

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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by the Administration)

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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee  
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting  
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex  
on Wednesday, 6 January 2021, at 8:30 am**

**Members present:**

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

**Members absent:**

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

**Public officers attending:**

Mr Howard LEE Man-sing	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) <sup>3</sup>
Mr LAM Sai-hung, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Ms Bernadette LINN, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Ms Maisie CHENG Mei-sze, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Ms Margaret HSIA Mai-chi	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)(Works)
Mr Ivanhoe CHANG Chi-ho	Commissioner for Heritage Development Bureau
Mr Frankie FUNG Yiu-man	Chief Assistant Secretary (Works) <sup>1</sup> Development Bureau
Ms Winnie HO Wing-yin, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mr Stephen IP Shing-tak	Chief Technical Adviser (Subvented Projects) Architectural Services Department
Mr Ricky LAU Chun-kit, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Ms Alice PANG, JP	Director of Drainage Services
Mr Jimmy CHAN Pai-ming, JP	Director of Highways
Mr Kelvin LO Kwok-wah, JP	Director of Water Supplies

Mr Raymond POON Kwok-ying, JP	Deputy Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Regulatory Services) (Acting)
Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP	Under Secretary for Food and Health
Ms Maisie HO Mei-chi	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health)5
Dr Cissy CHOI Yu-sze	Head (Primary Healthcare Office) Food and Health Bureau
Mr IP Ching-wan	Chief Architect (Central Management Division 2) Architectural Services Department
Mr Calvin CHAN Tsun-kit	Architect (8) (Central Management Division 2) Architectural Services Department
Mr Jacky WU Kwok-yuen, JP	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works)5
Mr Kenley KWOK Chi-kuen	Chief Engineer (Project Management) (Acting) Drainage Services Department

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Doris LO	Chief Council Secretary (1)2
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**Staff in attendance:**

Mr Keith WONG	Council Secretary (1)2
Ms Christina SHIU	Legislative Assistant (1)2
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)8
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1)9

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Action

The Chairman advised that there were seven papers for discussion on the agenda for the meeting. The first item was an information note

on "Forecast of submissions for the 2020-21 Legislative Council session". The second to sixth items were funding proposals carried over from the last meeting held on 16 December 2020, while the seventh proposal was a new submission from the Administration. The second to seventh funding proposals involved a total funding allocation of \$32,883.7 million. He reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of the Legislative Council ("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.

### **Briefing on forecast of submissions for the 2020-21 Legislative Council Session**

#### **PWSCl(2020-21)10 — Forecast of submissions for the 2020-21 Legislative Council Session**

2. The Chairman advised that the information note gave an overview of potential projects to be submitted by the Administration to the Subcommittee for consideration in the 2020-2021 legislative session. He reminded members that since the information note did not involve any funding requests, there were not any questions which required to be put to vote. In line with the arrangement adopted previously by the Subcommittee, the procedure for proposing motions under paragraph 32A of the Public Works Subcommittee Procedure did not apply. Members who had any views on the projects set out in the information note might write directly to the relevant bureaux or departments after the meeting, or raise their views at the meetings of the relevant Panels.

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)3 ("DS(Tsy)3/FSTB") explained to members that a total of 91 projects were submitted or forecast to be submitted to the Subcommittee for consideration in the 2020-2021 legislative session, including the Capital Works Reserve Fund ("CWRF") Block Allocations in 2021-2022 and 90 new projects. He also pointed out that the information provided in the note in respect of the projects was the best projection made by the Government at this stage. The actual timing for the submission of individual projects to the Subcommittee for consideration would depend on the preparation progress of each project (including whether the statutory gazettal procedures had been completed, the consultation process, the outcomes of consultation with relevant Panels of LegCo, etc). Members who wished to seek more information on individual projects might forward their requests to the relevant government departments directly.

Projects forecast to be submitted to the Subcommittee for consideration

4. The Deputy Chairman noted that the Administration planned to submit nearly 80 projects to the Subcommittee for its consideration in the remainder of the current legislative session. Expressing concern that the Subcommittee might not be able to examine all these projects at the scheduled regular meetings, he suggested that the Chairman should consider holding additional meetings as appropriate. He also enquired about the total cost estimate of projects that had so far been endorsed by the Subcommittee in the current legislative session.

