

立法會
Legislative Council

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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 2nd meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 18 December, 2019, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members attending:

Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon HUI Chi-fung

Members absent:

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public Officers attending:

Mr Raistlin LAU Chun	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Brian LO Sai-hung	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1
Ms Doris HO Pui-ling	Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)1
Mr Ray LEUNG Kin-wah	Deputy Director (Survey and Mapping) Lands Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Connie SZETO	Chief Council Secretary (1)4
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Staff in attendance:

Miss Sharon LO	Senior Council Secretary (1)9
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Miss Yannes HO	Legislative Assistant (1)7
Ms Haley CHEUNG	Legislative Assistant (1)10

Action

The Chairman drew members' attention to the information paper ECI(2019-20)9, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002 and the changes to the directorate establishment in relation to the one item on the agenda. He then reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure

Action

("RoP"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interest relating to the item under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the item. He also drew members' attention to RoP 84 on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

EC(2019-20)12 Proposed creation of two supernumerary posts of one Chief Land Surveyor (D1) in the Planning and Lands Branch of the Development Bureau and one Government Land Surveyor (D2) in the Lands Department with effect from 1 April 2020 or upon approval of the Finance Committee (whichever is later) up to 31 March 2025 to oversee the implementation of the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure, thereby ensuring that major deliverables can be rolled out on schedule according to the pledged timetable

2. The Chairman remarked that the staffing proposal was to create two supernumerary posts of one Chief Land Surveyor (D1) (to be designated as Chief Land Surveyor/Spatial Data Infrastructure) ("CLS/SDI") in the Planning and Lands Branch of the Development Bureau ("DEVB") and one Government Land Surveyor (D2) (to be designated as Assistant Director/Mapping Management) ("AD/MM") in the Lands Department ("LandsD") with effect from 1 April 2020 or upon approval of the Finance Committee ("FC") (whichever is later) up to 31 March 2025 to oversee the implementation of the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure ("CSDI"), thereby ensuring that major deliverables can be rolled out on schedule according to the pledged timetable.

3. Mr Tony TSE, Chairman of the Panel on Development, reported that the Panel had discussed this staffing proposal at its meeting held on 19 November 2019. The majority of the members supported the proposal for implementation of CSDI. At the Panel meeting, members asked whether there were staff members with expertise and professional knowledge on spatial data in DEVB and LandsD capable of taking up the posts, whether extension of the duration of the posts would be anticipated upon completion of the five year period, and the number of relevant staff required for the implementation of CSDI. In addition, members enquired about the details, coverage and scope of application of CSDI as well as its implementation schedule. The Administration had responded to the questions and concerns raised by members at the meeting.

Action

Development of three-dimensional digital map

Contents of three-dimensional digital map

4. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen pointed out digital maps operated by a number of private enterprises providing different kinds of traffic information to members of the public was gaining prevalence. He enquired about the advantages of the proposed three-dimensional ("3D") digital map compared to the digital maps provided by private enterprises and the two-dimensional digital maps currently provided by the authorities, for example, whether the proposed 3D digital map would provide more accurate and up-to-date information on network of footbridges, locations of government buildings and public facilities, as well as suggested routes etc.

5. Mr WU Chi-wai also asked about the major differences between the proposed 3D digital map and the digital maps provided by private enterprises. He was concerned about the cost-effectiveness of deploying enormous resources for the development of 3D digital map.

6. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was worried that the proposed 3D digital map might not be as popular as the free digital maps currently provided by private enterprises. Citing the example of the mobile application "HKeMobilty" launched by the Transport Department, he pointed out that the application had been criticized by members of the public as slow in updating with occasional incorrect information. Referring to the experience of some overseas cities, Dr KWOK also said that as digital maps provided by governments only provided limited information, the majority of travelers preferred using feature-packed digital maps provided by private enterprises.

7. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether the 3D digital map would provide real-time traffic information and other information such as locations of barrier-free facilities for the convenience of persons with disability.

