立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. PWSC82/19-20 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/F/2/1(11)B

Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 10th meeting held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Wednesday, 22 January 2020, at 10:45 am

Members present:

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)

Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon Claudia MO

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Hon Alvin YEUNG

Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Hon HO Kai-ming

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH

Hon Tanya CHAN

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon HUI Chi-fung

Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP

Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Hon KWONG Chun-yu

Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Members attending:

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP

Members absent:

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Public officers attending:

Mr Howard LEE Man-sing Deputy Secretary for Financial Services

and the Treasury (Treasury)3

Mr LAM Sai-hung, JP Permanent Secretary for Development

(Works)

Ms Bernadette LINN, JP Permanent Secretary for Development

(Planning and Lands)

Mr Elvis AU Wai-kwong, JP Deputy Director of Environmental

Protection (1)

Ms Margaret HSIA Mai-chi Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury (Treasury)

(Works)

Mr David LAM Chi-man Principal Assistant Secretary for

Development (Planning and Lands)5

Mr Frankie FUNG Yiu-man Chief Assistant Secretary for Development

(Works)1

Ms Alice LEE Nga-lai Chief Superintendent (Planning and

Development)

Hong Kong Police Force

Ms Judith TAM Ngai-yin Senior Executive Officer (Planning and

Development)

Hong Kong Police Force

Mr Albert CHEUNG Ka-lok Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist)3

Mrs Sylvia LAM YU Ka-wai, JP Director of Architectural Services

Mr LEUNG Kam-pui Assistant Director of Architectural

Services (Property Services)

Mr MAK Ka-wai, JP 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 Review) 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 Chief Eng

Chief Engineer (Works) (Acting)

Home Affairs Department

Mr Louis LEUNG Sze-ho

Deputy Secretary-General (1)

University Grants Committee Secretariat

Mr Samuel FAN Kim-fung

Chief Maintenance Surveyor (School

Premises Maintenance)

Education Bureau

Ms CHAN Lai-hung

Senior Maintenance Surveyor (School

Premises Maintenance)

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 Michael HONG Wing-kit

Chief Civil Engineer (Public Works

Programme)

Transport and Housing Bureau

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Doris LO

Chief Council Secretary (1)2

Staff in attendance:

Mr Raymond CHOW

Ms Christina SHIU

Ms Christy YAU

Ms Clara LO

Senior Council Secretary (1)10

Legislative Assistant (1)2

Legislative Assistant (1)8

Legislative Assistant (1)9

Action

Application for late membership

The Chairman advised that the meeting would first deal with the application for late membership from Mr Andrew WAN (Mr WAN's application letter was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. PWSC64/19-20 (Chinese version only) on 7 January 2020). The Chairman drew members' attention to paragraph 4B of the Public Works Subcommittee Procedure on applications for late membership.

- 2. <u>The Chairman</u> continued that at the last meeting on 15 January 2020, some members had requested that the agenda item on Mr Andrew WAN's application for late membership be deferred until Mr WAN attended a meeting to explain the reason for his application. <u>The Chairman</u> said that if members accepted Mr WAN's application, Mr WAN's membership would take immediate effect.
- 3. The Chairman invited Mr Andrew WAN to explain the reason for his application for late membership. Mr WAN explained that previously he had not signified membership for the Subcommittee before the deadline because he expected his official commitment to be more demanding in the current legislative session. After rescheduling his official commitment, he decided to apply for late membership. Mr WAN disagreed with a point of view put forward by some members at the last meeting that his membership served little purpose as there were not many meeting hours scheduled for the remainder of the current legislative session, and pointed out that the Subcommittee would still hold a number of meetings in the remainder of the current legislative session. Adding that it was the duty of a Member of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") to attend meetings, he expressed his hope for the Subcommittee to accept his application for late membership.
- 4. <u>The Chairman</u> put to vote the question as to whether Mr Andrew WAN's application for late membership should be accepted. The proposal was voted on and endorsed.
- 5. <u>The Chairman</u> then advised that there were three papers for discussion on the agenda for the meeting. The first funding proposal was carried over

from the meeting on 15 January 2020. The remaining two funding proposals were new submissions from the Administration. The three funding proposals involved a total funding allocation of \$24,888.1 million. He reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of LegCo, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the proposals. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