5. DS(Tsy)3/FSTB replied that as at 16 December 2020 when the last meeting was held, the Subcommittee had endorsed 12 projects (including the CWRP Block Allocations in 2021-2022), with the total cost estimate of around \$51.2 billion. Meanwhile, the total cost estimate of projects awaiting consideration by the Subcommittee in the current legislative session was around \$130 billion.

6. Mr CHENG Chung-tai enquired about the total cost estimate of projects endorsed by the Subcommittee in the 2019-2020 session. As the Administration had announced its intention to submit quite a number of projects to LegCo in the final session of the current term, some of which (such as reclamation at Lung Kwu Tan) were rather controversial, he asked if the Administration attempted to pressurize the Subcommittee into considering and endorsing such projects.

7. DS(Tsy)3/FSTB said that excluding the provision for the CWRP Block Allocations in 2020-2021, the total cost estimate associated with the projects endorsed by the Subcommittee in the 2019-2020 session was more than \$80 billion. In line with the established practice, the Government prepared the information note to give members an overview of the potential projects to be submitted to the Subcommittee for consideration in the legislative session based on the latest information provided by bureaux or departments, having considered all the relevant factors, such as the urgency and readiness of the projects and whether the relevant consultation exercises or statutory procedures had been completed. As in the past, the Government sought to provide members with a preliminary view of the relevant projects, with no intention to exert any pressure on the Subcommittee.

8. The Chairman pointed out that the Clerk to the Subcommittee would soon invite the relevant Panels to indicate which projects would require discussion at the Panels prior to submission of the related funding proposals to

the Subcommittee. Members who would like to discuss any of the projects first at Panels might raise their requests to the Panels concerned. The Chairman also advised that the ultimate number of projects that would be endorsed by the Subcommittee would also be affected by different factors, such as the proceedings of the meetings.

9. Pointing out that a number of livelihood-related projects had been under study for some years, Mr CHAN Han-pan hoped that such projects could be implemented as soon as possible. While holding a similar view, Mr Holden CHOW was concerned that the local labour market might not have enough manpower to cater for the concurrent commencement of the projects within a short period of time.

10. Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) said that the Government had been keeping a close watch on the situation in the construction labour market. According to the latest employment statistics, the unemployment rate of the construction industry had reached 10%. The Government was confident that the current labour market of the construction industry could sufficiently meet the manpower needs for government projects the annual value of which totaled more than \$100 billion. He added that as the labour supply was relatively tight in certain trades in the construction sector, the Government would closely monitor the situation and maintain communication with the Construction Industry Council on the manpower situation of certain trades.

5782CL — Engineering Study on Road P1 (Tai Ho—Sunny Bay Section)

11. Pointing out that the population intake in the Tung Chung New Town Extension ("TCNTE") would commence from 2024 at the earliest, Mr Holden CHOW was concerned about the commissioning date of the whole of Road P1 to timely meet the increased transport demand arising from new residents moving into Tung Chung.

12. Director of Civil Engineering and Development said that Road P1, with an approximate total length of 12 kilometres ("km"), comprised the Tung Chung to Tai Ho Section and the Tai Ho to Sunny Bay Section. Among the two, the construction of Road P1 (Tung Chung—Tai Ho Section) was within the project scope of "7786CL—Tung Chung New Town Extension" and was expected to be completed for commissioning in 2026. The engineering study of Road P1 (Tai Ho—Sunny Bay Section) was expected to be completed in 2023 and construction works were scheduled for commencement between 2025 and 2026 for completion by 2031. As population intake in TCNTE would commence from 2024 at the earliest, the Government would improve the transport infrastructure in Tung Chung, including the construction of

several new roads connecting to TCNTE, ahead of the completion of Road P1 (Tung Chung—Tai Ho Section) in 2026.

6884TH — Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)

13. Mr CHAN Han-pan pointed out that according to the Administration, the pre-construction investigation of Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau) was not expected to be completed until 2026. He was concerned that the construction progress could not timely meet the additional traffic demand arising from the phased completion of several new development areas ("NDAs") in New Territories North. In view that Yuen Long South was now facing serious traffic congestion, he requested the Administration to consider providing an entrance and exit at Yuen Long South during the planning of Route 11.

