

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 3rd meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 8 January, 2020, 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 Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, 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
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent:

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP

Public Officers attending:

Mr Raistlin LAU Chun, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Brian LO Sai-hung, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1
Ms Doris HO Pui-ling, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)1
Mr Ray LEUNG Kin-wah, JP	Deputy Director (Survey and Mapping) Lands Department
Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP	Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr Edward YU Kin-keung	Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport)2 Home Affairs Bureau

Clerk in attendance:

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

Mr Hugo CHIU	Senior Council Secretary (1)4
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Miss Yannes HO	Legislative Assistant (1)7
Ms Haley CHEUNG	Legislative Assistant (1)10

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The Chairman drew members' attention to the information paper ECI(2019-20)11, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002 and the changes to the directorate establishment in relation to the two items on the agenda. He then reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interest relating to the item under discussion at the meeting

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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)13 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 ("CLS") (D1), to be designated as Chief Land Surveyor/Spatial Data Infrastructure ("CLS/SDI"), in the Planning and Lands Branch of the Development Bureau ("DEVB(PLB)") and one Government Land Surveyor ("GLS") (D2), to be designated as Assistant Director/Spatial Data ("AD/SD"), 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. The Chairman said that the Administration consulted the Panel on Development on this staffing proposal on 19 November 2019 and submitted the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") for consideration on 18 December 2019, but the proposal had not been approved by ESC. The Administration provided supplementary information paper ESC21/19-20(01) later on and submitted afresh the relevant proposal to ESC for consideration. The Chairman remarked that having had briefed members on the main points of the discussion of the Panel on Development at the meeting on 18 December 2019, he would not make a report again.

Precedents of re-submission of items to Establishment Subcommittee for consideration

4. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked whether there were any precedents in which the Administration was allowed to re-submit a negated item to ESC for consideration by submitting a new discussion paper with updated

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information on the item. He asked whether there were any rules governing how the Administration should revise the relevant discussion paper.

5. Mr WU Chi-wai remarked that the item was negated barely two weeks ago, and the supplementary information paper (ESC21/19-20(01)) and updated discussion paper (ESC(2019-20)13) provided by the Administration, while containing more information, did not respond to the concerns raised by members at the meeting held on 18 December 2019. He opined that in the future, the Administration should highlight in the discussion paper the parts where updates had been made to facilitate members' comparison between the original and the updated proposals. Furthermore, the new discussion paper did not respond to members' request for separate voting on the two posts, namely the CLS/SDI post in DEVB and the AD/SD post in LandsD. He reiterated that at the meeting on 18 December 2019, he had expressed support for creation of the AD/SD post, but he found creation of the CLS/SDI post unjustifiable. As the Administration insisted on bundling the two posts in voting, he had no choice but to vote against this staffing proposal.

6. Regarding precedents on similar cases, the Chairman responded by pointing out two cases in recent years where staffing proposals were negated by ESC, namely (a) the retention of three supernumerary directorate posts in the Airport Expansion Project Coordination Office, Transport and Housing Bureau to continue monitoring the work of the Airport Authority Hong Kong in the implementation of the Three-Runway System project at the Hong Kong International Airport, which was discussed at the meeting on 5 February 2018 and (b) the retention of three supernumerary directorate posts to continue monitoring and assisting the implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District project, which was discussed at the meeting on 22 February 2019. Subsequent to the proposals having been negated by ESC, the Administration provided supplementary information and relevant updated discussion papers for the consideration of ESC at two subsequent meetings held on 16 May 2018 and 22 March 2019 respectively. Subsequently, approval was given by ESC on the two proposals.

7. Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)1 ("DS(PL)1") advised that in light of the views expressed by members at the meeting on 18 December 2019 on creation of the CLS/SDI post, the Administration had provided additional information on the justifications for creating the CLS/SDI post and elaborated in greater details the job description of the post. For instance, in paragraphs 9 to 12 and Enclosure 2 of the discussion paper, additional information was included to illustrate that for the development of CSDI portal, the post holder would lead the

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consultation work on CSDI. The paper also elaborated on the professional knowledge of officers from the land surveyor grade for carrying out spatial data tasks. Details on the four quick win projects to be launched on the CSDI portal were provided in paragraph 8 of the discussion paper in response to members' enquiries.

8. Regarding members' request for separate voting on the two posts, DS(PL)1 remarked that there were some commonalities in the duties of the two posts in taking forward CSDI. Additionally, the AD/SD post proposed to be created in LandsD would also be responsible for, among other duties, implementing the three-dimensional ("3D") digital map and advising various departments on land matters relating to land boundary advisory services. Taking into account all the factors, the Administration did not oppose to having separate voting on the two proposed posts.