Capital Works Reserve Fund Block Allocations PWSC(2019-20)23 — Provision for Capital Works Reserve Fund block allocations in 2020-21

- 6. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the proposal (i.e. <u>PWSC(2019-20)23</u>) involved a total allocation of \$22,515.5 million for the block allocation subheads under the Capital Works Reserve Fund ("CWRF") for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
- 7. The Chairman continued that when the Subcommittee proceeded to deal with the agenda item at the last meeting on 15 January 2020, some members had expressed discontent with the Security Bureau and the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF") for not sending any representatives to attend the meeting of the Subcommittee. As HKPF officials were present at the meeting to respond to members' questions on items related to HKPF, he considered that the Subcommittee should start deliberating on the proposal.
- 8. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> and <u>Mr KWONG Chun-yu</u> welcomed the attendance of HKPF's representatives at the meeting of the Subcommittee. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> commented that concerning the items initiated by HKPF based on its operational and other needs, it was an undesirable arrangement for officials of the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") to respond to members' questions on HKPF's behalf as they might often fail to provide a satisfactory response.
- 9. <u>Director of Architectural Services</u> ("DArchS") said that under the Administration's current mechanism of implementing minor building works, the fitting-out requirements put forward by user departments were subject to the approval of the Minor Building Works Committee and the Property Vetting Committee based on considerations such as the project cost and the schedule of accommodation of offices. As ArchSD was tasked with supporting various departments in their implementation of the approved works in accordance with the views given by the two committees, it had a grasp of the details of the works.

<u>Head 701 — Land Acquisition</u>

Subhead 1100CA — Compensation and ex-gratia allowances in respect of projects in the Public Works Programme

- 10. Noting that there were differences between the final expenditure and the approved estimate of many items under the block allocations, Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired if the Administration was required to report such Mr CHU also referred to the supplementary differences to LegCo. information paper (LC Paper No. PWSC72/19-20(02)) (Chinese version only) provided by the Administration in response to his written enquiry (LC Paper No. PWSC62/19-20(01)) (Chinese version only), and enquired why the final expenditure of Subhead 1100CA under Head 701 had turned out to be much lower than the approved estimate by a margin no smaller than \$1 billion in many of the financial years between 2009-2010 and 2018-2019; why the Administration had, regardless of the above, sought LegCo's approval year after year for allocations far higher than the final expenditure of the previous year in respect of the above subhead; and what it would do with the unused allocations.
- 11. Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)3 ("DS(Tsy)3/FSTB") said that the actual progress and expenditure of individual items under the block allocations might be different from the original estimate. Yet in any case, the expenditure of an item should not exceed the approved ceiling prescribed pursuant to the Finance Committee ("FC")'s delegated authority (\$30 million in normal cases). The Administration also submitted annual reports to LegCo to provide a consolidated account of the progress and spending position of various items under the block allocations.
- 12. Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) said that land compensation and ex-gratia allowances were issued in accordance with the criteria endorsed by FC of LegCo. Subscribing to a people-oriented approach, the Lands Department normally adopted a relatively lenient stance in making the annual estimate of the number of persons eligible for land compensation and ex-gratia allowances and the amount of payment involved, so that payment could be issued to the persons concerned as soon as possible after completion of the procedures required for land acquisition and the eligibility assessment. If payment was not made due to various reasons (e.g. the persons involved were ineligible for compensation), the unused allocations would be kept unspent.

