

立法會
Legislative Council

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seen by the Administration)

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 17th meeting
held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Monday, 9 March 2020, from 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kiwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Members absent:

Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Public officers attending:

Ms Alice LAU Yim, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mr Raistlin LAU Chun, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Mike CHENG Wai-man	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr Joseph CHAN Ho-lim, JP	Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Howard LEE Man-sing	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Ms Margaret HSIA Mai-chi	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (W)
Mr Frankie FUNG Yiu-man	Chief Assistant Secretary (Works) ¹ , Development Bureau
Mr Albert CHEUNG Ka-Lok	Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 3), Lands Department
Mrs Sylvia LAM YU Ka-wai, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mr LEUNG Kam-pui	Assistant Director (Property Services), Architectural Services Department
Ms Alice LEE Nga-lai	Chief Superintendent of Police (Planning and Development), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms Judith TAM Ngai-yin	Senior Executive Officer (Planning and Development), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Wilson PANG Wai-shing	Deputy Director of Drainage Services
Mr Ricky LAU Chun-kit, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr CHENG Tak-kuen	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Infrastructure Planning)

Mr Raymond WONG Wai-man	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Recycling Network Planning), Environmental Protection Department
Mr NG Wai-keung	Deputy Director of Highways
Mr Tony CHEUNG Ka-leung	Deputy Project Manager (Major Works)(1), Highways Department
Ms Eugenia CHUNG Nga-chi, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)
Mr Paul AU Ying-kit	Acting Chief Engineer (Works), Home Affairs Department
Mr Louis LEUNG Sze-ho	Deputy Secretary-General (1), University Grants Committee Secretariat
Mrs Elina CHAN	Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure and Research Support), Education Bureau
Mr Samuel FAN Kim-fung	Chief Maintenance Surveyor (School Premises Maintenance), Education Bureau
Ms Carrie CHAN Lai-hung	Senior Maintenance Surveyor (School Premises Maintenance)1, Education Bureau
Mr Alex WONG Kwok-chun	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Subventions)
Mr Andy LIU Hon-wah	Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1, Social Welfare Department
Mr WONG Chung-leung, JP	Director of Water Supplies
Mr Boer CHAN Hon-kwong	Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Governance and Resources), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
Mr Gavin WAH Kwok-kee	Chief Systems Manager (Governance and Resources), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
Mr HONG Wing-kit	Chief Civil Engineer (Public Works Programme), Transport and Housing Bureau

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Ms Angel SHEK	Chief Council Secretary (1)1
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Miss Queenie LAM	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1)9
Ms Haley CHEUNG	Legislative Assistant (1)10

Action

The Deputy Chairman reminded members of the requirements under Rule 83A and Rule 84 of the Rules of Procedure.

2. The Deputy Chairman declared that he was an advisor of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited.

**Item 1 — FCR(2019-20)47
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**

HEAD 701 — LAND ACQUISITION
HEAD 702 — PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT
HEAD 703 — BUILDINGS
HEAD 704 — DRAINAGE
HEAD 705 — CIVIL ENGINEERING
HEAD 706 — HIGHWAYS
HEAD 707 — NEW TOWNS AND URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT
HEAD 708 (PART) — CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS
HEAD 709 — WATERWORKS
HEAD 710 — COMPUTERISATION
HEAD 711 — HOUSING
Block allocations

Continuation of the discussion on FCR(2019-20)47

3. The Finance Committee ("FC") continued with the discussion on item FCR(2019-20)47.

Quarantine centres

4. Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern that supplementary information on provision of quarantine centres in response to the COVID-19 outbreak ("the quarantine centres") was circulated to members

only shortly before the meeting, and members did not have sufficient time to study the information. He enquired as to when the construction contracts for the quarantine centres were awarded. He also enquired about the numbers of workers and work hours involved in the construction of the quarantine centres and the measures to handle the construction waste generated from the Lei Yue Mun quarantine centre project.

5. The Director of Architectural Services ("D Arch S") responded that the civil engineering works contracts and the building works contracts for the quarantine centres were awarded in early and mid-February 2020. The way to deal with the quarantine units in the Lei Yue Mun quarantine centre project built by the Modular integrated Construction ("MiC") method after the current use had yet to be worked out.

6. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiry as to when the capacity of the Lei Yue Mun quarantine centres was expected to be reached, D Arch S stated that the design of the Lei Yue Mun quarantine centres was based on the requirements of the Food and Health Bureau, and the timing of using the quarantine centres to their full capacity would depend on the situation of the COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong. As for the Penny's Bay quarantine camps, the project would be funded by the Lotteries Fund.

7. In response to Dr CHENG Chung-tai's concern on whether the designs and construction of the quarantine centres' components were in compliance with the requirements of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123), D Arch S stated that all the construction works of the quarantine centres were in compliance with relevant statutory requirements. The Architectural Services Department's project team would ensure the compliance to relevant statutory standards. The Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ("PS(Tsy)) supplemented that while buildings belonging to the Government were exempted from the Buildings Ordinance, the Architectural Services Department as a professional department would ensure compliance with relevant standards.

8. Ms Claudia MO opined that it was unreasonable to use the Lotteries Fund to finance the construction of the quarantine centres, as she considered that the quarantine centres could not be regarded as camps and dormitories provided for social welfare purposes. Mr SHIU Ka-chun echoed Ms MO's concern and asked whether the Social Welfare Advisory Committee ("SWAC") supported the use of the Lotteries Fund to finance the projects. Mr SHIU further asked which government bureau/department made the funding proposal to the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee ("LFAC"). Dr Fernando CHEUNG shared Ms MO and Mr SHIU's concerns and pointed out that the Lotteries Fund had

always been used for financing social welfare projects, and the quarantine centres did not fall within the social welfare services category. Dr CHEUNG was also concerned that the quarantine centre projects would set a bad precedent case in using the Lotteries Fund.

9. Mr Christopher CHEUNG remarked that while he supported the use of the Lotteries Fund to finance the quarantine centre projects due to the urgent need to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government should explain clearly the justifications for using the Lotteries Fund to finance the projects.

10. PS(Tsy) responded that according to the Government Lotteries Ordinance (Cap. 334), the Financial Secretary might appropriate from the Lotteries Fund moneys for the purpose of financing, by way of grant, loan or advance, the support and development of such social welfare services in Hong Kong as the Chief Executive, after consultation with SWAC, might approve. The list of items that could be financed by the Lotteries Fund was endorsed by SWAC, and the list had been used by LFAC as the basis for vetting funding applications since 1994. The list included a category "Others", which in turn covered a subcategory "Camps and hostels". LFAC endorsed the funding proposal for the quarantine camp projects in February 2020. As the amount of the funding sought exceeded the delegated approval authority of the Director of Social Welfare, the funding proposal was approved by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau ("FSTB") under delegated authority from the Financial Secretary. PS(Tsy) added that the funding proposal was jointly made by the Development Bureau, the Food and Health Bureau and relevant works departments. She stressed that the Government had complied with relevant regulations and established procedures in drawing on the Lotteries Fund to finance the quarantine camp projects, so as to respond to the pandemic promptly for the best interest of the public.

11. In response to Mr Alvin YEUNG's enquiry regarding the way LFAC endorsed the funding application for the quarantine centre projects, PS(Tsy) said that the funding proposal was approved by LFAC by way of circulation, and all members of LFAC supported the proposal.

12. In reply to Mr Alvin YEUNG's enquiry as to whether there was any precedent case where a substantial amount of the Lotteries Fund had been used for funding a public works project, the Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Subventions) ("ADSW(S)") said that LFAC had previously approved a project of about \$2 billion for building an elderly home complex.

13. Mr Alvin YEUNG requested the Administration to make available to the public the content of the paper containing the said funding proposal submitted to LFAC, without compromising the confidentiality principles of LFAC; and provide information on the sequence of major events from the Administration's submission of the proposal to LFAC to the creation of a new commitment item under the Lotteries Fund by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC125/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

14. In reply to Ms Tanya CHAN's enquiry as to whether the quarantine units were containers, D Arch S said that the quarantine centres were built by the "MiC" technology with some internal fixtures pre-installed at factory, and should be distinguished from a mere container. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok supported the use of the MIC technology, which would enable the early completion of the quarantine centre projects in order to meet the urgent need of quarantine services.

15. While supporting the construction of the quarantine centres, Mr LUK Chung-hung requested that the grass soccer pitch at the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village be restored after the removal of the quarantine structures in future.

16. D Arch S responded that the Government's intention was to reinstate the original facilities of the sites involved after the quarantine structure were removed.