8. In response, Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)¹ ("DS(PL)¹") pointed out that CSDI comprised two projects, namely the CSDI portal and 3D digital map. Replacing the existing 2D digital map, the 3D digital map would be used as the basemap for the CSDI portal in the long run. 3D digital map would be scalable for provision of latest conditions on roads, real-time traffic conditions and information on barrier-free facilities for the daily convenience of users. The Administration would submit to the Finance Committee a funding proposal of 300 million dollars for the development of CSDI in due course; half of the funding would be used for the development of 3D digital map, and the

Action

other half the development of the CSDI portal. The existing digital maps provided by private enterprises fell short of covering remote areas of Hong Kong (such as Tin Shui Wai). The Administration anticipated that the proposed 3D digital map could cover the entire Hong Kong by 2023 with the capability of showing the topography of different areas, the appearance of basic infrastructures and the internal layout of more than 1 000 buildings (including government buildings) frequently visited by members of the public for their daily convenience. It was also the plan of the Administration to first publish 3D pedestrian network data in early 2020 (including road sections under construction) for target users including persons with disability.

9. DS(PL)1 said that through the use of 3D applications such as visualization, noise/air/flooding modelling, indoor/outdoor navigation, etc. made available in 3D digital maps, bureaux and departments ("B/Ds") could enhance their efficiency in taking forward policies and measures in relation to land administration, town planning and transportation management, etc. She illustrated by pointing out that in town planning, surveyors could, through 3D modeling and simulation, visualize whether the proposed height restrictions of the buildings would affect the view of the ridgeline. Last year, the onslaught of super typhoon Mangkhut caused extensive flooding in Hong Kong; subsequently, under the collaboration of Hong Kong Observatory and LandsD, precipitation data and 3D digital maps were used to forecast the amount of precipitation and its correlation on flooding in different areas with a view to implementing preventive measures.

10. DS(PL)1 added that at present, many private enterprises would purchase the digital maps published by LandsD for development of their own 3D digital maps which showed that the digital maps of the Government were providing updated and accurate information. She remarked that the policy intent of the Government was to release different types of spatial data for public use and, through such use, encourage development of new web and mobile applications for different types of users.

11. The Chairman pointed out that the MTR Corporation Limited had experienced project delay because, upon completion of excavation work, it was found that the actual distribution of underground facilities was at variance with those illustrated in the layout plans. He asked if the proposed 3D digital map could show the distribution of underground facilities in order to avoid such problems.

12. DS(PL)1 replied that some stakeholders, such as contractors, had indicated their wish for inclusion of data relating to underground facilities

Action

in the 3D digital map. Given that data relating to the distribution of underground facilities were regarded by certain telecommunications service providers as commercially sensitive information, it would be a challenge at this stage to ask them to open up the relevant information. This being the case, it was the plan of DEVB to release some of the data relating to the distribution of the Bureau's underground facilities (such as the alignments of sewage and drainage facilities), with a view to encouraging private enterprises to release their data for public use in a progressive manner. The Administration's plan in the long term would be inclusion of data relating to the distribution of various underground facilities in the 3D digital map. The Works Branch of DEVB was considering making data release a prerequisite for issuance of certain works permits (such as excavation permit) with a view to fostering data release by contractors.

13. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan indicated support for this staffing proposal. Noting the plan of the Administration for provision of a 3D digital map to cover the entire territory by 2023, she asked if the 3D digital map would provide community-based information relating to people's livelihood, such as those relating to rodent infestation.

14. DS(PL)1 responded that, for the time being, the Administration had no plan to collect community data for development of 3D digital map. The Administration would first focus on making available the data collated by the government for the public and secure the agreement of private enterprises for release of their data for public use.

15. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concern if the 3D digital map would provide updated information for visitors of Hong Kong, such as suggested routes for those visiting Hong Kong by driving their own cars, as well as information on local attractions etc. Given that digital maps for travelling in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("Greater Bay Area") had been made available in the Mainland and Macao in response to the development of the Greater Bay Area at present, he asked if the Administration had any plans for developing similar digital maps for the convenience of people visiting the Greater Bay Area.

16. DS(PL)1 answered that the priority of the Government at this stage was to develop a 3D digital map for Hong Kong. With the advancement of technology, additional information such as suggested routes for those visiting Hong Kong by driving their own cars and information on local attractions would be included in the 3D digital map in the future. The Administration noted Mr YIU Si-wing's view on extension of the coverage of the 3D digital map and inclusion of information relating to the Greater Bay Area.