Head 703 — Buildings

Subhead 3004GX — Refurbishment of government buildings for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme
Subhead 3101GX — Minor building works for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme

- Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Ms Claudia MO, Mr WU Chi-wai, Mr 13. KWONG Chun-yu and Mr Andrew WAN were concerned that instead of consolidating the improvement works in the Hong Kong Police Headquarters in Wan Chai ("PHQ") into one proposal for separate examination by the Subcommittee, HKPF had split them into 18 items in order to include them under the block allocations proposal. They questioned if the splitting was done deliberately to keep the cost estimate of each item below \$30 million, so that they could be passed off as among the more than 10 000 items under the block allocations to circumvent LegCo's monitoring; if not, whether HKPF had a management problem of giving its various departments a free hand to implement their own improvement works without coordinating the works implementation arrangements with one another properly. criticized that the inclusion of the improvement works in PHQ under the block allocations made it difficult for members to focus their attention on such works when examining the proposal. Mr Andrew WAN was also concerned whether ArchSD had fulfilled its supervisory duties to prevent works from being split or mismanaged.
- DArchS and Chief Superintendent (Planning and Development), 14. HKPF ("CSP(P&D)/HKPF") responded that PHQ comprised four separate buildings, namely Arsenal House, Arsenal House East Wing, Arsenal House West Wing and Caine House. As some of the facilities of the four buildings built between 1954 and 2005 had started ageing, improvement works were required, including alterations to layouts, addition of equipment and enhancement of the occupational safety and health standards in order to meet development needs and make good use of space. The 18 improvement works items related to PHQ included under the block allocations proposal were carried out on different floors of the four aforesaid buildings and involved many different departments/bureaux of HKPF. In addition, given the difference in the nature and implementation schedule of works (e.g. some of them commenced as early as in 2014), each item was treated as a separate one, which was not tantamount to splitting the works deliberately to circumvent LegCo's monitoring or mismanagement on the part of HKPF. Among these items, eight were completed with outstanding costs to be paid by ArchSD; four were on-going; and the remaining six were yet to start pending funding approval. Moreover, given the small scale (with project

costs normally ranging between a few million and some 10 million dollars) and short construction period (about three or six months and anything in between, depending on the arrangement made by the user departments with regard to their operational needs) of the items, the construction progress would be severely hampered if they should be carried out concurrently only after being consolidated. The Administration had provided a detailed account of the 18 items in its supplementary information paper tabled at the meeting.

- 15. DS(Tsy)3/FSTB supplemented that the purpose of introducing the block allocations mechanism was to serve as an avenue for LegCo to approve allocations on a lump sum basis, so that the Administration could implement the many essential items that were relatively minor in scale and carry out the pre-construction activities of major projects. Such an arrangement also allowed better use of the meeting time of LegCo. The projects would be assigned under different subheads of the block allocations proposal according to their nature and purposes. The controlling officers for the subheads would ensure that the use of the allocations met the ambits of the respective subheads. Taking out part of the items from the block allocations proposal for separate consideration undermined the very purpose of the mechanism. The Government considered that voting should be on the basis of the total allocation proposed pursuant to the existing mechanism.
- 16. Referring to the Administration's supplementary information paper tabled at the meeting, Ms Tanya CHAN pointed out that "Subhead 3100GX" (i.e. the subhead that funded project feasibility studies, minor investigations and consultants' fees for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme) as shown in the table on the second page should have been written as "Subhead 3101GX" (i.e. the subhead that funded minor building works for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme). Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works) ("PAS(Tsy)(W)/FSTB") said that it was a typo and undertook that correction would be made after the meeting.

(*Post-meeting note:* After the meeting, the revised supplementary information paper provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide <u>LC Paper No. PWSC77/19-20(02)</u> on 23 January 2020.)

17. <u>Ms Tanya CHAN</u> continued to enquire which government departments were responsible for providing the details of the improvement works of PHQ as set out in the Administration's supplementary information papers (LC Paper Nos. <u>PWSC72/19-20(01)</u> and <u>PWSC77/19-20(02)</u>).

<u>Action</u> - 10 -

- 18. <u>PAS(Tsy)(W)/FSTB</u> said that the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau had consulted the controlling officers concerned (i.e. DArchS and Director of Civil Engineering and Development ("DCED")) in preparing the aforesaid supplementary information papers, and was aware that the controlling officers concerned had consulted HKPF to get hold of the details of the works.
- 19. The Chairman, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Ms Tanya CHAN requested the Administration to provide further details and information on the 18 items related to PHQ, including the floor plans of the floors on which the works were carried out (with indication of the scope of works of the relevant items), the police departments/bureaux involved, the nature of works and the cost breakdown for members' reference.