17. While supporting the direct procurement of services from a contractor to build the quarantine centres in view of the urgent need to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, Mr LUK Chung-hung enquired about the time frames for a typical open tender exercise and the direct procurement method.

18. PS(Tsy) replied that an open tender exercise would at least take about four to six weeks as the relevant government bureau/department would need some time to prepare the tender documents and assess the tenders received, and bidders should be given enough time to prepare and submit their tenders. Direct procurement of services for a government construction project would only be arranged in an extremely urgent situation and for the best interest of the public, taking into consideration a basket of factors including whether the contractor had undertaken government works projects before, and had good track records in

completing similar projects within reasonable time frames, as well as whether the quotation was considered reasonable by the relevant bureaux/departments, etc.

19. Mr Alvin YEUNG enquired why the ratios of the costs of building services to the overall capital costs of the various quarantine centres varied, ranging from 11.3% to about 15%.

20. D Arch S responded that the project costs of the quarantine centres were considered reasonable. The costs of building services installation varied owing to the different designs of the quarantine centres, and such costs were within a reasonable range.

21. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok pointed out that the related trades looked forward to quick approval of the financial proposal under discussion as it involved nearly 10 000 works projects. He said that he had earlier visited the four quarantine centres under construction, and in view of the emergency situation, he supported the special arrangements taken to provide the quarantine centres to meet the urgent requirements.

22. In reply to Ms Tanya CHAN's questions regarding visits to the construction sites of the quarantine centres, D Arch S said that based on the contract terms, the contractors could receive visitors to the construction sites, on the condition that the visits would not adversely affect the progress of the construction works. If members would like to visit the construction sites, the Government would discuss the arrangements with the contractors.

23. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok commented that members who wanted to visit the construction sites of the quarantine centres should do so as soon as possible, as once the quarantine centres were completed, the centres would be occupied by people being quarantined.

24. Mr Alvin YEUNG enquired whether the building services specifications of the four quarantine centres were the same. He also asked whether the quarantine centres contained prefabricated components, and if so, from which countries were the prefabricated components imported. D Arch S advised that the Administration would provide the above information in writing after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

25. Mr KWONG Chun-yu enquired about the justifications for awarding the security service contract of the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate through direct procurement, instead of going through an open tender exercise. He was concerned about a potential conflict of interest as a director of the security service company involved was a retired police officer. He further enquired about the procurement arrangements for appointing the security service contractors for the four quarantine centres under discussion. Mr CHU Hoi-dick shared Mr KWONG's concern.

26. PS(Tsy) responded that direct procurement of services would be approved only with valid justifications, for example, when there was extreme urgency or it was not in the best interest of the public to acquire the services through an open tendering exercise. Such an arrangement had to be endorsed by either the concerned Controlling Officer or FSTB. Although the procurement of security service contract was not relevant to the current agenda item, at the request of the Chairman, PS(Tsy) agreed to provide supplementary information relating to Mr KWONG Chun-yu's questions above.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

Additional office accommodations for the Hong Kong Police Force

27. In response to Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry regarding the relocation of railway district base of the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF") from North Point Police Station to Caine House, the Chief Superintendent of Police (Planning and Development), Hong Kong Police Force ("CSP(P&D), HKPF") advised that as a result of the commissioning of the MTR South Hong Kong Island Line and extension of Island Line, the manpower of HKPF's Railway District had been increased, and hence there was a need to provide additional office accommodations for it.

Operation of the 999 emergency telephone service

28. In reply to Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry about HKPF's performance pledge on the response time measured from the time a report was received to the arrival of police officers at the scene, CSP(P&D), HKPF said that the pledged response time for Hong Kong and Kowloon was nine minutes, whereas the pledged response time for the New Territories was 15 minutes taking into account the longer travel time to remote areas in the New Territories. CSP(P&D), HKPF added that there were occasions when the pledged response time could not be met, owing to different factors such as

an overwhelming demand for police assistance, traffic congestions and/or inadequate information provided by callers to the 999 emergency telephone service ("the 999 hotline"). HKPF would examine each delayed case and compile a quarterly analytical report on the factors leading to non-compliance of the pledged response time.

29. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern that in the incident of assaults occurred in MTR Yuen Long Station on 21 July 2019 ("the 21 July incident"), it took 39 minutes for the Police to arrive at the scene after receipt of reports, which was more than double the pledged response time. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Ms Tanya CHAN shared Mr WU's concern.

