

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

LC Paper No. CB(2)956/17-18
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

**Minutes of policy briefing cum meeting
held on Monday, 23 October 2017, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu

- Members attending** : Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
- Members absent** : Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung
- Public Officers attending** : Item IV
Mr LAU Kong Wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Patrick LI Pak-chuen, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP
Commissioner for Sports

Miss Janice TSE Siu-wa, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung, JP
Director of Leisure & Cultural Services
- Clerk in attendance** : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3
- Staff in attendance** : Mr Richard WONG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mrs Fonny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3
-

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

[LC Paper No. CB(2)93/17-18]

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)81/17-18(01) and CB(2)106/17-18(01)]

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

(a) letter dated 18 October 2017 from Hon LUK Chung-hung; and

(b) letter dated 18 October 2017 from Hon Kenneth LAU.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)95/17-18(01) and (02)]

3. The Panel agreed to discuss the following two items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 27 November 2017 at 8:30 am:

(a) training of arts administrators; and

(b) review of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) – enhanced proposals.

IV. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address

[LC Paper No. CB(2)95/17-18(03)]

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)95/17-18(03)].

Discussion

Participation of young people in policy discussion

5. With regard to the pilot member self-recommendation scheme for youth ("the pilot scheme") as set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the

Action

Administration's paper, Ms Claudia MO queried whether young people who had actively participated in pro-democracy rallies/assemblies in recent years would be screened out in the recruitment exercise. Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Dr Fernando CHEUNG took the view that the Administration should ensure that the recruitment exercise would be conducted in an open and fair manner, and the relevant appointment should include young people from a wide spectrum of political stances. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the recruitment mechanism.

6. SHA said that the Administration would uphold the simple principle of meritocracy in recommending youth members, irrespective of their political views and whether they were affiliated with any political parties and groupings. He further said that young people who possessed the passion and ability to serve the people of Hong Kong, and had interest and aspirations in the work of the five specified committees would stand a chance to be recommended for relevant bureaux for appointment. Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Mr KWOK Wai-keung considered it important for the Administration to set out objective criteria (e.g. relevance of applicants' expertise) for the recruitment exercise.

7. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen further asked whether the Administration would consider extending the pilot scheme to more advisory committees other than the five selected ones and to other age groups. He suggested that unsuccessful applicants should be given their own assessment result if they requested. Mr Kenneth LAU suggested that the pilot scheme could be extended to cover committees for deliberation of policies on innovation and technology, environmental affairs as well as cultural affairs.

8. SHA said that the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") would launch an open recruitment exercise for the first batch of advisory bodies by the end of October 2017. The details of the pilot scheme (e.g. application method and selection procedures) would be publicized through various channels (including newspapers and government website). A committee, comprising SHA, chairmen or representatives of the relevant committees and representatives from the bureaux concerned, would be set up to conduct interviews with the self-nominated candidates. Subject to the actual number of applications received, the Administration aimed to complete the recruitment exercise in the first quarter of 2018. SHA added that the Administration would consider extending the pilot scheme to cover other advisory committees on a gradual basis, and it was the Administration's target to increase the overall ratio of youth members of various government committees to 15% within the current-term Government.

Action

9. Mr Holden CHOW suggested that the Administration should encourage employers to make arrangements to facilitate their employees who were appointed under the pilot scheme to attend meetings of the relevant advisory committees. Given that only a relatively small number of young people would be appointed, Ms Starry LEE considered that the Administration should make sustained efforts in strengthening communication with young people. Mr SHIU Ka-chun considered that the Administration should devise performance indicators for assessing its youth engagement work.

10. SHA said that the Administration would strive to strengthen communication with young people. He added that HAB would regularize the "Youth Ambassadors" scheme and strengthen the district youth networks of the 18 districts, and continued to enhance liaison and communication with young people at different levels.

Sports and recreation

11. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung suggested that the Administration should consider providing venues/facilities for non-major sports such as lawn bowls and five-a-side soccer. He added that the Administration should consider providing more recreational facilities for ethnic minorities ("EM") in districts where a larger number of EMs resided. Ms Starry LEE requested the Administration to expedite the implementation of the 26 projects under the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities.