(*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide <u>LC Paper No.</u> PWSC98/19-20(01) on 24 January 2020.)

- 20. In view of the strong public concern about the Police's handling of public meetings and processions in the past six months or so, Mr HUI Chi-fung enquired whether the Police considered that the many items that were related to HKPF and controversial in nature should be taken out from the block allocations proposal and handled separately in order not to compromise the progress of examining the block allocations proposal. Mr KWONG Chun-yu also urged the Administration to consider if the inclusion of the host of improvement works items for PHQ under the block allocations proposal would in effect prolong the deliberation of the Subcommittee on the proposal.
- 21. Expressing disagreement with Mr HUI's point of view, CSP(P&D)/HKPF reiterated that the minor building works related to HKPF were subject to the approval of the Property Vetting Committee. Among the 80 or so minor works items related to HKPF that were included under the block allocations proposal, some 30 had been completed.
- 22. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> enquired whether the number of improvement works items required to be carried out for PHQ in 2020-2021 was more than those required in previous financial years. <u>CSP(P&D)/HKPF</u> responded that about two to three improvement works items related to PHQ were carried out in each of the past three years.
- 23. <u>Mr Alvin YEUNG</u> enquired why the approved project estimate of the item on "Enhancement of power supply for Arsenal House East Wing, Hong Kong Police Headquarters (project no. HQ068)" was increased to

- \$19.8 million in the list of items proposed to be funded by CWRF block allocations for 2020-2021, as opposed to \$17.82 million in the lists of items proposed to be funded for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.
- 24. <u>DArchS</u> replied that the power supply systems in government buildings were subject to regular checks as required by law, and were given enhancement in view of the electricity demand of the user departments. As shown in the list of items proposed to be funded by CWRF block allocations for 2020-2021, the cumulative expenditure to 31 March 2019 of the above item was \$17,217,000 and the estimate for 2020-2021 was \$1,286,000. <u>The Administration</u> undertook to provide the information requested by Mr YEUNG in writing after the meeting.

(*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide <u>LC Paper No. PWSC98/19-20(01)</u> on 24 January 2020.)

- Ms Tanya CHAN enquired about the difference in the scope of works between the two items with project nos. PF-F18 and PF-E68, which were both related to the air-conditioning, lighting and fire services systems on the third floor of Arsenal House East Wing of PHQ. Both items were presented as "Improvement works at 3/F, Arsenal House East Wing, Hong Kong Police Headquarters", except that different numerals (Arabic for PF-F18 and Chinese for PF-E68) were used for "3/F" in the Chinese version of their project titles. She also questioned why different numerals were used for presenting the two aforesaid items that were carried out at the same location, i.e. on the third floor of the same building.
- 26. CSP(P&D)/HKPF said that the two items, though both presented as "Improvement works at 3/F, Arsenal House East Wing, Hong Kong Police Headquarters", were different in nature and implementation schedule. PF-E68, which used Chinese numerals for "3/F" in the Chinese version of its project title, sought to implement the improvement works to the workshop on the third floor of Arsenal House East Wing, for which allocation was approved in 2018-2019 and works would be completed in March 2020. other item, i.e. PF-F18, which used Arabic numerals for the floor number, was related to the improvement works to the Information Communications Network Management Centre also located on the third floor of the building. Allocation for implementing the item was approved in 2019-2020, and works were expected to be completed in end-2020. light of members' views, the Administration would adopt standardized presentation of the floor numbers of government buildings in future in order to avoid misunderstanding. At the request of Ms CHAN, the Administration

<u>Action</u> - 12 -

would provide supplementary information on the scope of works of the two aforesaid items after the meeting.

(*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide <u>LC Paper No.</u> PWSC98/19-20(01) on 24 January 2020.)

