

立法會
Legislative Council

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by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

**Minutes of policy briefing-cum-meeting
held on Monday, 11 January 2021, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kuok, GBS, JP
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Member attending : Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP

Members absent : Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP

Public Officers attending : Item III
Mr Caspar TSUI Ying-wai, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Patrick LI Pak-chuen, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Ms Kinnie WONG Kit-yee
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP
Commissioner for Sports
Home Affairs Bureau

Miss Janice TSE Siu-wa, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Mr Vincent LIU Ming-kwong, JP
Director of Leisure & Cultural Services

Item IV

The Administration

Mr Caspar TSUI Ying-wai, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Patrick LI Pak-chuen, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mr Sammy LEUNG Ka-lok
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic
Affairs) 1

Hong Kong Girl Guides Association

Ms Selina SO Yu-man
Chief Executive

Mr Matthew WONG Wai-man
Project Consultant

WSP (Asia) Limited

Ir Gareth LAM Kwong-chiu
Project Director

Andrew Lee King Fun & Associates Architects Ltd

Ms Shirley CHEUNG Sze-lai
Associate Director

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

Mr Albert SU Yau-on
Chief Executive

Mr Bernard FUNG Tak-kei
Head of Property Division

Ms Alice LEUNG Bick-king
Head of Community Services Division

DLN Architects Limited

Mr Bruce LAW Tan-sing
Director

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

Staff in attendance : Miss Connie AU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Miss Meisy KWOK
Legislative Assistant (2) 6

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I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)230/20-21(01) and LS20/20-21]

Members noted that the following papers had been issued after the last meeting:

- (a) letter dated 9 November 2020 from Hon MA Fung-kwok [LC Paper No. CB(2)230/20-21(01)]; and
- (b) paper prepared by the Legal Service Division on the judicial review proceedings relating to the construction of music fountains at the Kwun Tong Promenade [LC Paper No. LS20/20-21].

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II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)588/20-21(01) and (02)]

2. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next meeting on 8 February 2021 at 4:30 pm:

- (a) renovation of Tsuen Wan Public Library;
- (b) Town Park in Area 68, Tseung Kwan O; and
- (c) Kwai Chung Park.

3. The Chairman invited members to note that the list of outstanding items for discussion had been updated further to the annual work plan meeting amongst him, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA").

III. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address

[LC Paper No. CB(2)537/20-21(01)]

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)537/20-21(01)].

(Post-meeting note: SHA's speaking note was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)637/20-21(01) on 12 January 2021.)

5. Members noted that a submission provided by the Hong Kong Unison Limited was tabled at the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The submission was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)637/20-21(02) on 12 January 2021.)

Discussion

Sports, culture and the arts

6. The Chairman enquired about the progress of the Administration's initiatives to develop cultural cooperation and exchanges between Hong Kong and other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater

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Bay Area ("GBA"). He noted that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Office of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA and the People's Government of Guangdong Province had recently promulgated the Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA which set out, among others, the directions for the overall cultural development of GBA.

7. SHA said that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") had collaborated with Mainland venue operators to support local artists/art groups for staging performances and conducting related art appreciation activities in GBA. These new initiatives would also provide opportunities for nurturing administrative staff and impresarios. In addition, the Government had launched the "Festival Hong Kong 2019 – A Cultural Extravaganza@Shanghai" in Shanghai in November 2019 to showcase the essence of Hong Kong arts. The Administration would continue to support artists and arts groups from Hong Kong to perform and organize exhibitions in the Mainland and especially in GBA.

8. Mr MA Fung-kwok welcomed the Administration's initiative of setting aside \$100 million in total in the Arts and Sport Development Fund, the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Film Development Fund and the CreateSmart Initiative to implement projects that integrated technology and arts. He, however, considered that the funding might not be adequate and should be increased. He enquired about the application procedures, the vetting criteria and how this amount of \$100 million would be allocated among various funds.

9. SHA said that the integration of arts and technology had become a new trend in arts development, which had brought new opportunities for the arts and creative industries. The proposed new initiative was welcomed by the sectors concerned. Under this initiative, the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") would serve as a facilitator through matching arts groups with the innovation and technology organizations, and explain to them the funding ambit and the criteria of various funds. HAB would take the lead in setting up a cross-bureaux task force that comprised representatives from related bureaux, and invite the participation of representatives from the relevant sectors and non-government organizations ("NGOs") in the formulation of strategies and measures to develop and promote Art Tech. SHA added that the East Kowloon Cultural Centre currently under construction and targeted to open in 2023 would be equipped with all-round computerized stage facilities, execution systems and live streaming systems. It would serve as an incubator for artists and young people.