12. SHA said that the Administration had earmarked \$20 billion for funding the 26 projects of which four projects were pending funding approval by the Finance Committee. HAB would submit the funding proposals for the remaining projects in batches in the next few years. In addition, the Administration would conduct technical feasibility study for another 15 sports and recreation facility projects within the next five years to prepare for their implementation in the future.

13. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed views on the design of children play equipment in public parks. Mr CHU Hoi-dick suggested that the Administration should engage the public to give views on the design of equipment/facilities for development of new public parks. The Director of Leisure & Cultural Services ("DLCS") said that in the planning and design of children's playgrounds and selection of play equipment, a host of factors

Action

including needs of different users and views of the District Councils ("DCs") concerned would be taken into consideration. She said that for example, the Inclusive Play Space Design Ideas Competition was held with the Tuen Mun Park as the competition site last year. Subsequently, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department incorporated feasible and applicable elements in the winning entry and optimized the Park's design, and sought the views of relevant stakeholders including DC concerned on the design of the inclusive playground. Related works had already commenced with the opening of the playground scheduled before the end of 2017.

14. The Chairman said that further to his study conducted in 2011 on the opening up of school facilities for community use, he was pleased to know that the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme had been launched starting from the current school year with the participation of about 100 schools. He enquired whether the Administration would consider providing financial subsidies to participating schools to meet additional costs incurred by the scheme, such as those arising from insurance/cleansing and upgrading relevant facilities to meet the needs of sports organizations concerned. In particular, he was concerned whether the rental charged to sports organizations for using the school facilities would be allowed to be used by schools concerned for making necessary improvements to enhance the scheme. He also enquired whether the scope of the scheme could include opening up school facilities to arts groups for conducting arts and cultural activities.

15. SHA said that starting from this school year, the Education Bureau ("EDB") and HAB had launched the aforementioned scheme, providing additional subsidies to public sector schools to encourage them to open up their school facilities to sports organizations, with a view to encouraging students to develop good sporting habits and promoting different sports activities. Up to October 2017, about 30 squad training programmes, young athletes training programmes and district sports activities had been scheduled to be conducted in 10 schools. In response to the Chairman's suggestion, SHA said that EDB and HAB would further encourage more schools and sports organizations to participate, and consider whether and how to extend the scheme to other activities.

16. Pointing out that e-sports would be added as an official medal sport at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, the Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to take a more proactive approach in promoting the development of e-sports in Hong Kong, such as by assisting establishment of

Action

a recognized association of e-sports in Hong Kong. Mr KWONG Chun-yu also suggested adding e-sports to the next Hong Kong Games. He considered that the Administration should adopt a more flexible approach in supporting emerging sports including e-sports and balance bikes.

17. The Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") said that in line with the established practices, the Administration provided support for the promotion and development of sports through respective "national sports associations" ("NSAs"). Any individuals/organizations interested in establishing an NSA for a particular sport might apply to the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC") in accordance with the established procedures, which, among other things, required the organizations to have proven track record in promoting the sport locally and seek recognition of the International Federation concerned. If a new NSA was established, it could apply for government subvention and venue support. He added that SF&OC, as one of the National Olympic Committees, would consider applications in accordance with the Olympic Charter and rules of the International Olympic Committee.

18. Mr KWOK Wai-keung enquired when the Administration would introduce a pilot scheme for a full-time athlete system and an Elite Vote Support System for disability sports. He and Ms Tanya CHAN urged the Administration to address the large discrepancy between able-bodied elite athletes and elite athletes with disabilities in the amount of monthly cash subsidies and in the amount of cash incentives given to winners at major games.

19. C for S said that the pilot scheme for a full-time athlete system for disability sports was announced in the Policy Address on 11 October 2017 and would commence in November 2017. The Hong Kong Sports Institute would provide comprehensive support for full-time athletes with disabilities, as in the case of able-bodied full-time athletes. He added that the incentive awards for medallists of major games were sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club, and the amount was based on a number of factors including the number of participants and level of competitiveness of the games concerned.

