scheme (Southern District) – Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services”**

Members are invited to approve the creation of two new commitments of \$50.1 million and \$49.9 million under Head 63 – Home Affairs Department for “Signature Project Scheme (Southern District) – Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services” and “Signature Project Scheme (Southern District) – Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services” respectively.

### **PROBLEM**

We need to provide funding to implement the proposals of the Southern District Council (SDC) to provide (a) ophthalmic examination services; and (b) shuttle bus/rehabilitation bus services as Southern District’s Signature Projects.

### **PROPOSAL**

2. The Director of Home Affairs, with the support of the Secretary for Home Affairs, proposes to create two commitments of \$50.1 million and \$49.9 million respectively for delivering (a) an ophthalmic examination services project and (b) a shuttle bus/rehabilitation bus services project in Southern District under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) through partnering with two non-profit-making organisations.

**/JUSTIFICATION .....**

## JUSTIFICATION

### Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services (\$49.7 million)

3. SDC proposes to undertake a project entitled “*Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services*” (the Eye Examination Project) as one of the two Signature Projects of Southern District. The Eye Examination Project aims to provide one-time free ophthalmic examination services to residents of Southern District who are aged 50 or above so as to facilitate early identification of optical abnormalities and inculcate a habit of receiving regular ophthalmic examinations. It is expected to benefit about 25 000 residents over a period of five years. After an open and fair selection process<sup>1</sup>, SDC selected The University of Hong Kong (HKU)<sup>2</sup> as its partner for delivering the Eye Examination Project.

4. The services will be provided in a suitable venue in Southern District to be identified by HKU. The services will include four main components –

(a) Detailed eye examination

It includes best corrected visual acuity testing (provision of prescription for glasses only, frame and lenses not included), cataract assessment, glaucoma assessment, retina and macula assessment and performing specialised investigations (which include visual field tests, and optical coherence tomography scanning of the macula and optic disc). The detailed eye examination will be conducted by optometrists with the support of technical assistants.

(b) Brief general health check

It includes blood pressure and body mass index measurements to document any systemic problems such as hypertension. The brief general health check will be conducted by a registered nurse.

/(c) .....

---

<sup>1</sup> With the endorsement of SDC, the Southern District Office (SDO) issued an open invitation for proposals on 28 July 2017. The invitation was advertised on three local newspapers and SDC’s website. By the closing date on 31 August 2017, one proposal from HKU had been received for the Eye Examination Project. In September 2017, an assessment panel comprising Members of SDC and representatives from the Hospital Authority (HA) considered the proposal from HKU and confirmed that it met the requirements for delivering the Eye Examination Project. In November 2017, SDC endorsed the proposal for engaging HKU as the partner organisation for the Eye Examination Project.

<sup>2</sup> HKU is an approved charitable institution or trust of a public character under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112).

(c) Detailed non-invasive eye investigations

They cover investigations such as fundus photograph, visual field tests and retinal scans to document possible pathologies. They allow accurate diagnosis to be made on the same day. A medical consultation will also be conducted following the detailed non-invasive eye investigations. The detailed non-invasive eye investigations and medical consultation will be conducted by registered ophthalmologists with the support of technical assistants.

(d) Follow-up care

An onward referral to specialist eye care at either the Eye Out-Patient Clinics under HA, or at any private eye clinic would be made by a registered ophthalmologist if pathologies were detected after the assessment.

5. Community promotion will be conducted to help residents understand the Project and enrol on the spot, if possible. This will comprise a series of ongoing promotional activities in the media and the setting up of promotional booths in different parts of Southern District. Assistance from various SDC Members' offices and local non-governmental organisations will be sought to promote the Project and to assist in enrolment. Public health talks on the Project and ophthalmic healthcare will also be organized to enhance the awareness and understanding of common eye diseases, and provide a channel for residents to enrol under the Project.

6. The estimated cost for engaging HKU to deliver the services under the Eye Examination Project for a period of five years is \$49.7 million, which includes –

- (a) \$6.4 million as start-up cost for the procurement of essential equipment and computer system, and launching initial public promotional activities;
- (b) \$39.1 million for HKU to employ a team of 12 staff members, including ophthalmologists, optometrists, a registered nurse, technical assistants, a project manager and secretariat assistants for the delivery of the Project;
- (c) \$3.4 million for general operating expenses including rental for the examination venue, insurance, administrative and maintenance expenses, etc.; and

/(d) .....