The need for creating the Chief Land Surveyor/Spatial Data Infrastructure post in Development Bureau and its responsibilities

9. Mr Tony TSE expressed support for this staffing proposal. He opined that it was necessary to create both the CLS/SDI post in DEVB and AD/SD post in LandsD for effective implementation of CSDI. He pointed out that efforts should be made by the Administration to start persuading private organizations to release their data for inclusion into the CSDI portal within the five-year tenure of the CLS/SDI post in order to open up more data for public use expeditiously.

10. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok reiterated his support for this staffing proposal. He was of the view that for the implementation of CSDI, it was necessary for DEVB to formulate relevant policies and coordinate with various Bureaux/Departments ("B/Ds") for data release and for LandsD to carry out DEVB's policies. That being the case, the duties of the two proposed posts were complementary to each other and were equally important for the implementation of CSDI.

11. DS(PL)1 remarked that the Administration had set aside a funding of \$300 million in last year's Budget for developing CSDI, which comprised the CSDI portal and 3D digital map. The Planning and Lands Branch of DEVB had been supporting the implementation of these two projects using its internal resources. However, it was necessary for DEVB to enhance directorate support for these projects so that it could coordinate with various Government departments in a more effective manner and roll out the CSDI portal by the end of 2022 according to the pledged timetable. Therefore, it was imperative to have the CLS/SDI and AD/SD posts created in DEVB and LandsD respectively.

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12. Mr WU Chi-wai remarked that the challenges on the implementation of CSDI as mentioned in the supplementary documents provided by the Administration (such as conducting data conversion for different B/Ds and the legal issues involving the opening up of data) were mostly of technical nature. He recognized the need for creation of the AD/SD post in LandsD to address those issues. Given that the Government had already formulated policies for the implementation of CSDI, and that departments under DEVB had also agreed to open up their data, he enquired about the coordination work to be undertaken by CLS/SDI of DEVB and the relevant details (e.g. of the obstacles in persuading B/Ds to open up their data and the principles for opening up data, etc.).

13. DS(PL)1 replied that the CLS/SDI post to be created in LandsD would be responsible for aligning the standards of various data for inclusion into the CSDI portal. The some 140 datasets currently available under the Hong Kong GeoData Store (alpha version of the future CSDI portal) were provided by various B/Ds. Although these datasets were open and had been converted into machine-readable formats (e.g. GeoJSON, GML, KML, CSV) with interfaces, data formats and metadata had remain unavailable, and data conversion was necessary. Data of the some 70 additional datasets to be rolled out mostly came from departments under DEVB and were largely stored in Geographic Information System (GIS) format. Those data did not meet the data standards of CSDI, and data transfer would be necessary. CLS/SDI of DEVB and AD/SD of LandsD would formulate standards for spatial data to facilitate conversion of current data and for data to be collected in the future. In addition to coordinating with various departments and helping them resolve relevant problems such as resources and technical issues and other problems, CLS/SDI would also oversee the secretariat services for the Common Spatial Data Steering Committee ("CSDSC"), chair various working groups formed under CSDSC, and lead stakeholders consultation activities.

14. DS(PL)1 remarked that in order to enrich the data of CSDI, the Government planned to include data of other B/Ds besides DEVB in CSDI for free use by the public, such as statistics of population censuses, metered parking spaces and vacant parking spaces, etc. CLS/SDI of DEVB would encourage various B/Ds to release their data for inclusion into CSDI and explain to them the issues involved, including the standards for converting current spatial data, the feasibility of opening up data free of charge, and helping relevant departments acquire resources for data release. The Administration noted the public aspiration for inclusion of data held by the Government and private organizations into CSDI. As such, proactive efforts would be made by CLS/SDI to secure the buy-in of private enterprises for opening up their data for inclusion into the CSDI portal.

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15. At the request of Mr WU Chi-wai, DS(PL)1 undertook to provide the following supplementary information after the meeting to assist members to understand the data included in the CSDI portal and the operation of the portal: (a) details of the approximately 140 datasets released through the Hong Kong GeoData Store (alpha version of the future CSDI portal) and the approximately 70 additional datasets including name of dataset, data owners, categories of data and general descriptions; (b) apart from the additional approximately 70 datasets, the other proposed datasets to be released on the future CSDI portal and the B/Ds concerned; and (c) details of converting the approximately 140 current spatial datasets released through the Hong Kong GeoData Store to the CSDI standards, the progress of updating and data conversion, and how after the creation of the supernumerary post of CLS would assist the implementation of CSDI.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 4 May 2020 vide LC Paper No. ESC37/19-20(01).)

16. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted the plan of the Administration was for the proposed CLS/SDI to take forward the consultation work on CSDI. He stressed that in addition to consulting the relevant sectors, the Administration should also consult the District Councils ("DCs"), tertiary institutions and student organizations, etc. to comprehensively collect public opinions on CSDI when relevant consultation exercises were conducted. Mr CHAN asked whether the Administration would continue with the implementation of CSDI in the event that approval was not given to the creation of the proposed CLS/SDI.

17. DS(PL)1 advised that it was the plan of DEVB for CLS/SDI to support the CSDI development through provision of technical expertise in land survey and spatial data. The candidate for the post would also be responsible for leading public engagement activities for CSDI, including broadening the scope of public consultation to include student organizations, hosting public seminars to publicize the convenience that would be brought about by opening up data, and encouraging the public to develop web and mobile applications with the use of open data. In light of the views expressed by Mr CHAN Chi-chuen at the meeting on 18 December 2019, DEVB planned to consult district groups on the four quick win projects of the CSDI portal and had commenced consulting relevant DCs on 23 December 2019 on the types of district-based data to be included in the District-based Spatial Information Dashboard.

18. DS(PL)1 added that if creation of the proposed CLS/SDI post was negated by ESC, DEVB would not have the resources and manpower

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required for taking forward CSDI, to the detriment of the long-term development of CSDI.

Duties of Assistant Director/Spatial Data of the Lands Department

19. In response to the enquiry raised by Mr Tony TSE regarding details of the job duties of AD/SD in updating land boundary data, DS(PL)1 advised that having accurate land boundaries could facilitate law enforcement of different departments; for instance, law enforcement action of the Planning Department against illegal land filling activities, issuance of Dangerous Hillside Orders by the Buildings Department against private slopes, etc. AD/SD would update land boundaries related to law enforcement by various departments as a matter of priority and update other land boundaries subject to availability of resources.

Estimated cost of Common Spatial Data Infrastructure

20. Mr Alvin YEUNG enquired whether the \$30 million funding earmarked for helping various B/Ds with dataset optimization and data conversion was sufficient, and, in the event that this staffing proposal was negated, whether it would affect the Administration's estimation on the annual recurrent expenditure for the CSDI portal and 3D digital map (i.e. \$17.5 million and \$22.1 million respectively) beyond 2024-2025. He also enquired about the factors considered by the Administration for calculating the costs of data conversion and the annual recurrent expenditure for the CSDI portal and 3D digital map.

21. DS(PL)1 remarked that the Administration planned to submit a funding proposal to FC for approval for a \$300 million funding to develop CSDI. The funding would be evenly allocated for the development of CSDI and 3D digital map. Of the \$150 million allocated for the CSDI portal, \$30 million would be deployed for B/Ds to optimize their datasets and meet the CSDI standards. In 2017, LandsD commissioned a consultant to conduct a study on issues relating to adoption of common data and technical standards for data management on the CSDI portal. The consultancy study was completed in early 2019. With reference to the consultancy study regarding the costs for CSDI development and data conversion of various B/Ds, the Administration had worked out that the overall cost for data conversion would be around \$30 million, while the annual recurrent expenditure for the CSDI portal and 3D digital map would be around \$40 million in total (including the rent of the GovCloud platform in the development of CSDI and manpower costs, etc.). She said that if approval was not given to the funding application as scheduled and therefore leading to delays in the CSDI development, the annual recurrent expenditure might increase as a result of inflation.

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22. Mr WU Chi-wai raised similar concerns. He asked if the cost for data conversion of the CSDI portal was reasonable and requested that the following supplementary information be provided: findings of the consultancy study on the development of CSDI portal commissioned by the Government, including the basis adopted in determining the costs of data conversion of datasets and whether the \$30 million earmarked for B/Ds to carry out data conversion was sufficient. DS(PL)1 undertook to provide the relevant supplementary information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 4 May 2020 vide LC Paper No. ESC37/19-20(01).)