Action

Information updating and publicity

17. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen pointed out that private enterprises would use vehicles to collect the latest road traffic information in order to update their digital maps in an expeditious manner. He was concerned whether the Administration would update the 3D digital map on a regular basis and how the 3D digital map would be updated.

18. DS(PL)1 replied that in accordance with the service pledges of LandsD, the Survey and Mapping Office ("SMO") of LandsD would update the information of newly built buildings in the 2D digital maps developed by the Administration within three months upon completion of the relevant buildings. The 3D digital map would receive updates on a regular basis, but the details of such updates would be determined by such factors as the latest technology to be adopted by and the availability of manpower and resources of the relevant department etc.

19. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing enquiry regarding the publicity work of the 3D digital map, DS(PL)1 said that the Administration were conducting briefings for and consultation with the industries on details of the CSDI portal and the 3D digital map. On completion of the development of the 3D digital map, the Administration would liaise with bodies related to the travel industry (such as the Hong Kong Tourism Board) to discuss ways on stepping up publicity.

Overall development of Common Spatial Data Infrastructure

Promote opening up of data by the Government and private enterprises

20. Mr Martin LIAO opined that cooperation from private enterprises to open up their data (such as release of real-time traffic information by public transportation operators) would be required for the development and promotion of the portal in the long run. He asked how the Administration could ensure that the candidate of the proposed post of CLS/SDI had the caliber to convince private enterprises to open up their data and handle matters relating to the relevant terms and conditions, as well as fees and charges, for opening up data.

21. Ms Elizabeth QUAT expressed support for this staffing proposal. She welcomed the efforts of the Administration in advancing the full operation of the CSDI portal to end of 2022 (i.e. one year earlier than the original target). She agreed that efforts should be made to secure the private enterprises in opening up their data for inclusion into the CSDI portal for the purpose of enhanced efficiency and data transparency. She further suggested that consideration should be given to include provisions

Action

for free open data when entering into contracts with private enterprises (e.g. when entering into franchise agreements with public transport operators) in order to speed up the process of spatial data sharing.

22. Dr Pierre CHAN expressed concern on how the Administration would convince private enterprises to open up their data and take part in the development of the CSDI portal.

23. DS(PL)1 said that CLS/SDI would, through the communication platform to be set up by DEVB, liaise with the private sectors (such as public transport operators and telecommunications service providers), and stakeholders like the professionals and the academia to identify the needs of potential CSDI users for various types of data, with a view to ensuring that suitable data would be provided by the CSDI portal for public use. CLS/SDI would also persuade the private sector to open up more types of data. She remarked that a few months ago, some public transport operators (including New World First Bus Services Limited, Citybus Limited and MTRC) had started providing the Government with free data on the real-time arrival time of their vehicles for some routes for sharing to the Public Sector Information Portal (data.gov.hk). DS(PL)1 noted the view of Ms Elizabeth QUAT on opening up data.

24. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan noted the Administration's remarks regarding the various benefits of the CSDI portal, including enhancements on Dengue Fever Risk assessment and information on land boundary and land registration etc. Given that the information involved data from various departments, she asked how DEVB would coordinate the opening up of data among various B/Ds and monitor the progress of data collection.

25. Mr HO Kai-ming remarked that the Mainland had developed digital maps which could provide various kinds of information such as cultural programmes and tourist attractions etc. He asked how the Administration would consult potential CSDI users with a view to identifying the types of data they needed so as to facilitate the collection of suitable data for the CSDI portal.

26. DS(PL)1 reiterated that the Administration planned to roll out the CSDI portal by end 2022 to the public. In order to enrich the content of the CSDI portal, in addition to inclusion of about 70 additional datasets, a new internal working group co-chaired by DEVB and the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB") had been set up to coordinate communications among various B/Ds, whose members were largely representatives from B/Ds holding considerable amount of spatial data. The working group would discuss with various departments and help them resolve problems in rolling out the CSDI portal, such as ensuring the availability of sufficient

Action

resource for the launch of the project, and issues relating to the relevant fees and charges for departments to open up their data. She pointed out that upon the rolling out of the CSDI portal in 2022, departments under DEVB would be the primary source of the common data to be shared. CLS/SDI would also encourage private organizations to open up their data for free, or devise contract terms on free release of data for sharing in order to secure their participation in the CSDI portal.