- (d) \$0.8 million for ongoing community promotion and public health talks.

### **Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services (\$49.5 million)**

7. Apart from the Eye Examination Project, SDC also proposes to undertake a project entitled ***“Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services”*** (the Bus Project) as the other Signature Project of Southern District. The Bus Project will provide free transportation services for residents of Southern District with impaired mobility and their caregivers to attend medical appointments at public hospitals and healthcare facilities in the district, and help fill the gap left by the existing barrier-free transport options. After an open and fair selection process<sup>3</sup>, SDC selected the Hong Kong Society of Rehabilitation (HKSR)<sup>4</sup> as its partner for delivering the Bus Project.

8. Specifically, a total of eight wheelchair accessible buses will be deployed to operate five fixed-route shuttle bus services with fixed timetables and a pre-booked share-ride service mainly to and from Queen Mary Hospital and Sandy Bay (covering The Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Yiu King Hospital, MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre, etc.) from 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM from Monday to Friday free of charge for a period of five years. The service targets residents in Southern District with impaired mobility, namely –

- (a) holders of “Registration Card for People with Disabilities” issued by the Labour and Welfare Bureau;
- (b) users of wheelchairs, crutches or other walking aids;
- (c) people with impaired mobility due to other reasons (such as old age, injury by accident, foot disease, illness, etc.)
- (d) in-patients or community members receiving subsidised residential care for the elderly in Southern District; and

/(e) .....

<sup>3</sup> With the endorsement of SDC, SDO issued an open invitation for proposals on 28 July 2017. The invitation was advertised on three local newspapers and SDC's website. By the closing date on 31 August 2017, one proposal from HKSR had been received for the Bus Project. In September 2017, an assessment panel comprising Members of SDC and representatives from HA and the Transport Department considered the proposal from HKSR and confirmed that it met the requirements for delivering the Bus Project. In November 2017, SDC endorsed the proposal for engaging HKSR as the partner organisation for the Bus Project.

<sup>4</sup> HKSR is an approved charitable institution or trust of a public character under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112).

- (e) at most one caregiver per person in the above-mentioned categories.

9. The service will be launched in two phases. In Phase One, three fixed-route shuttle bus routes will provide service for three months. Demand data and usage pattern will be collected and reviewed before the remaining two bus routes and one pre-booked share-ride service commence service in Phase Two starting from the fourth month. The framework of the service bus routes is set out below<sup>5</sup>:

- (a) five fixed routes with fixed timetable –
  - (i) Shek Pai Wan/Aberdeen Route;
  - (ii) Chi Fu/Wah Fu Route;
  - (iii) Wah Kwai/Tin Wan Route;
  - (iv) The South Horizons/Ap Lei Chau Route;
  - (v) Wong Chuk Hang/Lei Tung Route; and
- (b) one bus for pre-booked share-ride service serving residents in Hok Tsui/Shek O/ Big Wave Bay/Stanley.

10. Service will be provided on a first-come-first-served basis. Eligible residents in Southern District<sup>6</sup> could call the service hotline<sup>7</sup> or use a mobile application (Android and iOS systems) to be developed for this service to reserve seats from up to seven days in advance to two hours before using the service. Alternatively, passengers could choose to queue up at bus stops for the service. Each bus is equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) global satellite positioning device. Passengers could use the mobile application or website to find out the location of the vehicle and the estimated time of arrival, and check the availability of vacant seats on the vehicle to help passengers decide if they should queue up at the bus stops.

/11. ....

---

<sup>5</sup> The exact routing and combination of stops, as well as the allocation of routes for Phase One and Phase Two, will be further refined before the commencement of the bus service.

<sup>6</sup> Residents using the service shall be required to present proof of appointments with the relevant hospitals/medical institutions upon boarding.

<sup>7</sup> The service booking hotline will operate from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Monday to Friday and be managed by customer service assistants. An Interactive Voice Response System will be operated after office hours for receiving messages.