14. Director of Highways ("DHy") said that the Government planned to consult the relevant District Council(s) on the investigation of Route 11 within the current legislative session. It would also publish the preliminary alignment of Route 11 and seek funding approval from LegCo. Various government departments had made efforts in coordinating the planning of Route 11 with the development progress of various NDAs in New Territories North, with a view to bringing the completion time of Route 11 in line with the population intake schedule of the NDAs. The Government's current estimate was that Route 11 could be completed in 2036. He added that the Government would continue to receive views from Members and the public on the alignment of Route 11.

7852CL — First Phase Development of the New Territories North—San Tin/Lok Ma Chau Development Node and 7854CL — Remaining Phase Development of the New Territories North ("NTN")—planning and engineering study for NTN New Town and Man Kam To

15. Mr LAU Kwok-fan pointed out that the areas of Ping Che, Ta Kwu Long and Hung Lung Hang ("PC, TKL & HLH"), which were within the scope of the new town development area of the proposed NTN New Town, were once included in the North East New Territories ("NENT") development and studies had been conducted for their long-term development. However, these areas were eventually excluded from the NENT development. He enquired why the Administration would need to relaunch the planning and engineering study for NTN New Town now. He also requested the Administration to make clear whether a concrete blueprint had been drawn up for the overall development of NTN.

16. The Chairman advised that the overall development of NTN involved broader policy issues. He suggested that Mr LAU Kwok-fan should follow up on the matter at the Panel on Development.

17. Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) ("PS(PL)/DEVB") said that while the Government had conducted preliminary studies on the development of the areas of PC, TKL & HLH during its planning of the NENT development, it subsequently decided to focus on the detailed studies and project implementation for the Kwu Tung North/Fanling North NDAs first in view of public opinions. As the Government planned to take forward the development of NTN New Town which included PC, TKL & HLH, it would need to conduct more detailed studies on those areas, including looking into their latest development and conducting traffic assessment.

18. Regarding the overall development of NTN, PS(PL)/DEVB advised that the Government planned to submit a funding proposal to the Subcommittee within the current legislative session for conducting investigation study and design work for the San Tin/Lok Ma Chau Development Node which was within the scope of the NTN NDA. These included conducting detailed technical assessments and drawing up the Recommended Outline Development Plan. The Government would explain the proposed specific development direction of San Tin/Lok Ma Chau when it consulted members of the Panel on Development later. Furthermore, in view of the community's acute need for more NDAs, the Government also planned to fast-track the submission of a funding proposal to the Subcommittee within the current legislative session for conducting a planning and engineering study for the remainder of the NTN NDA (i.e. NTN New Town and Man Kam To). She added that no specific proposal on the development direction of NTN New Town and Man Kam To was drawn up for the time being.

#### Other projects

19. Mr Vincent CHENG criticized the Administration for demolishing the waterworks installation at Bishop Hill in Sham Shui Po without first going through a thorough study of its heritage value. Damage had then been done to the installation as the decision to halt the demolition works came only after the tearing down of some of its structures. He requested the Administration to explain the current mechanism of assessing the heritage value of old government structures and installations before their demolition.

20. The Chairman advised that the demolition of the waterworks installation at Bishop Hill in Sham Shui Po was not directly related to the agenda item. He suggested Mr CHENG to follow up on the matter at the



meetings of the Council or the Panel on Development. He asked the representatives of the Administration to respond concisely to the question.

21. Commissioner for Heritage, Development Bureau, said that the incident stemmed mainly from the communication between the Water Supplies Department and the Antiquities and Monuments Office ("AMO") prior to the demolition works of the Bishop Hill waterworks installation in Sham Shui Po. AMO took no further follow-up actions based on the information received, on the understanding that the waterworks installation was a water tank. In this connection, the relevant operational procedures were reviewed immediately. Various government departments were also reminded to pay special attention when handling similar projects. Staff of AMO would also be more sensitive when handling requests for advice from various departments.

22. Mr Holden CHOW and Mr CHAN Han-pan pointed out that projects related to the development of Tuen Mun Western Bypass were not included in the potential projects to be submitted to the Subcommittee for consideration in the current legislative session. They enquired about the planning progress of the Tuen Mun Western Bypass.