Voting on the item

23. The Chairman put item EC(2019-20)13 to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. In addition, at the request of Mr WU Chi-wai, the Chairman ordered that the two proposed posts be voted on separately. For the first part, a division was conducted on creation of a supernumerary CLS post in DEVB (PLB). The division bell rang for five minutes. 13 members voted for and 6 voted against it. The Chairman declared that the Subcommittee agreed to recommend this part of the item to FC for approval. The votes of individual members were as follows:

For

Mr WONG Ting-kwong	Ms Starry LEE
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee	Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr KWOK Wai-keung	Ms Elizabeth QUAT
Mr Martin LIAO	Mr POON Siu-ping
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan	Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok
Mr SHIU Ka-fai	Mr CHAN Chun-ying
Mr Tony TSE	
(13 members)	

Against

Mr James TO	Mr WU Chi-wai
Mr CHAN Chi-chuen	Mr Alvin YEUNG
Mr CHU Hoi-dick	Mr Jeremy TAM
(6 members)	

24. The Chairman put to vote the second part of the item for creation of a supernumerary GLS post in LandsD. 15 members voted for and 4 voted against it. The Chairman declared that the Subcommittee agreed to

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recommend this part of the item to FC for approval. The votes of individual members were as follows:

For

Mr James TO	Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Mrs Starry LEE	Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee
Mr WU Chi-wai	Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr KWOK Wai-keung	Ms Elizabeth QUAT
Mr Martin LIAO	Mr POON Siu-ping
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan	Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok
Mr SHIU Ka-fai	Mr CHAN Chun-ying
Mr Tony TSE	
(15 members)	

Against

Mr CHAN Chi-chuen	Mr Alvin YEUNG
Mr CHU Hoi-dick	Mr Jeremy TAM
(4 members)	

25. Mr Jeremy TAM requested that the two proposed posts of the item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

EC(2019-20)14 Proposed retention of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") with effect from 1 January 2021 or upon approval of the Finance Committee (whichever is later) up to 31 December 2023 to continue to head the Recreation and Sport Division (2) of Recreation and Sport Branch in HAB

26. The Chairman remarked that the staffing proposal was to retain one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") (D2) in the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB"), designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 2 ("PAS(RS)2"), with effect from 1 January 2021 or upon approval of FC (whichever is later) up to 31 December 2023 to continue to head the Recreation and Sport Division (2) ("RS Division 2") of Recreation and Sport Branch ("RS Branch") in HAB.

27. The Chairman pointed out that the Administration consulted the Panel on Home Affairs on the proposal on 4 November 2019. At the meeting, the Administration remarked that the duties of the PAS(RS)2 post proposed to be retained would remain heavy when its tenure expired on

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31 December 2020, and therefore there was a genuine need for relevant work to be continuously supervised by a directorate officer to ensure that various tasks could be implemented as scheduled and meet the policy objectives in sports development. Members of the Panel noted the authorities' proposal to extend the tenure of the post from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023. No members expressed objection against submission of the proposal for ESC's consideration.

Justifications for retaining the Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 2 post and the terms and duties of the post

28. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for this staffing proposal and enquired why a number of regular duties had been assigned to the supernumerary PAS(RS)2 post.

29. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that the duties of PAS(RS)2 were heavy, and many of them were regular in nature. The Administration had extended the tenure of the post in May 2016 and February 2018 respectively, and he asked whether consideration would be given to retaining or making permanent of this supernumerary post when the tenure of the post expired in end 2023, as well as the relevant factors to be taken into consideration.

30. In a consolidated response, Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") advised that taking into account the level and scope of responsibilities of the PAS(RS)2 post, the Administration opined that there was a genuine need to retain the post. Under the principle of prudent use of public funds, the Administration extended the tenure of the supernumerary post in May 2016 and February 2018 since approval was given by FC for creation of the post for a period of two years in 2014, to provide dedicated support for directorate officers to continue to head the RS Division 2 of the RS Branch. He remarked that even in the event of on-time completion of the time-limited duties in 2023, such as planning for the operation of the Kai Tak Sports Park ("KTSP"), the workload of other duties of PAS(RS)2 would remain heavy. If approval was given to the staffing proposal, the Administration would conduct a detailed review on the need for extending its tenure or making permanent of the post in accordance with the work situation nearer the time of its expiry.

31. Mr Tony TSE noted that since the creation of the PAS(RS)2 post in June 2014, this was the third time an extension of the tenure of the post was sought. During this period, the post holder had seen restructuring of duties within the RS Branch, along with other changes in his/her responsibilities. He opined that to facilitate promotion of sports development in Hong Kong, the Administration should, as a matter of

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priority, clearly delineate its sports policies and the responsibilities of PAS(RS)2 before consideration was given to whether it was necessary to make permanent the post.

32. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that the tenure of the PAS(RS)2 post would not expire until 31 December 2020, and asked why the Administration submitted the proposal of extending its tenure to 31 December 2023 at this point in time. He enquired whether it was the plan of the Administration to secure retention of the post as soon as possible for some of the regular tasks to be commenced to tie in with the Government's sports and recreation policies.

33. In a consolidated response, USHA said that the Administration had always been supportive of Hong Kong's sports development. Since 2017, more than \$60 billion additional resources had been set aside for this purpose, of which about \$30 billion for the development of the KTSP project. Since the introduction of "M" Mark System in 2004 to develop Hong Kong as a prime destination for hosting major international sports events, over 150 projects had become "M" Mark events so far. In addition to overseeing the promotion and implementation of the "M" Mark System, PAS(RS)2 was required to oversee the implementation of the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities ("Five-Year Plan") announced in the Policy Address in January 2017, as well as considering and planning the next Five-Year Plan.

34. USHA continued that the RS Branch led by the Commissioner for Sports was responsible for promotion of sports development. At present, among the three directorate officers assisting the Commissioner for Sports, only PAS(RS)1 was a permanent post; PAS(RS)2 and Project Director (Sports Park) ("PD(SP)") were both supernumerary posts. Given that the RS Branch would implement various sports development initiatives in the next few years, the Administration opined that retention of the PAS(RS)2 post should be secured as soon as possible for better arrangement and implementation of long-term tasks.

35. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether the Administration would extend the tenure of the PAS(RS)2 post in the event that KTSP could not be completed in 2023 as scheduled.

36. USHA replied that one of the terms in the contract for the design, construction and operation of KTSP awarded by the Administration to the KTSP operator stated that completion of construction was required within 54 months, and the operator would be subject to a daily penalty of \$4.3 million in failing to do so. The Administration were confident that construction of KTSP could be completed as scheduled.

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37. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that PAS(RS)2 would, in collaboration with PD(SP), oversee the work of Chief Leisure Manager (Recreation and Sport)2 ("CLM(RS)2"), Senior Leisure Manager (Recreation and Sport)3 ("SLM(RS)3") and SLM(RS)5, a proposed post to be created. He asked how PAS(RS)2 and PD(SP) would assess the performance of the three officers.

38. USHA remarked that under the existing civil service establishment, the performance appraisal of a staff member was conducted by one supervisor, but in some cases, a staff member might be required to report to more than one supervisor. PAS(RS)2 and PD(SP) would both be responsible for overseeing the planning for KTSP. PAS(RS)2 and his/her team was responsible to oversee the operating arrangements for KTSP, while PD(SP), supported by a team comprising such professional grade members as engineers and surveyors, was responsible for overseeing the design and construction of KTSP.

39. USHA added that CLM(RS)2, SLM(RS)3 and the SLM(RS)5 post proposed to be created would provide advice primarily from the operational perspective for the reference of PD(SP) during the design stage.

40. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed support for this staffing proposal. He was concerned about the slow progress in the development of sports facilities in the community, and suggested that the Administration should take forward the outstanding leisure and cultural services ("LCS") projects of the former Municipal Councils as soon as possible.

41. USHA remarked that of the 139 outstanding ex-Municipal Council LCS projects, 103 had already been completed or substantially completed. 33 of the remaining projects were sports-related, among them 10 had been included in the Five-Year Plan. PAS(RS)2 would also continue to oversee the planning of new public sports facilities, including implementation of the Five-Year Plan.

Promotion of "M" Mark events

42. Mr Martin LIAO was concerned that five "M" Mark events originally scheduled for June to December 2019 had been cancelled or postponed due to social incidents. He asked about the measures in place to attract organizers of major international sports events to host activities in Hong Kong and sponsors' continual support to those events.

43. Mr YIU Si-wing raised similar concerns. He asked whether replacement activities would be hosted for the two "M" Mark events

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(originally scheduled for June and December 2019) that had been cancelled as a result of social incidents. He further enquired about the number of applications for Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme ("Matching Grant Scheme") for organizing "M" Mark events in the past year and the number of successful applications. Furthermore, he asked if the Administration would review the Matching Grant Scheme, including lowering the application threshold to encourage more Matching Grant Scheme applications from private organizations in hosting "M" Mark events.