Culture and the arts

20. Mr YIU Si-wing considered that in view of the difficulty in booking guided tours for tourists in public museums, the Administration should offer the relevant training to tourist guides so that they could provide guided tour

Action

services to meet the large service demands. In response, DLCS said that the Administration had launched a programme to recruit museum volunteers, and would consider providing more training courses to tour guides if necessary.

21. Noting that the Administration planned to construct a Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre ("HCRC"), Ms Tanya CHAN enquired how the centre would contribute to heritage conservation in Hong Kong and whether additional resources would be allocated to the collection and preservation of archaeological finds, particularly those under Hong Kong waters.

22. DLCS said that HCRC would provide storage space for different categories of collection items, and there would be collection study room and other cultural and museum facilities for public use, including thematic exhibition galleries, multi-purpose activities rooms and lecture halls. In addition, some collection rooms and conservation studios would be open to the public. She added that if departments concerned required additional resources for the collection and preservation of archaeological finds, they could make such requests which would be handled in accordance with the established procedures.

23. Mr LAU Kwok-fan enquired about the Administration's plan to take forward the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils. He also suggested the introduction of a voucher scheme for performing arts and sports so as to build audiences. SHA said that in the next few months, the Administration would submit a proposal for pre-construction works of the New Territories East Cultural Centre which aimed to provide a cross district cultural centre in the North East New Territories to meet the needs of the public and the arts community.

24. Mr Frankie YICK declared that he was currently the Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council of the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre. He expressed support for increasing Government's funding for local artists and arts groups to perform and stage exhibitions outside Hong Kong and for hosting Hong Kong Week in some of the major Mainland cities as announced in the Policy Address. He considered that the Administration should provide adequate venue and financial support to performing arts groups and retrofit vacant school premises into art space.

25. Mr KWONG Chun-yu reiterated his concerns about the difficulties encountered by artists in using industrial building units as working space.

Action

Mr KWOK Wai-keung expressed concerns about the development of small-scale arts groups, and urged the Administration to provide more working space in industrial buildings for budding artists and small performing arts groups.

26. SHA said that in order to support the development of arts and culture, as well as start-ups of emerging industries and youth entrepreneurship, the Administration would implement the "Space Sharing Scheme for Youth" through "community-business-government" tripartite partnership, and rental of no more than one third of the prevailing market rental would be charged to non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"). It was expected that the first batch of the 60 000 square feet of "shared space for youth" would be launched in the first half of 2018, and about one third of such spaces would be allocated to arts and culture. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council ("HKADC") was looking into the possibility of opening new arts space in revitalized industrial or commercial buildings offered by private owners under the "Space Sharing Scheme for Youth" for use by young artists at below market rent based on the mode of operation of the "ADC Artspace" in Wong Chuk Hang. HKADC would also foster further collaboration between arts groups and schools. This would help promote the better use of school premises as arts space and students' interest in arts, thereby laying a foundation for future cultural development in Hong Kong.

27. The Chairman commented that it was not ideal that only the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan had designated officials responsible for cultural exchanges. He asked whether consideration would be given to creating more such posts in overseas Hong Kong offices, or setting up offices in the Belt and Road countries with designated officials responsible for promoting cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and those countries. The Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs ("PSHA") said that the Administration would be willing to consider any such request from overseas Hong Kong offices.

28. With regard to the first Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage ("ICH") of Hong Kong ("the Representative List") announced in August 2017, Mr Kenneth LAU enquired when the Administration would proceed with the selection of the second batch of ICH items for inclusion in the Representative List. DLCS said that based on the experience of drawing up the first Representative List, the Administration would look into the remaining several hundreds of ICH items in the ICH inventory and

Action

consider when to select the second batch of ICH items for inclusion into the Representative List. She added that Administration would continue to collaborate with the respective organizations and bearers to step up efforts on the education, promotion, transmission and safeguarding of ICH items.