11. The estimated cost for engaging HKSR to deliver the services under the Bus Project is \$49.5 million, which includes –

- (a) \$9.4 million as start-up cost for the procurement of eight new buses, the reservation system, GPS global satellite positioning devices, design of the mobile application and website, as well as the setting up of bus stops and promotion campaign;
- (b) \$23.5 million for HKSR to employ a team of 23 staff members, including drivers, attendants, customer service assistants, etc. for the delivery of the Project;
- (c) \$10.2 million for running costs such as fuel, repair and maintenance of vehicles, vehicle insurance, licence fees, etc.; and
- (d) \$6.4 million for other expenses such as staff insurance, rental, maintenance of the booking systems and other equipment, ongoing community promotion, etc.

#### **Monitoring and control of the Eye Examination Project and the Bus Project**

12. With the support of the SDO, SDC will closely monitor the performance of HKU and HKSR in delivering quality services and the use of funding for the two Signature Projects respectively. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo), SDO will enter into a Service Agreement each with HKU and HKSR covering the following major aspects –

- (a) terms of agreement and provision(s) on Government's right to terminate the Service Agreement when deemed necessary;
- (b) services to be provided by HKU and HKSR respectively and the related performance indicators;
- (c) obligations of HKU and HKSR respectively, including providing quality services as listed in the two proposals, reporting to SDC on a regular basis, conducting promotional activities to promote the two Projects;
- (d) payment and the related accounting arrangements of the SPS funding, including keeping separate books of account and records, submission of audited accounts, etc.;

/(e) .....

- (e) monitoring and control mechanism including financial and budgetary control, submission of regular progress reports to SDC and management control; and
- (f) procedural requirements of accepting possible donations and sponsorships during the agreement period.

Reviews will be conducted by SDC and SDO on the two Signature Projects, including the performance of HKU and HKSR in the course of, and before completion of, the Service Agreement.

### **Non-civil service contract staff for the Project (\$0.8 million)**

13. Under the SPS, District Councils (DCs), with the support of District Offices, are responsible for implementing their SPS projects, monitoring project progress and evaluating effectiveness. While HKU and HKSR will take up the responsibilities for providing the Eye Examination Project and the Bus Project respectively, SDO will support SDC in ensuring effective monitoring of the quality of the services delivered. In order to support the implementation and monitoring of the Projects, we propose to earmark \$0.8 million for SDO to hire one non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. He/she will provide the essential support for maintaining liaison with HKU and HKSR, relevant government departments and other stakeholders, monitoring the progress and performance of the two Projects, collecting user feedback, and processing reimbursement claims from HKU and HKSR, etc. The relevant staff cost will be shared equally between the two Projects.

### **Sustainability**

14. SDC and SDO together with HKU and HKSR will endeavour to sustain the two Projects without continued funding from Government. Upon expiry of the five-year period, HKU and HKSR, together with SDC will seek to continue as far as practicable the two services on a self-financing basis or with support from alternative funding sources. For instance, HKU and HKSR may seek third party financial support (such as sponsorship, charitable trusts, etc.) to provide funding to continue the two services.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. The Eye Examination Project will incur an estimated non-recurrent cost of \$50.1 million, including its share of the expenses for the hire of NCSC staff (\$0.4 million). The estimated cash flow requirement from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for the Eye Examination Project is as follows –

/(a) .....

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
				(\$ million)			
(a)	Fees to HKU	14.1	8.4	8.7	9.1	9.4	49.7
(b)	NCSC staff cost <sup>8</sup>	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	0.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>50.1</b>

16. The Bus Project will incur an estimated non-recurrent cost of \$49.9 million, including its share of the expenses for the hire of NCSC staff (\$0.4 million). The estimated cash flow requirement from 2018-19 to 2023-24 for the Bus Project is as follows –

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
					(\$ million)			
(a)	Fees to HKSR	1.5	15.4	7.7	8.0	8.3	8.6	49.5
(b)	NCSC staff cost <sup>8</sup>	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	0.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>49.9</b>

17. On paragraph 15(a) above, the estimated cost of \$49.7 million covers the necessary expenses of HKU for implementing the Eye Examination Project for the first five years as explained in paragraphs 3 to 5.

18. On paragraph 16(a) above, the estimated cost of \$49.5 million covers the necessary expenses of HKSR for implementing the Bus Project for the first six years as explained in paragraphs 7 to 10.

Encl. 19. The estimated cost breakdowns of the Eye Examination Project and the Bus Project are at Enclosure.

20. On paragraph 15(b) and 16(b) above, the estimated cost of \$0.8 million is for the hiring of NCSC staff as explained in paragraph 13, shared equally between the two Projects.