30. In response, CSP(P&D), HKPF remarked that as explained by HKPF, police officers had arrived at the said scene of the incident within the pledged response time, and the preliminary risk assessment undertaken by the police officers concerned was that for the sake of the safety of the public and the police officers involved, reinforcement was required to deal with the situation. Given the large number of operations needed to be undertaken by HKPF in different districts on 21 July 2019, the manpower situation in Yuen Long Police District was extremely tight at the time to deal with the incident.

31. The Deputy Chairman reminded members that policy issues should be discussed at the relevant Panels.

32. Mr KWONG Chun-yu doubted the accuracy of the reported response rates of the 999 hotline, especially the reported 97.9% response rate in the New Territories Region. He asked whether the 24 000 calls in relation to the 21 July incident had been taken into account in calculating the response rate in the New Territories Region. He opined that if the 24 000 unanswered calls were taken into account, the response rate in the New Territories Region would drop significantly, say to about 70%. Mr Andrew WAN, Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Dr KWOK Ka-ki shared Mr KWONG's concern. Mr WAN also expressed dissatisfaction that the gate of the Yuen Long Police Station Report Room was locked and members of the public could not get through on the telephone to the Report Room during the 21 July incident.

33. In response, CSP(P&D), HKPF said that the response rates of the 999 hotline were worked out based on a well-established scientific formula and actual data. Consideration was given to the diversion of some of the telephone calls received by the 999 hotline to other regional police consoles when the concerned regional 999 console had reached its maximum capacity. The 21 July incident was an isolated incident. The initial

attendance of the officer had already been counted and the rest of the calls therefore did not fit into the established system in calculating the response rate of the 999 hotline. She added that HKPF Police Public Relations Bureau would later respond to a related enquiry from Mr Andrew WAN.

34. Mr Dennis KWOK questioned whether HKPF had misled the public by excluding the 24 000 calls relating to the 21 July incident in calculating the response time of the 999 hotline in the New Territories Region, and if so, whether the Government would openly reprimand HKPF for such an act.

35. CSP(P&D), HKPF disagreed that HKPF had misled the public, as the calculation of the response rate of the 999 hotline was based on a well-established scientific formula. She pointed out that out of around 2.3 million calls received by the 999 hotline in a year, only about 4% of the calls were actual requests for emergency services. The Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury ("USFST") supplemented that all government departments had attempted their best to serve the public and maintained a high standard of transparency in providing information to the public.

Improvement works for police stations

36. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiry about the purposes and plans of the improvement works for various police stations, CSP(P&D), HKPF said that the improvement works were necessary in order to cater for the latest manpower requirements of HKPF, the prevailing trends of crimes, improvements to technologies for detecting crimes, office design and occupational safety requirements, and security requirements of police stations. CSP(P&D), HKPF added that the improvement works would be prioritized based on the needs of individual police formations with a view to providing the best services to the public.

Improvement works for Stanley Prison

37. Mr SHIU Ka-chun pointed out that some Members of the Legislative Council had previously compiled a document regarding the need to improve the physical conditions of Stanley Prison, including improvement to the sewerage system and works to prevent water leakage. He expressed serious concern that the ventilation in Stanley Prison was very poor, partly owing to the small size of its windows; and its lighting system also needed to be improved. He opined that inmates of the prison should be consulted on the improvement works. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung shared Mr SHIU's concern and said that the number of electric fans in the

prison was inadequate and ventilation there was poor, especially during summer.

38. D Arch S responded that the improvement works for Stanley Prison were worked out based on the requirements of the Correctional Services Department ("CSD"), and a maintenance cycle for the prison. The projects covered refurbishment of plumbing and drainage systems, replacement of windows and re-roofing of Stanley Prison. The replacement of windows would help improve the indoor ventilation of the prison whereas the re-roofing works, including replacement of the thermal insulation layer, would also help improve the thermal comfort of the prison. D Arch S stressed that CSD was the user department, which was expected to have taken into consideration the needs of inmates; and attention of CSD would be drawn to members' suggestion of installing additional electric fans in Stanley Prison.

Provision of additional facilities in the High Court Building

39. Mr Dennis KWOK enquired whether the projects relating to the provision of additional facilities in the High Court Building would include upgrading the information technology facilities of the High Court, such as the provision of video conferencing equipment.

40. D Arch S responded that the project on the provision of additional courtrooms in the High Court Building was being coordinated with the Judiciary. The project would be presented to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services later. The Judiciary would present the project details at the Panel meeting.