- Mr CHU Hoi-dick noticed that some project titles set out under the lists of items proposed to be funded by block allocations had changed over the years. For instance, the Chinese version of the project title of project no. PF-D50 ("Security improvement with associated fitting-out works at 27/F, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters") used "保安提升" for "security improvement" in last year's list, but used "保安系統升級" in this year's. The reference to "27/F" was also missing from the Chinese version of the project title in last year's list, but appeared in this year's. He enquired why project titles changed with years, and whether there was any effort of standardization.
- 28. Ms Tanya CHAN pointed out that in last year's list of items proposed to be funded by block allocations provided by the Administration to the Subcommittee, it was indicated that regarding the two items that were both presented as "Improvement works at 3/F, Arsenal House East Wing, Hong Kong Police Headquarters", PF-F18 (i.e. the one that used Arabic numerals for "3/F" in the Chinese version of its project title) was related to the improvement works to the Information and Communications Network Management Centre located on the third floor of Arsenal House East Wing, while PF-E68 (i.e. the one that used Chinese numerals for the floor number) was related to the improvement works to the workshop on the same floor. However, information related to these improvement works was not found in this year's list of items proposed to be funded by block allocations. questioned the reasons for that. Taking the above case as an example, Dr KWOK Ka-ki criticized the lack of transparency in the Administration's provision of information, and enquired if that was out of the needs of operational planning of HKPF. Dr KWOK also said that the public of Hong Kong considered the performance of the Police Force abominable due to its handling of public meetings and processions in recent months.
- 29. Mr SHIU Ka-fai said that as a Hong Kong citizen, he held a different view from Dr KWOK on the performance of the Police Force. He thus demanded Dr KWOK to clarify his remarks. Mr Holden CHOW also expressed disagreement with Dr KWOK's criticism about the Police's performance, and opined that the remarks made by many members had sought to find faults with and smear the Police. He also expressed disagreement with members confounding the discussion of the improvement

works of PHQ with the Police's handling of public meetings and processions in recent months.

- 30. <u>Mr Andrew WAN</u> demanded that Mr CHOW should not impute improper motives to another member. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> said that what he had said was a point of view shared by the vast majority of the Hong Kong public.
- 31. <u>CSP(P&D)/HKPF</u> disagreed with some members' comment that the presentation of project titles and description of items related to HKPF under the block allocations proposal were related to the operational planning of the Police, as well as Dr KWOK Ka-ki's accusations against the Police.
- 32. Mr Alvin YEUNG enquired about the difference in the scope of works between the items on "Enhancement of power supply for Arsenal House East Wing, Hong Kong Police Headquarters (project no. HQ068)" and "Improvement works at 3/F, Arsenal House East Wing, Hong Kong Police Headquarters (project no. PF-E68)", which were both related to improvement to the power supply system. Mr Andrew WAN was also concerned about the difference in the scope of works between the items on "Fitting-out works at 11/F of Arsenal House West Wing and 8/F of Arsenal House, Hong Kong Police Headquarters" and "Fitting-out works at the Hong Kong Police Headquarters", which both involved works such as improvement to the existing layout on the eighth floor of Arsenal House, and asked whether works of similar nature had been split into different items.
- 33. Using the fitting-out works on the eighth floor of Arsenal House as an example, <u>CSP(P&D)/HKPF</u> pointed out that the works concerned were related to two different departments under HKPF responsible for forensic investigation and computer forensics respectively.
- Mr WU Chi-wai opined that although the improvement works related 34. to PHQ involved many departments of HKPF which performed different tasks, they were all related to HKPF, located within the same compound and similar in nature. He enquired whether ArchSD, being the controlling department of these works, had explored the possibility of grouping such works into one project for them to be carried out in parallel with one another from the perspective of saving public money. Mr WU pointed out that the Government had now adopted the practice of coordinating road excavation works in order to avoid repeated road excavation. The Hong Kong Housing Authority also adopted the practice of engaging contractors under term contracts to centralize the implementation of maintenance works for public housing estates. He suggested that ArchSD should coordinate the

arrangements for carrying out works that were similar in nature with reference to such practices.