**/IMPLEMENTATION .....**

<sup>8</sup> It represents 50% of the cost of employing one NCSC staff for SDO to help overseeing the implementation of the two Signature Projects of Southern District.



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

21. Taking into account the lead time required by HKU for the procurement of examination equipment, setting up the examination venue and recruitment and training of secretariat and clinical assistant staff, etc., we estimate that the Eye Examination Project may commence around six months following funding approval by the FC.

22. As regards the Bus Project, a lead time of 12 months would be required by HKSR to procure buses and complete the necessary registration procedures with the Transport Department, development of the mobile application, and recruitment and training of drivers and bus attendants, etc. It is thus estimated that the Bus Project may commence around 12 months following funding approval by the FC.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

23. Two rounds of public consultation have been conducted by SDC. The first round of public consultation was conducted from 23 May 2017 to 8 June 2017 to collect views on the proposed Projects. Results of the consultation indicated that the majority of the respondents were in favour of the proposed Projects. The second round of public consultation, mainly on the details of the two Projects, was conducted from 1 October 2017 to 25 October 2017, including a public consultation session held on 23 October 2017. Invitation for submissions was issued through post mails, introductory animation, website and posters, etc. The local community generally supported the two proposed Projects. The four Area Committees in Southern District had been consulted and their feedback was very positive.

24. Together with SDC, we consulted the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs on 21 December 2017. Members in general supported the proposals.

## BACKGROUND

25. As announced in the 2013 Policy Address, a one-off provision of \$100 million has been earmarked for each district to initiate projects under the SPS. DCs are responsible for advocating and deciding the SPS projects, as well as spearheading their implementation, including conducting district consultation, preparing implementation plans, monitoring progress and assessing effectiveness of the projects. The projects should address local needs or highlight the

/characteristics .....

characteristics of the district, and have a visible and lasting impact in the community. All the SPS projects are proposed, discussed and agreed by the relevant DCs following consultation with local residents and organisations before they are put to implementation.

-----

Home Affairs Bureau  
Home Affairs Department  
May 2018

**Estimated Cost Breakdowns  
of the Signature Projects of Southern District**

Items	Estimated Cost (\$ million)
<b>A. Provision of Ophthalmic Examination Services</b>	
(I) Start-up cost <sup>1</sup> (a) Procurement of essential equipment and computer system (b) Procurement of furniture (c) Initial public promotional activities	5.9 0.1 0.4 6.4
(II) Operating expenses (a) Employment of staff for delivery of the Project (b) Maintenance, rental for examination venue, insurance, administrative expenses, etc. (c) Community promotion	39.1 3.4 0.8 43.3
(III) Non-Civil Service Contract Staff	0.4
<b>Total (A)</b>	<b>50.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> The University of Hong Kong will require about \$6.4 million as start-up cost for procuring essential equipment and computer system. It is necessary to procure new equipment as rental of equipment is not a feasible option for a service period of five years due to the niche specialty.

Items	Estimated Cost (\$ million)
<b>B. Provision of Shuttle Bus/Rehabilitation Bus Services</b>	
(IV) Start-up cost <sup>2</sup>	
(a) Procurement of eight new buses	8.0
(b) Procurement and development of reservation system, GPS global satellite positioning device, mobile application and website design	1.3
(c) Setting up of bus stops (without monitor display) and promotion campaign	0.1
	9.4
(V) Operating expenses	
(a) Employment of staff for delivery of the Project	23.5
(b) Running costs (e.g. fuel, repair and maintenance of vehicles, licence, etc.)	10.2
(c) Others (e.g. staff insurance, maintenance of the booking systems and other equipment, community promotion, etc.)	6.4
	40.1
(VI) Non-Civil Service Contract Staff	0.4
<b>Total (B)</b>	<b>49.9</b>
<b>Grand Total (A) + (B)</b>	<b>100.0</b>

-----

<sup>2</sup> The Hong Kong Society of Rehabilitation (HKSR) will require about \$9.4 million as start-up cost for procuring eight new buses and hardware, and developing software for the booking systems, etc. It is necessary to procure new buses as the supply of barrier-free buses in Hong Kong is limited and rental is not a feasible option for a service period of five years. Eight buses are required to support the services of the proposed five fixed-routes and one flexible line providing service on demand. According to HKSR's experience, it is necessary to have two buses as reserve due to the frequent need for repair and maintenance.