41. At the request of Mr Dennis KWOK, D Arch S undertook to provide supplementary information on the sizes of the existing libraries of the Judiciary and the expected sizes of the reprovisioned libraries.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

42. Given that the existing District Court in Wan Chai had been in operation for many years and it would take some years before the new District Court would be built at Caroline Hill Road, Mr Dennis KWOK enquired whether there was any plan to refurbish the existing District Court, in particular the upgrading of the security arrangements and information technology facilities in the courtrooms such as the provision of

closed-circuit television systems, so as to meet the needs of court users in the interim.

43. D Arch S undertook to provide the required information in writing.

[*Post-meeting note*: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

Projects proposed to be carried out at university campuses

44. Mr HUI Chi-fung enquired about the latest situation of the project on the expansion of the campus of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the funding application for which was withdrawn by the Government earlier in view of concerns expressed by some members. He further asked whether any members had requested the removal of individual projects proposed to be carried out at university campuses from FCR(2019-20)47.

45. The Deputy Secretary-General (1), University Grants Committee Secretariat responded that the Government had subsequently approached the concerned Members to explain the project details and garner their support. The Government would strive to re-submit the relevant items to FC for consideration within the current legislative session. As regards the projects under FCR(2019-20)47 proposed to be carried out at university campuses, the Government did not receive any request from members for their withdrawal.

Resumption of land for development of Hung Shui Kiu

46. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung enquired about the compensation arrangements for the residents and business operators in the site for re-development as a bulk infeed substation ("BIS") in Hung Shui Kiu. He asked whether overhead or underground electric cables would be used for the BIS, as nearby residents were extremely concerned about the health hazards posed by electromagnetic radiation emitted from overhead cables. He requested that the relevant electricity company should consider residents' concern about the use of overhead electricity cables. He opined that apart from the Ping Shan Rural Committee, other stakeholders should also be consulted regarding the relocation of the residents and business operators affected by the BIS project. Ms Alice MAK concurred with Mr LEUNG's view and called on the Administration to maintain continuous communication with the relevant rural committee and stakeholders on the matter.

47. The Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 3), Lands Department ("ADLands(Specialist)3") responded that pending the approval of the funding for the project, a pre-clearance survey had been conducted to stocktake existing occupation affected by the development of a BIS at Hung Shui Kiu and there were established procedures and guidelines for paying compensations to occupants affected by such projects. The Director of Civil Engineering and Development ("DCED") added that the relevant electricity company would be informed of the concern of local residents about radiation emitted from overhead cables. Consultation with Ping Shan Rural Committee, Yuen Long District Council ("YLDC") and parties affected by the project were conducted. For the BIS, concerns of locals relating to road access, drainage system, fung hui, etc. were being addressed. The Government would continue to maintain discussions with relevant parties in implementing the project.

48. In response to Mr KWONG Chun-yu's enquiry, DCED remarked that a letter had been sent in September 2019 to YLDC and Ping Shan Rural Committee regarding the site selection of the proposed BIS in Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area ("HSK/HT NDA"). YLDC had been consulted on the forthcoming funding application of the HSK/HT NDA project, which included the site formation works for the BIS. The Civil Engineering and Development Department would continue to communicate with YLDC on the development of HSK/HT NDA.

Environmentally friendly transport services in Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area

49. Mr Michael TIEN asked whether the financial viability of providing free transportation facilities in the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area would be included in the feasibility study on environmentally friendly transport services in that area. DCED responded that the study would cover evaluation of financial viability. With regard to Mr TIEN's suggestion that the large piece of commercial site in the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area should be divided into smaller lots for development, ADLands(Specialist)3 responded that the relevant government bureau was considering the suggestion.

Multi-functional smart lampposts

50. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked whether controversial surveillance features of the proposed multi-functional smart lampposts, such as camera and Bluetooth device detection function, would be excluded from the relevant pilot schemes, with a view to protecting the privacy of members of the public. He further enquired whether any funding proposal would be

made within this financial year to extend the pilot schemes to districts other than Kowloon City and Kwun Tong districts.

51. The Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Governance and Resources), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("AGCIO(G&R), OGCIO") responded that the surveillance features of the smart lampposts that aroused wide public concerns had been excluded from the proposed projects. The Deputy Director of Highways ("DDHy") added that there was no funding proposal for implementing further multi-functional smart lampposts in other districts in 2020-2021.