27. Dr Pierre CHAN expressed support for the Administration's initiative in opening up data and data sharing. He expressed concerns on issues relating to the update and management of information upon the rolling out of the CSDI portal, and asked how the two proposed supernumerary posts and the newly established Spatial Data Office could ensure easy public access to the data released by the Government for developing new web and mobile applications.

28. DS(PL)1 reiterated that the CSDI portal would ride on Hong Kong GeoData Store currently under the management of LandsD with inclusion of additional datasets; the Administration planned to include 70 additional datasets on top of some 140 datasets currently in place. The data from the 70 additional datasets would largely be from the departments under DEVB, as well as new data to be released for sharing by other departments (e.g. data on household income from the Census and Statistics Department). The Administration planned to roll out the CSDI portal within the Government by end 2021 and then to the public by end 2022. DEVB would help various departments resolve technical problems in opening up data for sharing and ensure availability of sufficient resources for taking forward data sharing.

Data collection and integration

29. Mr WU Chi-wai opined that the development of the CSDI portal should not be led by DEVB alone; instead, the Administration should release data and include standardized data into the CSDI portal to allow public access to the shared data to facilitate the development of mobile applications as well as enable efficient sharing and use of common spatial data. He noted that different standards were used by various departments, and data collected through the CSDI portal had to be standardized for inter-readability and usability, and DEVB had to address potential legal issues arising from the release of data. To facilitate members to have a better understanding on the data source of the CSDI portal as well as the challenges in the development process, Mr WU requested the Administration to provide the following supplementary information : details of the existing 140 spatial datasets and the additional 70 spatial datasets, including the responsible B/Ds, dataset format, data conversion

Action

process in implementing data sharing, related legislative issues to be resolved, and the required expenditures in data conversion.

30. DS(PL)1 replied that efforts had been made by DEVB in taking forward the advance work of the CSDI portal and converting the Geographic Information System ("GIS") data held by various departments to a standard compatible with the CSDI portal. DEVB would allow departments sufficient time to modify their data standard. The technical issues related to data standardization and the release of data were challenging, which called for the creation of the post of CLS/SDI at DEVB to coordinate departments' efforts in opening up their data and communicate with departments in taking forward the development of the CSDI portal. She stressed that the ultimate goal of the CSDI portal was to release spatial data for free for the public to develop different kinds of mobile applications targeted at the needs of different users. She undertook to provide the supplementary information requested by Mr WU Chi-wai after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 3 January 2020 vide LC Paper No. ESC21/19-20(01).)

Consulting the public and members of the trade

31. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen requested the Administration to provide details of the proposed four quick win projects (i.e., Map Application Programming Interface, Geo-tagging Tool, Address Data Infrastructure and District-based Spatial Information Dashboard ("the Dashboard")) to be implemented under the CSDI portal, and how the Administration would consult and collect stakeholders' views. Noting that the Dashboard aimed at providing district-based information, he asked whether the Administration would provide a platform to consult the local residents or district councils to ensure provision of district-based information upon completion of the project. DS(PL)1 undertook to provide the supplementary information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 3 January 2020 vide LC Paper No. ESC21/19-20(01).)

32. The Chairman asked whether members of the public and Legislative Council Members could reflect their views on the development of the CSDI portal to DEVB direct.

Action

33. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed support for this staffing proposal, and urged the Administration to take into account stakeholders' views (including views of the data users) to foster the development of the CSDI portal. He referred to a case where, a few years ago, private developers were not given approval from the Administration for development projects they proposed because the private developers were unable to employ the Territorial Population and Employment Data Matrix data ("TPEDMD") held by the Planning Department (which was for the internal use of the Government only) to tie in with the Government's long term policy. Subsequently, and taking into account the views from the professional sectors, the Planning Department opened up some TPEDMD to relevant professional sectors for reference and for conducting technical assessment.

34. DS(PL)1 said that in addition to providing information regarding different districts to the public (such as school network, local weather and traffic conditions etc.), the Administration would also make reference to overseas experience to use Dashboard for improving district management, such as reports on issues relating to street hygiene could be made to relevant departments for follow up. DEVB would, through the consultative committee to be set up, collect views from representatives of various sectors on the CSDI portal, and consideration was being given to setting up a website to make public the progress of development of the CSDI portal, which could also be used as a platform for collecting public views on the CSDI portal. Furthermore, Members could also reflect their views to DEVB direct.