23. DHy said that the Administration had previously put forward the idea of developing the Tuen Mun Western Bypass to relieve the traffic pressure in Tuen Mun. After consulting the public and stakeholders, the Government planned to alter the original alignment and renamed it as Tuen Mun Bypass. The new alignment was expected to be more effective in diverting the local traffic flow in Tuen Mun. The Government would strive to commence the feasibility study of the Tuen Mun Bypass within 2021.

### **Head 703 — Buildings**

#### **PWSC(2020-21)21 76MC Development of a District Health Centre at Caroline Hill Road Site**

24. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)21](#)) sought to upgrade 76MC to Category A at an estimated cost of \$168 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices for the development of a District Health Centre ("DHC") in Wan Chai at a site in Caroline Hill Road. The Government had consulted the Panel on Health Services on the proposed works on 13 November 2020. Panel members supported the submission of the funding proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

### Setting up of the District Health Centre

25. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the proposed project. He considered that DHCs were important primary healthcare facilities that would help enhance public health. He hoped that the Administration would expedite the planning of setting up DHCs in various districts across the territory.

26. Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") said that the strengthening of the primary healthcare services in Hong Kong was an important healthcare policy in the Chief Executive's policy addresses. To that end, the Government had plans for setting up DHCs in all 18 districts across the territory in order to enhance the provision of district-based primary healthcare services for the public through public-private partnership and medical-social collaboration.

27. Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed support for the proposed project. He requested the Administration to provide the conceptual design and layout plans of the proposed DHC in Wan Chai ("WCDHC") and give further information on the facilities to be provided therein, such as the currently estimated floor areas of and equipment planned to be installed at the facilities (e.g. physiotherapy room, exercise room, multi-purpose room and activity area), and the primary healthcare services expected to be provided at those facilities.

28. USFH replied that, similar to other DHCs already in operation, the facilities to be provided in the proposed WCDHC would basically include facilities for reception and registration, the physiotherapy room, the multi-purpose room and rooms for holding meetings. Specifics such as the conceptual design and layout plans would be confirmed only after the conducting of detailed design by the successful developer-tenderer of the site.

29. The Chairman considered that the capital cost estimate of the project should be made on the basis of the facilities to be provided in WCDHC. In this connection, he asked the Administration to give further information on the facilities to be provided in WCDHC as requested by Mr LUK.

*(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide [LC Paper No. PWSC71/20-21\(01\)](#) on 28 January 2021.)*

30. Mr CHAN Han-pan supported the setting up of DHCs in various districts by the Administration. He was disappointed to note from the Government's paper that there would not be any dedicated facility in the proposed WCDHC for the provision of Chinese medicine ("CM") treatment.

He pointed out that CM was highly effective in treating many diseases and pains, and the local CM sector had always supported the incorporation of CM in the scope of primary healthcare services to offer more choices to patients. He called for the provision of dedicated facilities for CM treatment in the proposed WCDHC.

31. USFH said that the Government recognized the important role played by the CM sector in the provision of primary healthcare services in Hong Kong and would include CM in the service scope of DHCs. The multi-purpose room to be provided in WCDCH would be used flexibly for rendering various kinds of primary healthcare services, including treatment by CM. Head (Primary Healthcare Office), Food and Health Bureau ("H(PHO)/FHB"), supplemented that the Kwai Tsing DHC had currently formed into a service network with Chinese medicine practitioners ("CMPs"), under which 33 CMPs were providing treatment for pains, such as back pain and knee pain. Based on the experience gained from the provision of this kind of service, members of the public generally preferred to visit clinics of these CMPs to receive Government-subsidized CM treatment.

32. Mr CHAN Han-pan opined that the Administration should draw up a detailed list of services to be provided at DHCs to let patients know what kinds of treatment or rehabilitation services they could receive at the DHCs.

33. H(PHO)/FHB said that the Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development ("the Steering Committee"), which included representatives of the CM sector, was set up by the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") in 2017. Through reviewing the health-related data of the public, the Steering Committee had made projections of the demand for various primary healthcare services in order to determine the priority of service provision at DHCs. For instance, screening for diabetes mellitus and hypertension was currently provided at DHCs, alongside the educational efforts to promote the prevention of such diseases. Furthermore, the Steering Committee would also explore ways to further expand other primary healthcare services through DHCs.