Food hygiene monitoring system

52. Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed concern about the existing food hygiene control regime and pointed out that in the Director of Audit's Report No. 71, the Director of Audit identified inadequacies in the Government's food hygiene monitoring system for foods imported by air. The Public Accounts Committee also raised concerns about the existing food hygiene monitoring system for foods imported on land. Dr CHENG pointed out that under the existing control system, the rate of food samples taken for test was extremely low, and the time taken to test the food samples was long, leading to a higher risk of food hazards. He enquired whether there would be new initiatives to improve the food hygiene control regime.

53. In response, the Chief Systems Manager (Governance and Resources), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer said that arrangements were being made to upgrade the computer system for food surveillance and sampling work, which would include the provision of an integrated database of food retail outlets, a mobile system for collection of food samples, and analytical reports for risk analyses. The upgraded computer system would improve the information support for the food surveillance and sampling work.

Electronic road pricing

54. Mr HUI Chi-fung enquired about the progress of the feasibility study on electronic road pricing in Central district, and the timetable for taking forward the project. He asked whether the views of the Central and Western District Council had been taken into consideration in the feasibility study.

55. DDHy responded that the Administration would provide, in writing, information on the progress of the feasibility study and the timetable for the

related works, the views of the Central and Western District Council adopted in the feasibility study, and the timing for consulting the Central and Western District Council on the findings of the feasibility study.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

Universal Accessibility Programme

56. In response to Mr SHIU Ka-chun's enquiry on whether the addition of wire meshes to some footbridges was within the ambit of the Universal Accessibility Programme, DDHy said that during some public events in the past months, some people threw objects from footbridges onto the roads below, causing danger to road users. In order to protect the safety of road users, wire meshes had been/would be newly installed as temporary safety measures at some footbridges. The additional wire meshes were funded under the recurrent expenditure of the Highways Department.

E-solution to promotion to sergeant qualifying examination

57. Mr HUI Chi-fung was of the view that as some frontline police officers had contravened the Police General Orders and other related guidelines and/or regulations in their exercise of powers, HKPF should not be granted resources to improve its system for sergeant qualifying examination.

58. CSP(P&D), HKPF disagreed with Mr HUI's view regarding the conduct of frontline police officers, and said that police officers had been doing their best to maintain the highest standard of service to the public. She remarked that the project in question aimed to upgrade the software of the sergeant promotion system.

Smart City Proof of Concept Trials in Kowloon East

59. At the request of Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, DDHy agreed to provide information on the purpose and major content of the Smart City Proof of Concept Trials in Kowloon East, and the estimated and actual expenditures in each year since the creation of the commitment item.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

Odour problem at Tsuen Wan waterfront

60. Mr Michael TIEN was concerned about the persisting odour problems at Tsuen Wan waterfront. USFST said that the relevant government departments would be requested to look into the problems.

Renovation of vacant school premises

61. In response to Mr Michael TIEN's enquiry on whether the vacant school premises ("VSPs") being/proposed to be renovated would be used as school premises in future, the Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Infrastructure and Research Support) advised that as at February 2020, there were a total of nine VSPs under the Education Bureau reserved for school use. Renovation of three VSPs was in progress whereas resources had been earmarked for renovation of another two VSPs. The Government would start the renovation only after discussion with the relevant school sponsoring bodies on the facilities requirements. Under the established mechanism, the Education Bureau would take into consideration factors such as the locations and sizes of the premises in identifying suitable VSPs for reallocation for school use. Other VSPs that were considered to be no longer required for reallocation by the Education Bureau for school use would be referred to the Planning Department for consideration of using the sites for other purposes.

Flooding prevention works

62. Given the serious and widespread damage inflicted by super typhoon Mangkhut in 2018, Ms Tanya CHAN enquired about the progress of the construction of wave-breaking boundary wall at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground and improvement works at Aberdeen Breakwater (South).

63. In response, D Arch S said that the boundary wall of Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground had been reinforced to prevent the recurrence of flooding during typhoons according to the technical advice from the Civil Engineering and Development Department. The boundary wall had also been landscaped with seatings provided to improve its appearance and amenity value. DCED added that the damaged breakwater at the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelters had been repaired and reinforced with more dolosse.