District administration

29. Noting that District Tourism Ambassadors were being deployed under the District-led Actions Scheme in certain districts such as To Kwa Wan, Mr YIU Si-wing considered that the same arrangement should be made for districts where tourists frequently visited, e.g. North Point and Tin Wan. He suggested that these ambassadors should be provided with more training and supervision. He also suggested that the Administration should step up efforts in cleaning up various districts.

30. The Director of Home Affairs ("DHA") said that District Tourism Ambassadors were being deployed to call upon tourists to keep their gathering spots clean and maintain smooth passage. She added that the Administration had taken action to enhance the scheme by setting out clearly the duties of such ambassadors and provide better supervision over them.

31. PSHA said that the Steering Committee on District Administration coordinated the efforts of the relevant departments in improving public cleanliness and beautifying the environment. DHA added that various districts had been forging ahead with projects under the District-led Actions Scheme to improve environmental hygiene.

32. Mr SHIU Ka-fai expressed grave concern that the use of loudspeakers by performance groups at the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct during weekends and public holidays had caused serious noise nuisance to the residents and shop operators in the vicinity. He urged the Home Affairs Department to assume a proactive role in coordinating enforcement action, and if necessary, to review the relevant legislation with a view to curbing such noise nuisance caused by the use of loudspeakers.

33. SHA said that noise control was under the purview of the Environmental Protection Department, and relevant enforcement agencies would also take action upon receiving complaints. Having said that, the District Office concerned would also consult the DC concerned and coordinate inter-departmental cooperation to handle the issue when required.

Action

Building management

34. Dr Junius HO suggested that the Administration might consider providing cash subsidies (e.g. \$10 000 per year) for owners' corporations ("OCs") to hire professional legal services so as to enhance support for OCs' work. Mr WU Chi-wai suggested that in view of the large numbers of disputes arising from the implementation of maintenance works, the Administration should establish an authority to oversee maintenance works for all buildings in Hong Kong. He also urged the Administration to strengthen the manpower of the Liaison Officer Grade so as to better support owners in building management.

35. DHA said that the Administration would implement various initiatives, including proposing amendments to the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344), revising the Codes of Practice and the relevant administrative guidelines to set out the best practices of building management, and launching the Building Management Dispute Resolution Service, to be steered by a retired judge, on a pilot basis to provide objective opinions on dispute cases.

Rural affairs

36. Dr Junius HO considered that in order to encourage young people to participate in rural affairs, the Government should increase the amount of cash allowance offered to village representatives. Mr CHU Hoi-dick considered it undesirable that there were currently no standardized and transparent procedures for the operation of Rural Committees and elections of Rural Representatives. He suggested reviewing the procedures for elections of Rural Representatives and Chairmen of Rural Committees.

37. DHA said that the Administration had no authority over the operation of the Rural Committees, which was governed by the respective Constitutions, their own internal documents. She added that the Administration would keep in view relevant matters.

Development of home-stay lodgings

38. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung considered that some villages in rural areas were suitable for use as home-stay lodgings. He urged the Administration to study how to streamline the licence application procedures for developing home-stay lodgings in rural areas. SHA said that the existing licensing

Action

regime did not rule out home-stay lodgings in rural areas. He added that the Administration had been working with the Heung Yee Kuk to take forward the development of home-stay lodgings in Lai Chi Wo.

Maintenance payments and others

39. Mr SHIU Ka-chun urged the Administration to follow up on the proposal for setting up a maintenance board, which was raised about 20 years ago, for collection of maintenance payments. Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked whether there was a timetable for setting up a maintenance board. Mr SHIU Ka-chun also urged the Administration to follow up on the Policy Statement on Community Development made by HAB in 2005 that the NGO Forum on Community Development would meet on a quarterly basis.

40. SHA said that the Administration would continue to provide support for the collection of maintenance payments. PSHA said that the Administration would, through the Family Council, commission a consultancy study to gather the latest local statistics and information on overseas experience for reference in reviewing the related policies to facilitate consideration of the way forward. The study was expected to commence in early 2018 for completion in mid-2019.

V. Any other business

41. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:28 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 February 2018