Updating the information of Common Spatial Data Infrastructure

35. Mr WONG Ting-kwong expressed support for the establishment proposal for the development of CSDI to provide convenience to the public. He pointed out that the information of CSDI (including the CSDI portal and the 3D digital map) had to be duly updated, and the infrastructure had to be properly maintained in the future to cater for the needs of users. He asked if the Administration would extend the tenure of the two proposed supernumerary posts in order to address those issues.

36. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether consideration would be given to extending the tenure of the two posts or creation of a new department specifically to handle matters relating to the updating of 3D digital map.

37. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan asked about the work arrangements of the two proposed supernumerary posts subsequent to the rolling out of the CSDI portal and the 3D digital map by end 2022 and end 2023 respectively.

Action

38. In reply, DS(PL)1 said that SMO would be responsible for updating the information of the 3D digital map. The Administration recognized the importance of data update for CSDI, and there were plans to align the deadline for B/Ds to update their data standards and set up a common standard. SMO would be responsible for the long term maintenance of the CSDI portal and the 3D digital map. For the CSDI portal, the Administration would make available dataset update tag so that data users could stay informed on the data source and the time when the dataset was last updated. Prior to the expiry of the five years tenure of the two supernumerary posts, consideration would be given to the need for retention of the posts taking into account the workload of the posts, the progress in the implementation of the CSDI portal, and the coverage of the data such as whether or not data owned by private enterprises would be included.

Communications with stakeholders and interdepartmental cooperation

39. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that the post of CLS/SDI proposed to be created in the Planning and Lands Branch of DEVB would lead the newly established Spatial Data Office ("SDO"). In addition to coordinating with B/Ds, the candidate for the post would have to liaise with various stakeholders to seek their cooperation with the Government in opening up data. He was concerned whether there were suitable candidates in DEVB or LandsD for the post.

40. DS(PL)1 replied that in recent years, officials from SMO under LandsD had taken part regularly in a number of international conferences on surveying and mapping with extensive exposures to relevant innovative technologies overseas; the Administration were confident that the two proposed supernumerary posts could be filled up through internal promotion in LandsD.

41. Mr WU Chi-wai noted that GIS was often used to consolidate different types of spatial data into a digital map, which allowed users to make use of the data based on their needs. He found it justifiable to enhance the support for the Mapping Management Centre of LandsD to facilitate the development of 3D digital maps, and supported creation of the post of AD/MM in LandsD. However, he found it unjustifiable to create the post of CLS/SDI in DEVB whose job was to liaise with B/Ds and coordinate their efforts in opening up their data for inclusion into the CSDI portal. Mr WU queried if some B/Ds had refused to share their data for the development of the CSDI portal. Instead of creating a directorate post to lead the SDO at this stage, he considered that the Administration should, as a matter of priority, address the policy issues and clear the obstacles for taking forward CSDI.

Action

42. The Chairman asked about the authority entrusted to CLS/SDI with regard to releasing data owned by B/Ds for public use to facilitate the development of a spatial data platform.

43. DS(PL)1 advised that DEVB had formulated a policy for taking forward the sharing of spatial data. The Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology chaired by the Chief Executive had entrusted DEVB to coordinate with B/Ds for the development of CSDI. The objective of DEVB was to release data for public use for free. At present, priority was given to assisting B/Ds to handle potential legal or technical issues in the process of opening up data. She said that it was necessary for the Bureau to align the data standards of various B/Ds and convert the data into machine-readable formats. Interoperability and sharing of data were difficult as different datasets collected by B/Ds were stored in individual GIS formats. LandsD would provide technical support to assist with the aligning of data standards, portal design and adoption of cloud technology to facilitate the opening up of data for public use. However, DEVB needed to create the CLS/SDI post to liaise and coordinate with various B/Ds and identify potential implementation problems, as well as mapping out possible solutions. As such, it was necessary to create the CLS/SDI post to carry out the liaison and coordination work.

44. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that as CSDI involved application of a vast amount of innovative technologies, ITB and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer would support DEVB in taking forward the project. He enquired about the details of distribution of work among relevant B/Ds and their respective establishment for the tasks, including ITB's manpower arrangement for taking forward CSDI in the future.