Fitting-out works at The Hub, Wong Chuk Hang

64. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed serious concern that various fitting-out works projects for offices of different government departments in The Hub,

Wong Chuk Hang were carried out by a single contractor. He questioned whether the creation of several minor works projects for the same building instead of a single project with a larger commitment amount was aimed at circumventing the approval of FC.

65. D Arch S pointed out that the mentioned minor works projects were individual projects for different user bureaux/departments, with the corresponding lease matters handled by the Government Property Agency. D Arch S explained that the Architectural Services Department would procure term contracts and engage term contractors to undertake the minor works projects for different government bureaux/departments. Every such term contract was procured in accordance with the established tendering procedures. During the term of the contract, the term contractor could be assigned to undertake numbers of works project for buildings/facilities located within the contract area.

New commitment items expected to be created under the Capital Works Reserve Fund

66. At the request of Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, PS(Tsy) agreed to provide a list of new items (up to March 2020), if any, that were expected to be created under the Capital Works Reserve Fund but had not been included in PWSC(2019-20)23.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

67. At 4:41 pm, the Deputy Chairman directed that the meeting be suspended. Since the resumption of the meeting at 4:53 pm, the Chairman presided over the meeting. The Chairman declared that he was an Executive Director and the Chief Executive Officer of Well Link Insurance Group Holdings Limited.

Improvement works for report rooms of police stations

68. Mr Andrew WAN opined that the Police had failed to perform their duties in accordance with the Police General Orders during the 21 July incident. He therefore questioned the justifications for improvement works proposed to be carried out at the report rooms of various police stations.

69. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting declared interest that he had initiated civil proceedings against the Commissioner of Police. He expressed serious

concern that on certain occasions, some report rooms of police stations were closed suddenly when some members of the public attempted to report crimes, and police officers in the report rooms even did not answer telephone calls from members of the public. Ms Claudia MO shared Mr LAM's concern and said that she once had difficulty in entering the report room of the police station in Mongkok and her telephone calls to the report room were not answered.

70. CSP(P&D), HKPF responded that out of the 79 police report rooms, 45 had been under attack on one or more occasions in the past months and the damaged facilities needed to be repaired urgently. The improvement works in question mainly aimed to enhance the protection of users' privacy and the information technology facilities of the report rooms.

71. While pointing out that some police stations had been under attack over the past months, Ms Alice MAK opined that the security of police stations and their report rooms should be strengthened in order to protect the safety of police officers and other users of the facilities. She said that when her office was being attacked recently, HKPF could not provide assistance promptly as officers of the relevant police station had to deal with disturbances around the police station.

72. CSP(P&D), HKPF suggested that Ms MAK provide details of the above incident to the Police for necessary follow-up action. D Arch S added that damaged police facilities were being repaired under a routine maintenance mechanism.

Installation of traffic sign plates

73. In connection with the proposed installation of traffic sign plates at various locations, Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern on whether police officers were exempt from certain traffic regulations. He pointed out that a traffic police officer was found to have lifted both hands away from the handles of his motorcycle during an operation. Based on the explanation of HKPF, the traffic police officer was using both hands to direct traffic. Mr CHU requested the Transport Department to confirm whether the traffic police officer's action was in compliance with the relevant traffic regulations and/or guidelines, including the Road Users' Code.

74. The Chief Civil Engineer (Public Works Programme), Transport and Housing Bureau ("CCE(PWP), THB") undertook to provide, after the meeting, the information requested by Mr CHU.

[*Post-meeting note*: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

Technical study on volcanic rock resources for construction use

75. Referring to the technical study on volcanic rock resources for construction use in Hong Kong, Mr WU Chi-wai enquired about the volume and locations of volcanic rocks in Hong Kong, and whether the Government had already identified sites for acquiring volcanic rocks for construction use. Given the shortage of usable land in Hong Kong, Mr WU doubted whether there was land in Hong Kong that would be suitable for use as a quarry for acquiring volcanic rocks. If there was no suitable site, the expenditure arising from technical study might be wasted.

76. DCED responded that volcanic rock was usually not used for making concrete as it would have chemical reaction with cement rendering the concrete less durable. Technology had been developed in some countries to suppress such chemical reaction in concrete so that volcanic rock could be used for making concrete. Volcanic rocks in different locations might have different properties. The technical study aimed to explore the feasibility of using locally sourced volcanic rock in making concrete, and identify sites in Hong Kong that were suitable for volcanic rock mining.