#### Capital cost of the proposed project

34. Dr CHENG Chung-tai noted from the Government's paper that the capital cost of the proposed DHC was estimated to be \$168 million in MOD prices. He pointed out that the estimated capital cost was reported to be \$175 million in MOD prices when the Administration consulted the Panel on Health Services in November 2020. He questioned why the cost estimate was reduced by nearly \$7 million in just two months. He was concerned that if the reduction in the cost estimate was related to cutbacks in wages of the construction workers or the number of jobs to be created for the project.

35. Chief Architect (Central Management Division 2), Architectural Services Department ("CA(CMD2)/ArchSD") said that the reduction in the overall cost estimate of the project was due to the Government's cutting down of the estimated furniture and equipment cost for the proposed works after the meeting of the Panel on Health Services. The cost reduction had nothing to do with the number of jobs and the wage level of workers.

Constructional arrangement of the proposed District Health Centre in Wan Chai

36. Mr LUK Chung-hung noted from the Government's paper that the proposed WCDHC was located at a commercial site in Caroline Hill Road. The Administration would require the successful developer-tenderer of the site to provide WCDHC at the lower floor of the planned commercial development. He enquired about the benefit of this constructional arrangement.

37. CA(CMD2)/ArchSD said that the engagement of the successful developer-tenderer of the site to construct the proposed WCDHC could ensure the completion and commissioning of WCDHC in a timely manner. Moreover, design and construction of the proposed WCDHC by the developer in the context of its commercial development could also help optimize the utilization of land space.

38. In response to further enquiries from the Chairman and Mr LUK Chung-hung, Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) pointed out that in normal cases, the Government might, having regard to the development needs of the sites included in the Land Sale Programme, stipulate in the land sale conditions that the successful developer-tenderer should construct government facilities at the site concerned when carrying out the development. The cost incurred for constructing the relevant government facilities would be reimbursed to the developer subject to a cap equivalent to the capital cost approved by the Finance Committee ("FC") for the project. In individual cases, the Government might also require the developer to construct government facilities at the site and would correspondingly reduce the land premium in return.

39. Mr CHAN Han-pan pointed out that the commercial site in Caroline Hill Road at which the proposed WCDHC was located had been included in the Land Sale Programme for the 2020-2021 financial year. He was concerned that the completion and commissioning date of WCDHC might be delayed if no developers participated in the tender for the site or the tendering exercise was unsuccessful. In this connection, he asked the Administration

when the construction works of the proposed WCDHC was expected to complete.

40. USFH said that the developer would be required to complete the works of the proposed WCDHC in eight years after conclusion of the land sale procedure.

41. Mr CHENG Chung-tai was worried that as the successful developer-tenderer of the site was required to develop the proposed WCDHC pursuant to the land sale conditions, the Administration would have difficulties in monitoring the construction standards of WCDHC and the quality of the equipment therein. Given that the Government would undertake the routine repair and maintenance of WCDHC after its commissioning, he was concerned that the Government would have to bear higher repair and maintenance costs in the future if the construction quality was not up to standard.

42. CA(CMD2)/ArchSD said that the Government would set out clearly in the land sale conditions the construction requirements of the proposed WCDHC, including spelling out the specifications for the construction works, construction material and the facilities therein. The developer was also required to submit the project programme and design plans of WCDHC to FHB for approval before commencing the construction works. As a private development, the plans of the entire building and the construction works would be subject to the approval and monitoring of the Buildings Department ("BD") under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) and other relevant legislation. BD would also conduct final checks upon completion of the construction works to confirm if the quality of the building complied with the requirements for the issuance of the occupation permit. Furthermore, the Architectural Services Department would assist FHB in conducting the acceptance procedure of WCDHC upon completion of the construction works by the developer. The Government would make payment to the developer to cover the project cost only after it was satisfied that the project had been completed duly in accordance with the terms and conditions.

Voting on PWSC(2020-21)21

43. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2020-21\)21](#) to vote.

44. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of FC. Dr CHENG Chung-tai requested that the item (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)21](#)) be voted on separately at the relevant meeting of FC.