- 35. <u>DArchS</u> responded that ArchSD would give advice on the requests for minor improvement works put forward by various government departments, review if public money was put to proper use, and provide engineering services with regard to the needs of individual departments. ArchSD would also do its best to coordinate different projects that were carried out in the same timeframe and at adjacent locations, regardless of whether one or multiple government departments were involved. However, due to the differences in the nature and implementation schedule of many improvement projects, the tight timeframe of works implementation and the implications they would have on the departments' operation during construction, ArchSD had to work flexibly in the light of the given situation, so that the projects could be carried out in a timely manner.
- 36. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> enquired about the total cost estimate of the 18 items related to PHQ, and asked whether the Administration was worried about the difficulties in getting approval for the allocations sought for such items should they be consolidated into one proposal for consideration by LegCo.
- 37. <u>DArchS</u> replied that since the 18 aforesaid items were separate projects, the Administration did not specifically compile the total cost estimate of such items.
- Mr HUI Chi-fung pointed out that the Police Service Centre, Central District, was situated in the former Central Police Station Compound, a declared monument, and had started operation only in 2018. In this connection, he enquired whether the Administration's justifications for pursuing the fitting-out works of "Police Service Centre, shop nos. LG205 and 206, LG2/F, Headquarters Block (Block 1), Ex-Central Police Station Compound, Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong for the Hong Kong Police Force (project no. 3L20IC)" was related to the use of the above declared monument by the Police to handle public meetings and processions in recent months; and sought details of the works.
- 39. <u>CSP(P&D)/HKPF</u> said that the above item involved works carried out at the former Central Police Station Compound on Hollywood Road, Central, for the establishment of the Police Service Centre, Central District, and the relevant works had been completed.

Head 703 — Buildings and Head 705 — Civil Engineering

Subhead 3101GX — Minor building works for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme

Subhead 5101CX — Civil engineering works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme

- 40. <u>Ms Tanya CHAN</u> sought details of the item on "Replacement of BrandHK Dragon LED sign on the rooftop of the Queensway Government Offices".
- 41. <u>DArchS</u> replied that the light fitting of the BrandHK logo on the rooftop of the Queensway Government Offices (i.e. the "flying dragon" logo) was of an older design and had been in use for some time. In view of this, the item sought to replace it with an LED sign to facilitate maintenance. Apart from the on-going display of the BrandHK logo, the newly installed LED sign could also be used to complement other publicity initiatives of the Information Services Department.
- Ms Tanya CHAN enquired whether the item on "Construction of new waving-breaking boundary wall and alteration of existing boundary wall at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground (project no. LS-T01)" was the Administration's preventive measure against the damage caused by super typhoons. She also enquired about the progress of "Study on coastal hazards under climate change and extreme weather and formulation of improvement measures—feasibility study (project no. 5K11AP)" commissioned by the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD"), and asked whether the aforesaid construction works would be implemented based on the findings of the above feasibility study, or merely as a short-term preventive measure.
- 43. <u>DArchS</u> responded that the facilities of Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground had suffered damage during the passage of super typhoon Mangkhut. In view of this, ArchSD sought to implement improvement works at the part of the venue that was close to the seaside promenade after seeking the professional advice of CEDD. The works included alteration to the existing boundary wall and construction of a new wave-breaking boundary wall with an aim to strengthening the facilities' ability to withstand winds and waves. <u>DCED</u> supplemented that "Study on coastal hazards under climate change and extreme weather and formulation of improvement measures—feasibility study" was underway and was expected to produce its preliminary findings by the end of 2020. That would include recommendations on the suitable improvement for areas which were more vulnerable to the effects of extreme

weathers, such as measures for adaptation, resilience and management, as well as improvement measures in the short, medium and long terms.

Head 706 — Highways

Subhead 6100TX — Highway works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme

- 44. Given that the Administration had introduced a number of measures to improve the transport connection between Lantau and the urban areas (e.g. the Feasibility Study on Route 11 which would explore the need to construct a link road between Tsing Yi and Lantau, and the planned construction of the new Road P1 in North Lantau), Mr Holden CHOW enquired about the study objectives of "Review of the Traffic Load Carrying Capacity of the Lantau Link—investigation (project no. 68YN221X)", and asked whether the Administration would take into account the impact arising from the aforesaid transport improvement measures for Lantau when conducting the investigation, with a view to bringing overall improvement to the external transport connection of Lantau.
- 45. Deputy Director of Highways said that following the development of Tung Chung New Town and other projects on Lantau, the vehicular traffic of the Lantau Link was on a constant rise, and the train frequency on the railway line connecting to the urban areas had also increased, thereby giving rise to the need for the above investigation to review the traffic load carrying capacity of the Lantau Link. In conducting the investigation, the Administration would take into account the impact of other transport improvement measures for Lantau on the traffic load carrying capacity of the Lantau Link based on the known information and data. As the investigation was still underway, no findings could be made public at this stage.