Feasibility study on site formation for two sites in Wong Tai Sin

77 Given that the Wong Tai Sin District Council had earlier turned down the proposal to re-develop the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre and a site at Fung Tak Road for housing purpose, and the change of the uses of the two sites would require the approval of the Town Planning Board, Mr WU Chi-wai was concerned that the expenses on the feasibility study relating to the re-development of the two sites might be wasted if the re-submitted re-development proposal could not gain the support of the Wong Tai Sin District Council and/or the Town Planning Board.

78 CCE(PWP), THB responded that the said feasibility study was expected to provide further technical information on the proposed project, which would be presented to the Wong Tai Sin District Council for re-consideration of the project.

Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

79. In reply to Ms Claudia MO's enquiry, ADLands(Specialists)3 advised that the amount of compensation reserved at about \$41 million was mainly for payment of remaining compensation claims arising from land acquisition and temporary occupation of land. Once agreement on the amount of compensation had been reached, the Lands Department would release the compensation or fees according to the legal provisions.

Facilities for people with disabilities

80. At the request of Dr Fernando CHEUNG, ADSW(S) undertook to provide in writing information on the average waiting times shortened for allocation of various services for people with disabilities, as a result of the completion of the facilities listed in LC Paper No. PWSC106/19-20(01).

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC125/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

Protective and upkeeping works for the site of ex-Kennedy Town Incineration Plant/Abattoir and adjoining area

81. Mr HUI Chi-fung enquired about the arrangements for dealing with obstructions cleared by the Government on the roads during the recent social events, which had been temporarily stored at the site of ex-Kennedy Town Incineration Plant/Abattoir. He was concerned that the obstructions had been polluted by tear gas used by the Police.

82. DDHy responded that the obstructions had already been removed from the site concerned. At the request of Mr HUI, DDHy agreed to provide supplementary information on the expenditure for clearing the obstructions and storing them at the site concerned, and the government department involved.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC123/19-20(01) on 11 March 2020.]

Government construction projects

83. Mr Tony TSE pointed out that the construction industry in Hong Kong was facing great difficulties as a result of the trade conflict between the Mainland and the United States, social unrest and the COVID-19 outbreak. He asked whether the Government would consider (a) waiving the penalties for delay of construction projects, on grounds of delay in delivery of building materials, etc., and (b) increasing the pre-payments to contractors from 5% to 10% of the overall costs of government construction projects.

84. The Chief Assistant Secretary (Works)1, Development Bureau responded that Mr TSE's suggestions would be relayed to the relevant bureau(x)/department(s) for consideration.

85. In response to Mr Alvin YEUNG's enquiry about the amounts of project contingencies for civil engineering works and building works, D Arch S and DCED said that it was a usual practice to allow about 10% and 5% of the project estimate for the contingency for civil engineering works and building works respectively, as civil engineering works were often faced with uncertainties such as underground works and utility diversions. D Arch S added that project contingency was to meet expenses of variation of works, delay of works, etc.

Implications of delayed approval of FCR(2019-20)47

86. Mr Christopher CHEUNG enquired about the consequences if FCR(2019-20)47 was not approved by FC before 1 April 2020, including the number of projects that would be drawn to a halt and the number of workers affected, and the additional expenditure that would be incurred if the projects were resumed later.

87. USFST responded that FCR(2019-20)47 covered over 10 000 minor works projects. Some of them were essential to public safety or public health, including landslip preventive works, drainage works, waterworks and repairs of highways, etc. In the event that funding approval by FC could not be obtained before 1 April 2020, the projects funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund Block Allocations would have to be halted and the livelihood of about 17 000 professional and general workers would be affected.

Other issues

88. Mr Jimmy NG declared that he was a Director of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation. He and Mr Wilson OR raised the following views relating to FCR(2019-20)40 on the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme:

- (a) the subsidy for development of new technologies should amount to half or two-thirds of the project costs ;
- (b) applicants should also be allowed to apply for subsidies for different projects concurrently, without having to complete one project before applying for another subsidy;
- (c) the number of applications for subsidy made by each company should not be limited; and
- (d) there should be a monitoring and appraisal system to assess the progress and completion of the projects and penalties for failing to complete projects in time.

89. AGCIO(G&R), OGCIO advised that the scheme was not under the purview of OGCIO. USFST took note of the suggestions above and would relay them to the relevant bureau/department as appropriate.

90. The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat
3 September 2020