44. In a consolidated response, USHA advised that due to the recent social incidents, five "M" Mark events originally scheduled for June and December 2019 had been cancelled or postponed, including the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races and the Harbour Race. Another four "M" Mark events, namely Kitchee vs Manchester City Football Exhibition Match – Jockey Club Kitchee Centre Cup, World Rowing Coastal Championships, Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships and Track Cycling World Cup Hong Kong, China, had proceeded as scheduled under the contingency plans coupled with implementation of additional corresponding measures. It reflected the support of the international sports sector for major sports events to continue to be hosted in Hong Kong. In addition, a number of other "M" Mark events scheduled to be held in 2020-2021 were under preparation as planned.

45. PAS(RS)2 added that given the recent economic environment, sponsors might be more conservative in offering sponsorships. Consideration would be given to measures to complement the Matching Grant Scheme with a view to granting greater amount of direct subsidies for national sports associations to organize major sports events.

46. Regarding application for hosting "M" Mark events, USHA replied that the Administration had announced in the 2018 Budget that \$500 million would be allocated for implementation of the Matching Grant Scheme and other longer term enhancement measures. Enhancement measures implemented earlier on included increasing the amount of matching grant under the "M" Mark System from not more than \$6 million to \$10 million for a single event and expanding the scope of funding from major competitions to exhibition matches. The Administration had also enhanced the support for applicants and streamlined the application procedures of the Matching Grant Scheme, with a view to encouraging more sponsorship from the business and private sectors to support NSAs in hosting more higher-level major sports events. In 2019, applications for the Matching Grant Scheme under the "M" Mark System were submitted for 15 events, 10 of which had obtained matching grant totaling around \$60 million.

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Land matters relating to sports and recreation

47. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked how PAS(RS)2 could oversee the effective enforcement of the new policy on private recreational leases ("PRLs"), including how to ensure that lessees would further open up sports and recreational facilities of pleasure grounds to the public. Mr CHAN was also concerned about the penalties against lessees who failed to comply with the requirements of the new policy on PRLs.

48. USHA replied that in February 2019, HAB briefed members of the Panel on Home Affairs on the outcome of the public consultation on the review of the PRL policy as well as major recommendations. Given the approval of the Executive Council for implementation of the new PRL policy, consideration would be given to renewal of leases of private sports club sites based on multiple factors, including the contributions of private sports clubs in promoting sports development in Hong Kong.

49. PAS (RS)2 added that, regarding renewal of leases of private sports club sites, in addition to using sports contributions as an assessment criteria, the new PRL policy also required private sports clubs to open up their facilities to eligible outside bodies up to 30% of their total sports capacity and partner with sports organizations to organize sports programmes for enrolment by members of the public with a minimum of 240 sports programme hours per month. Regarding the aforesaid requirements, the Administration were formulating concrete arrangements to facilitate future assessment on the renewal of leases of private sports club sites.

Overseeing the administration of the Main Fund of the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation

50. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok requested the Administration to brief members on the duty of PAS(RS)2 in overseeing the administration of the Main Fund of the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation ("the Main Fund").

51. PAS(RS)2 remarked that the Main Fund, established in 1970, aimed at providing facilities or purchasing equipment for recreational, sporting, cultural and entertainment activities. It offered three types of funding under non-capital works, capital works and special projects, which could be used respectively for purchasing sports equipment for public use, building new recreational facilities, constructing and enhancing sports facilities and purchasing sports facilities to promote Hong Kong's sports development. The amounts granted for each application for the aforesaid three types of funding were \$2,000 to \$90,000, a maximum of \$700,000,

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and \$700,000 above to \$4 million respectively. Sports associations, district sports associations and schools, etc. were eligible applicants for the Main Fund. In 2019, a total funding of around \$20 million was distributed to 228 bodies under non-capital works, capital works and special projects under the recommendations of the Sir David Trench Fund Committee.

Support for young athletes

52. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that the morale of young athletes had been affected given the way the Government handled the recent social incidents. He asked about the measures in place to enhance support for young athletes.

53. USHA replied that the Administration had been deploying resources for the cultivation of young athletes. At present, among the approximate 1 300 athletes of the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI"), some 500 were full-time athletes. Hong Kong athletes had achieved outstanding results in regional and international games, for instance, in cycling competitions and snooker tournaments. Resources would be used effectively with a planned expansion of HKSI for provision of better sports facilities for athletes.

54. Dr KWOK Ka-ki opined that the aforesaid measures were not conducive to boosting the morale of young athletes.

55. The Chairman remarked that as some members were still waiting for their turn to ask questions, the Subcommittee would continue the discussion on this item at the meeting on 22 January 2020.

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