<u>Head 707 — New Towns and Urban Area Development</u>

Subhead 7100CX — New towns and urban area works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of Public Works Programme

46. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> noted that the item on "Site formation and infrastructure works for police facilities in Kong Nga Po—detailed design and site investigation (project no. 7E67CL)" involved the site formation of land with an area up to 19 hectares for the construction of a large police facilities compound. However, in reply to his written enquiries (<u>LC Paper No. PWSC47/19-20(01)</u>) (Chinese version only), the Administration had enclosed in its supplementary information paper (<u>LC Paper No.</u>

<u>PWSC72/19-20(01)</u>) only one site plan on the site formation and infrastructure works concerned. <u>Dr CHEUNG</u> requested the Administration to provide further details of the facilities proposed to be provided at the police facilities compound in Kong Nga Po (including the Specialist Operation Training Facility, which was an advanced tactical training facility for anti-terrorist and other specialist operations) and explain why it was necessary to construct the large compound of police facilities at the location for providing training on anti-terrorist and other specialist operations.

- 47. <u>DCED</u> explained that the item mainly sought to undertake the detailed design for the site formation and associated infrastructure works in Kong Nga Po, and the construction works did not include that of the police facilities proposed to be built in the future. <u>CSP(P&D)/HKPF</u> supplemented that to support the development of the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas ("NDAs"), the Police planned to reprovision a number of police facilities currently located within the NDAs concerned (including the Police Driving and Traffic Training Centre at Fan Garden in Fanling, weapons training facilities, the Ma Tso Lung Firing Range and the Lo Wu Firing Range together with a helipad) at the site in Kong Nga Po, in addition to the planned construction of the Specialist Operation Training Facility at the same site.
- 48. Mr Jeremy TAM sought details of the "GreenWay Network" as mentioned in "Study on design, smart initiatives and implementation of the GreenWay Network in Kai Tak Development", and asked whether the study would explore the installation of smart lampposts at the GreenWay in the Kai Tak Development ("KTD").
- 49. <u>DCED</u> responded that the aforesaid study sought to review the development of the GreenWay for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists as part of the cycle track network of KTD, which had a total length of 13 kilometres. It would look into aspects such as design of the GreenWay, smart initiatives (e.g. bicycle rental and real-time incidents monitoring) and the modes of management and operation. Smart lampposts would be considered in this context if necessary.

<u>Head 708 (Part) — Capital Subventions</u>

Subhead 8100EX — Alterations, additions, repairs and improvements to the campuses of the UGC-funded institutions

50. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> sought details of the proposed integrated teaching building as mentioned in "Construction of an integrated teaching

<u>Action</u> - 18 -

building, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University—Preconstruction consultancy study", and clarification as to whether the integrated teaching building was the same as the new academic building proposed to be built for the Hong Kong Polytechnic University ("PolyU") under "30EK—Campus Expansion at Ho Man Tin Slope", a project intended to support the development of PolyU's Department of Rehabilitation Science and School of Optometry but withdrawn at short notice from the meeting agenda of FC by the Administration earlier.