45. Mr HO Kai-ming was also concerned about the distribution of work between DEVB and ITB and how the two policy bureaux would step up collaboration in taking forward the portal.

46. DS(PL)1 replied that DEVB aimed at rolling out the portal for public use by 2022; prior to that, the data released for sharing would mainly be provided by DEVB. As such, DEVB would primarily be responsible for the roll-out of CSDI until 2022; after that DEVB and ITB would conduct a review in light of actual circumstances.

Costs and anticipated benefits of the project

47. Dr Fernando CHEUNG opined that the fringe benefits being offered to the two proposed directorate posts were rather generous, and requested

Action

the Administration to give an explanation. DS(PL)1 remarked that the Administration would provide relevant details of the calculations of the salaries and staff on-costs for government officers at D1 and D2 after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: the supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 3 January 2020 vide LC Paper No. ESC21/19-20(01).)

48. At the request of Dr KWOK Ka-ki, DS(PL)1 undertook to provide details on the annual recurrent costs of the CSDI portal and 3D digital map as well as the expected economic benefits.

(Post-meeting note: the supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 3 January 2020 vide LC Paper No. ESC21/19-20(01).)

Law enforcement by Lands Department

49. Dr Fernando CHEUNG queried the urgency for rolling out CSDI. He pointed out that a number of land-related issues under the jurisdiction of LandsD, such as abandoned agricultural land, illegal occupation of brownfield sites and illegal fly-tipping, etc. had not been addressed. Besides, the digital maps currently provided by private organizations had been widely used by the public. He was concerned about the priority being accorded to the development of CSDI.

50. Dr KWOK Ka-ki echoed the view of Dr Fernando CHEUNG. He opined that, instead of according priority to the CSDI project, DEVB and LandsD should first address land-related issues.

51. DS(PL)1 advised that DEVB had made efforts to address the land supply issues by, among other measures, proactively developing brownfield sites while implementing CSDI to open up data for the convenience of members of the public. The AD/MM post proposed to be created in LandsD would also be responsible for overseeing land boundary advisory service and provision of detailed boundary advisory information to help relevant B/Ds identify land boundary for effective enforcement (such as enforcement against fly-tipping in public places and issuance of Dangerous Hillside Orders against private slopes). As for enforcement actions regarding brownfield sites, she remarked that follow-up actions had recently been undertaken by LandsD based on findings of studies on brownfield (including cases of Government land being occupied). District Land Offices had also formed teams for more effective actions to be carried out against unlawful occupation of land within the respective districts.

Action

Voting on the item

52. Mr WU Chi-wai requested that the two posts proposed to be created to be voted on separately. While expressing support for creation of the AD/MM post, he found creation of the CLS/SDI post in DEVB not justifiable, and expressed opposition on the post. Mr WU pointed out that there were precedents where separate voting had been conducted by the Subcommittee on posts grouped under one single item. If the Administration insisted on bundling the two posts for voting, he would have to oppose the staffing proposal.

53. Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1 ("PAS(Tsy)1") replied that given that in the policies under the jurisdiction of the two proposed posts under the staffing proposal were co-related, and the need for the two to work together in taking forward CSDI, the Government disagreed that the two posts should be voted on separately.

54. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked if the Subcommittee had the authority to conduct separate voting on different posts grouped under one single staffing proposal, and whether the Administration would withdraw the proposal if the Subcommittee voted against one of the proposed posts under the staffing proposal.

55. The Chairman remarked that paragraph 24 of the Subcommittee Procedure provided that, under section 8 of the Public Finance Ordinance, proposals to change the approved Estimates of Expenditure must come from the Administration, and members could not amend the proposals. The Subcommittee must discuss and vote on any proposal as it stood. If the Subcommittee did not approve the proposal, it would then be for the Administration to consider whether to submit a fresh proposal amended in such a way as may make it acceptable to the Subcommittee.

56. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. No members required a division. The Chairman was of the view that the majority of the members voting were against the item. The Chairman declared that members of the Subcommittee did not agree to recommend the item to FC for approval.

(At 10:28 am, the Chairman asked if members agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. No Members raised any objection.)

Action

57. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:43 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 April 2020