**Head 704 — Drainage**

**PWSC(2020-21)22 172CD Rehabilitation of underground stormwater drains**

45. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)22](#)) sought to upgrade 172CD to Category A at an estimated cost of \$702.7 million in MOD prices for implementing the rehabilitation works for underground stormwater drains with high risk associated with the collapse of these drains in 12 districts. The Administration had consulted the Panel on Development on the proposed works on 24 November 2020. Panel members supported the submission of the funding proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Rehabilitation programme for underground stormwater drains

46. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the proposed works to rehabilitate expeditiously the underground stormwater drains with risks of collapse and to pre-empt the safety risk posed to roads by the collapse of underground drains. He asked the Administration about the number of old stormwater drains that would still require rehabilitation after completion of the proposed works.

47. Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works)5 ("PAS(W)5/DEVB") said that the Drainage Services Department ("DSD") carried out the Enhanced Management of Underground Sewer and Drain Networks—Feasibility Study in 2015 to evaluate the conditions and the risks of structural failure of existing underground stormwater drains and formulated a territory-wide replacement and rehabilitation programme to rehabilitate a total of 71 km of underground stormwater drains throughout the territory. DSD had commenced the stage 1 and stage 2 works of "Rehabilitation of underground stormwater drains" in 2019 and 2020 respectively, while the proposed works were the remainder of the project. Furthermore, DSD had also identified in 2019 another 61 km of underground stormwater drains that required replacement or rehabilitation and was planning to implement the rehabilitation work as Category A or Category D project items under the Capital Works Programme.

48. Mr Ma Fung-kwok expressed support for the proposed project. To facilitate members' consideration as to whether the costs required for the rehabilitation works of various sections of underground stormwater drains were reasonable, he requested the Administration to provide more information, such as the technology used for the proposed works and the length and diameter

of the stormwater drains that required replacement or rehabilitation, so as to shed light on the average cost of the rehabilitation works. In addition, he suggested that the Administration should construct common utility enclosures in the future to facilitate the repair and maintenance of underground utility services and reduce the need of road excavation.

49. Director of Drainage Services ("DDS") said that the proposed works involved the rehabilitation of a total of 19 km of underground stormwater drains. Among them, about 24% of the pipes were between 375 millimetre ("mm") and 600 mm in diameter, about 51% were between 675 mm and 1.2 metres ("m") and about 25% were between 1.2 m and 2.4 m. As for the rehabilitation technology applied, the cured-in-place-pipe lining technology would be used for the rehabilitation works of most of the pipes, while pipes with large diameters would be rehabilitated using the slip-lining method through setting up shafts. For pipes at locations where setting up of shafts was not possible, the spiral-wound lining technology would be used for their rehabilitation. The Government had given a powerpoint presentation (i.e. [LC Paper No. CB\(1\)270/20-21\(03\)](#)) (Chinese version only) on the details of these rehabilitation technologies when it consulted the Panel on Development on the proposed project. She added that the Administration had always kept an eye on the latest development in the rehabilitation technology of underground pipes around the world and would adopt the rehabilitation technologies that were suitable for the underground pipes of Hong Kong.

#### Tackling flooding in districts

50. Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed support for the proposed project. He noted from the Government's paper that the proposed remaining works of "Rehabilitation of underground stormwater drains" did not cover works in the Tsuen Wan district. He pointed out that the underground stormwater drains in Tsuen Wan, a district with a long history of development, had been ageing day by day and some of the old stormwater drains were small in diameter. He was worried about the increased risk of flooding in the district if the Administration did not press ahead with rehabilitating the underground stormwater drains there or replacing them with pipes with larger diameters.

51. PAS(W)5/DEVB said that underground stormwater drains with risks of collapse in the Tsuen Wan district had been included under the stage 1 and stage 2 works of "Rehabilitation of underground stormwater drains". He added that the Government would continue to carry out investigation of the underground stormwater drains in various districts of Hong Kong, including Tsuen Wan, to identify pipes with risks of collapse and plan for their rehabilitation.

52. The Chairman and Mr CHAN Han-pan further enquired if the proposed works would not include replacement of old drains for the purpose of increasing the flow capacities.

53. PAS(W)5/DEVB replied that the proposed works sought mainly to rehabilitate the ageing underground stormwater drains with risks of collapse. In implementing the rehabilitation works of underground stormwater drains, the Government would also examine if the pipes had adequate flow capacities. Moreover, DSD had already formulated the Drainage Master Plans of major districts. That included drainage improvement works, such as construction of storage tanks and drainage rivers, to reduce the risk of flooding in various districts. The Government was currently implementing eight relevant Category A projects with project costs totalling around \$3.9 billion and was planning 20 relevant projects with estimated costs totalling \$33.8 billion. These projects would be launched once they were ready.