- 51. Deputy Secretary-General (1), University Grants Committee Secretariat ("DSG(1)/UGCS"), said that in support of the Government's efforts to increase the number of healthcare training places in local universities, the Administration had been implementing short-, medium- and long-term projects to upgrade and increase the healthcare teaching facilities "Construction of an integrated teaching building, the in universities. Hong Kong Polytechnic University—Preconstruction consultancy study" was the pre-construction activity for one of the long-term projects which involved the construction of an integrated teaching building upon the demolition of Fong Shu Chuen Hall, Shaw Sports Complex, Shaw Amenities Building and Michael Clinton Swimming Pool in the campus of PolyU. Currently, the project was still at the stage of preliminary planning, and the construction works were expected to commence no earlier than 2023. On the other hand, 30EK was another public works project involving the construction of a new academic building at Ho Man Tin Slope, for which the detailed design had been completed substantially. PolyU would be able to commence construction once funding was approved by FC.
- 52. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> was discontented with the Administration withdrawing 30EK from the meeting agenda of FC out of political consideration on the one hand while seeking LegCo's funding approval for another long-term project undertaken for PolyU on the other, which, in his view, was self-contradictory. <u>The Chairman</u> pointed out that it was confirmed at the Subcommittee's special meeting on 6 January 2020 that "29EK—Library extension and revitalisation", another public works project related to PolyU, was included in the list of the potential capital works items to be submitted to the Subcommittee in 2019-2020 (Enclosure 1 to PWSCI(2019-20)17). In view of this, he believed that the Administration had no intention to hold back the development of universities.
- 53. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> enquired whether the Administration would take the initiative to assess the conditions of the campuses of UGC-funded universities that suffered damage amidst the social incidents in recent months, repair the damaged campus facilities and clean up the pollutants, and undertake the costs incurred; if it would not undertake the costs, whether the

universities had to absorb them with their own funds. She also enquired which items among those to be funded under Subhead 8100EX of Head 708 (Part) in 2020-2021 were related to the repairing and cleaning up work mentioned above; the cost estimates concerned; and requested that the information be provided in respect of individual universities.

54. DSG(1)/UGCS replied that the proposed allocation for Subhead 8100EX under Head 708 (Part) for 2020-2021 amounted to \$763.6 million, which was used for funding 81 items of alterations, additions, repairs and improvements to the campuses of UGC-funded universities, including 45 on-going and 36 new items. The new items were proposals submitted by UGC-funded universities to UGC in May 2019 (i.e. prior to the social incidents since June 2019) and thus did not include the urgent campus repairing works necessitated in the wake of the social incidents in recent months. As for those urgent repairing works required in the wake of the social incidents, the costs incurred were covered by the recurrent grants allocated by UGC to universities, the universities' own financial reserves and other sources of income. UGC had maintained close liaison with various universities in this regard. If individual universities had difficulties in absorbing the expenses, the Government would consider if it was necessary to render suitable assistance having regard to the development of higher education in Hong Kong and students' well-being.

Subhead 8001SX — Provisioning of welfare facilities

- 55. Dr Fernando CHEUNG was concerned that in many districts of Hong Kong, those in need were often made to wait for some 10 years before they could be admitted to residential care homes ("RCHs") for the mentally handicapped and for persons with disabilities. However, the new RCHs to be developed with the funds sought under the block allocations proposal were not located in such districts. He enquired whether the Administration had taken into account the waiting situation in various districts when it decided where these RCHs should be built.
- 56. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Subventions) said that Subhead 8001SX under Head 708 (Part) only covered the welfare facilities to be provisioned under public housing developments. In view of the long waiting time of the mentally handicapped and persons with disabilities for admission to RCHs, the Administration was committed to identifying suitable public housing developments, developments at private and "Government, Institution or Community" ("GIC") sites, etc., in various districts across the territory for the provision of welfare facilities, including RCHs for the mentally handicapped and for persons with disabilities. Dr Fernando CHEUNG requested the Administration to provide the

<u>Action</u> - 20 -

following supplementary information: (a) a comprehensive account of RCHs for the mentally handicapped and for persons with disabilities proposed to be built under public housing developments, developments at private and GIC sites, etc., including their distribution in various districts; and (b) the expected reduction in the waiting time of the mentally handicapped and persons with disabilities for admission to RCHs in the future five to seven years after the completion and commissioning of these RCHs.

(*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide <u>LC Paper No. PWSC98/19-20(01)</u> on 24 January 2020.)

[At 12:45 pm, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for a short while for members to finish asking questions.]

57. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the Subcommittee would continue to discuss this item at the next meeting. The meeting ended at 12:46 pm.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
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