54. Dr CHENG Chung-tai noted from the Government's paper that the Administration expected the whole proposed project to be completed in five years. He pointed out that Kwun Tong and the Islands Districts had experienced severe flooding in the past few years due to heavy rainstorms and seawater inundation. He enquired whether the Administration would give priority to carrying out the proposed rehabilitation works of underground stormwater drains in these districts. Mr Michael TIEN also expressed concern about the problem of flooding in Kwun Tong and enquired whether the Government had included Kwun Tong in the list of flooding blackspots to monitor the flooding situations in the district regularly. Dr CHENG and Mr TIEN requested the Administration to advise whether it had studied the reasons behind the frequent occurrence of severe flooding in Kwun Tong and what plans it had in place to address the problem of flooding in the district.

55. PAS(W)5/DEVB and DDS replied that the proposed works would be carried out concurrently in 12 districts. Regarding the problem of flooding in Kwun Tong, they said that the problem might be attributed to the concentration of heavy downpours that led to a sharp increase in the volume of stormwater in the district in a short timeframe. To improve the stormwater drainage capability of Kwun Tong, the Government was planning the construction of three underground stormwater storage tanks in the district, so that the stormwater brought about by heavy downpours could be retained temporarily before being discharged upon cessation of the rainstorm, thereby reducing the risk of flooding in the district. Moreover, the Government was implementing the works of Revitalization of Tsui Ping River. Upon completion of the works, the drainage capacity of Tsui Ping River would be enhanced. DDS also advised that DSD compiled the list of flooding blackspots based on the stormwater drainage capacity, previous flooding records, complaints received



and flood protection standards at the relevant locations. At present, no locations in Kwun Tong were included in the list of flooding blackspots.

56. Mr Michael TIEN requested the Administration to explain its long-term plans for eradicating the problem of flooding at the existing flooding blackspots across the territory.

57. DDS said that over the years, DSD had adopted a strategy comprising interception at the upstream, storage tank development in the midstream and upgrading the drainage system at the downstream to enhance the drainage capabilities of various districts and reduce the risk of flooding due to the overloading of the stormwater drainage system. As regards the list of flooding blackspots, currently five locations across the territory were still on the list. They were Shek Wu Wai, San Tin, in Yuen Long; Lam Tsuen Valley Basin in Tai Po; Ting Kok Road (Shuen Wan Chim Uk to Wong Yue Tan) in Tai Po; Chatham Road South between Granville Road and Austin Avenue in Tsim Sha Tsui; and Pok Fu Lam Village in the Southern District. Among them, the improvement work to Ting Kok Road in Tai Po had been completed and was currently in the monitoring period. The location would be deleted from the list of flooding blackspots should improvement be confirmed. She added that special teams were set up under DSD to monitor the conditions of stormwater drains at various flooding blackspots during rainstorms and take immediate actions to clear the drainage inlets blocked by refuse or fallen leaves.

58. Dr Junius HO expressed support for the proposed project. He enquired whether the Administration had reused the stormwater collected by underground stormwater storage tanks for suitable purposes (e.g. irrigation) while developing such storage tanks in various districts. He also suggested that the Administration should step up the promotion and publicity on the operation of the drainage system in Hong Kong, so as to attract young people to join the industry upon graduation.

59. DDS said that DSD had always been proactive in exploring how the stormwater collected by underground stormwater storage tanks could be reused. The water harvesting system had been put to trial at Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Tank and Lai Chi Kok Drainage Tunnel, with which the stormwater collected was reused for irrigation and toilet flushing. As for promotion and publicity, DSD had organized guided tours for schools and organizations to visit the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Tank. Although the guided tours were suspended now due to the epidemic, DSD was planning to use information technologies such as virtual tours to present the work of DSD to the public. Moreover, DSD was also exploring ways to promote and publicize its river revitalization projects in various districts.

Voting on PWSC(2020-21)22

60. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2020-21\)22](#) to vote.

61. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of FC. No member raised such a request.

62. The meeting ended at 10:27 am.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
30 April 2021