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10. In response to Mr SHIU Ka-fai's enquiry about the provision of training and exchange opportunities for the relevant staff of HAB and the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") to enhance their experience in sports development, the Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") said that HKSI had maintained frequent exchanges with counterparts in the Mainland and overseas in order to keep abreast of the global trends in athlete training. The coaches at HKSI, who came from different countries/regions, would also share their experience with local coaches and training staff. That apart, the relevant officials of the "national sports associations" ("NSAs") and staff of HAB and LCSD had the opportunities to share their experience and broaden their horizon through attending conferences, serving as technical delegates in international competitions and organizing Hong Kong delegations' participation in major international and national sports events. C for S added that HAB staff responsible for overseeing the Kai Tai Sports Park project had visited various new sports venues in the Mainland and overseas to enhance their knowledge and experience in handling similar projects.

11. Mr Kenneth LAU said that the sports, culture and arts sectors had been seriously affected by the Government's anti-epidemic measures over the past year. In particular, many sports events as well as arts and cultural performances had to be cancelled due to the closure of venues. He hoped that the Administration could implement measures to help relevant practitioners to tide over this difficult time with a view to retaining talents in the sectors concerned. Mr LAU Kwok-fan queried if the decision to close the venues should be imposed indiscriminately across different sports. Mr Kenneth LAU suggested that the advice of medical experts be sought to see if some of the sports events and cultural/arts activities could be resumed under certain anti-epidemic conditions. Mr Vincent CHENG said that the closure of the performance venues in Xiqu Centre had dealt a severe blow to the business of the restaurants and other shops in the Centre. He considered that the Administration should help the tenants to tide over this difficult time.

12. SHA said that the Administration had implemented numerous relief measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund ("AEF") to provide support to the sports, culture and arts sectors. In addition, LCSD would facilitate the live streaming of performances of arts groups during the epidemic through enhanced venue and technical support. SHA further said that the Administration would endeavour to reopen the sports venues and the performance venues as soon as the epidemic had stabilized. He pledged

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that the Administration would continue to monitor the situation closely and review the social distancing measures in a timely manner. SHA added that the development of GBA would provide tremendous opportunities for the arts and culture sector and, in this connection, LCSD had collaborated with major venue operators in the Mainland and supported cultural exchange activities of arts groups from various art forms in GBA cities.

13. In response to Mr LAU Kwok-fan's enquiry regarding the provision of financial assistance to coaches under AEF, SHA pointed out that besides registered sports coaches, relief grants were also provided to interest group/class instructors through the Education Bureau and the Labour and Welfare Bureau/Social Welfare Department.

14. Mrs Regina IP asked whether HAB would provide support to the organizer on the arrangements for venues for hosting the Gay Games 2022 in Hong Kong. SHA said that the Administration would handle the applications for use of venues in accordance with the established policies and procedures. He explained that under the prevailing booking policy of LCSD, NSAs were among the category with the highest advance booking priority of sporting facilities.

Youth development

15. Mr Holden CHOW enquired about the number of youths who were unemployed or underemployed as a result of the epidemic. He suggested that training should be provided to them in order to better prepare them for a career change. SHA responded that HAB could check with other policy bureaux overseeing employment-related issues to see if they might have the required figures and information. SHA said that GBA had huge development potential and could offer many career development opportunities for young people in Hong Kong. The Administration had launched various schemes, including the GBA Youth Employment Scheme ("Youth Employment Scheme"), the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA and the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA, etc. to encourage and support young people to work and pursue their careers in the Mainland cities of GBA. Mr LAU Kwok-fan suggested that the Administration should expedite the implementation of the Youth Employment Scheme to facilitate young people to embark on their career in GBA as soon as the epidemic abated. Dr Junius HO considered that HAB should strengthen the coordination among different bureaux (e.g. the

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Information and Technology Bureau and the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau) and departments in implementing various schemes aimed to support the diversified development of young people as well as their innovative and entrepreneurial endeavours and that key performance indicators should be formulated for evaluation of these schemes.

District management

16. The Chairman noted with concern that some District Council ("DC") members had used their ward offices as polling stations for holding pro-democracy primaries a few months ago. He enquired how the Administration would follow-up these incidents and related complaints from members of the public. Dr Junius HO said that the Administration should not allow DC members to use the facilities of the DC Secretariat for conducting meetings or activities which were not compatible with the functions of DCs. He further suggested that the relevant code of conduct/guidelines should be enhanced in this regard. Mr Holden CHOW said that DC members who were found to be in breach of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region should be removed from office. SHA responded that should ward offices of DC members be used for discharging duties not related to DCs, such as being used as a polling station, related expenses would not be reimbursed. In addition, law enforcement actions would be taken in accordance with the law against the DC members concerned if the situation warranted.

17. Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed concern that the current term DCs were excessively politicalized and a number of funding applications for the holding of traditional festive events like dragon boat races in various districts had been turned down by the DCs concerned. He said that to his understanding, some district football teams had also encountered difficulties in securing funding support from DCs. In his view, DCs had failed to carry out their role of promoting recreational and cultural activities in districts in a proper manner.

18. SHA said that he had been communicating with the current term DC members over the past one year in a bid to persuade them to follow the rules when dealing with DC affairs. That notwithstanding, DCs had remained extremely inefficient in vetting and approving funding applications under their purview. SHA said that to a certain extent, DCs had already "lost their function". The Administration would review the way forward and would consult the Panel as appropriate when a proposal was available.

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SHA assured members that the Administration would provide funding support to traditional festival activities where necessary while HAB had been providing funding support to district football teams.

19. Mr Holden CHOW considered that the Administration should put more emphasis on Area Committees and district personalities in place of DCs when conducting consultations on district affairs in future. In response, SHA said that the Administration had all along been collecting public views through different channels including consultation with Area Committees and Members of the Legislative Council ("LegCo").

Building management

20. In the light of the fire incident that took place in an old tenement building in Yau Ma Tei in November last year, Mr Vincent CHENG and Mr SHIU Ka-fai shared the view that the Administration should enhance its support for owners of old buildings (including "three-nil" buildings) with a view to improving the fire safety of these buildings. Mr CHENG considered that there should be more publicity on the support services available to building owners such as the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme.

21. SHA said that various departments, including the Home Affairs Department, the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department, had been providing assistance of different forms to owners of old buildings. The Administration understood that the owners of old buildings might encounter difficulties in carrying out fire safety improvement works. The Administration would explore ways to enhance support in this regard.

Support services for ethnic minorities

22. Mr Vincent CHENG said that there was not much reference to issues relating to ethnic minorities ("EMs") in the Policy Address. He was of the view that the Administration should provide more support to EMs and in particular those relating to anti-epidemic measures. SHA replied that the Administration had implemented a wide range of measures to assist EMs in different areas such as education and family services. He added that the Steering Committee on EMs Affairs, which was chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, would endeavour to enhance cross-bureaux and inter-departmental co-ordination in supporting EMs.

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Other issues

23. Mrs Regina IP sought details about the policy initiative on jointly promoting the development of equine industry in GBA through collaboration with the Hong Kong Jockey Club and its racecourse in Conghua, Guangzhou. SHA and the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs explained that this policy initiative was under the purview of the Food and Health Bureau.

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24. Mr Vincent CHENG said that some members of the public had suggested that the disused underground cistern at Bishop Hill in Sham Shui Po should be restored into an inclusive playground. SHA said that the suggestion would be relayed to the Development Bureau for consideration.

IV. Youth Hostel Scheme – construction works of the youth hostel projects by the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)588/20-21(03) and (04)]

25. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)588/20-21(03)].

Discussion

26. Members in general expressed support for the proposed construction works of the youth hostel projects by the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association ("HKGGA") and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals ("TWGHs"). Mr Wilson OR expressed concern that only one youth hostel project had commenced operation almost 10 years after the Youth Hostel Scheme ("YHS") was announced in the 2011-2012 Policy Address. Mr OR and Mr LAU Kwok-fan urged the Administration to expedite the implementation of projects under YHS. They enquired about the anticipated completion date of HKGGA's project and TWGHs' project as well as the schedule for completion of the other YHS projects. Noting that some NGOs had rolled out projects to provide "co-living" space for the youth, Mr OR asked whether the Administration would consider introducing similar initiatives to relieve the housing needs of young people.

27. SHA responded that the current term Government had been paying close attention to the housing needs of all, including young people, and had all along been actively taking forward various YHS projects. He said that a

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total of seven projects were currently in progress under YHS and they were going through various work stages and procedures. The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups' project in Tai Po had begun admitting tenants by batches in 2020, while the Po Leung Kuk's project was scheduled for completion in the first half of 2022 to provide about 1 680 hostel spaces. SHA said that if the funding proposals for HKGGA's project and TWGHs' project were approved by LegCo in the current legislative year, implementation of both projects was scheduled for completion in the latter half of 2024. He further said that the technical feasibility study for the Hong Kong Association of Youth Development's project was already completed in 2019 while that for the Salvation Army's project was underway. SHA said that the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited's project would go through the relevant statutory town planning procedures shortly. The Administration would continue to work closely with the relevant NGOs to assist them in taking forward the projects.

28. SHA added that the Administration had implemented various schemes to provide funding support to NGOs to encourage them to better use their land and unleash the potential of development sites in line with the "single site, multiple uses" model. Examples of such schemes included the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses implemented by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, and YHS.

29. Mr Vincent CHENG said that to his understanding, HKGGA's project site was currently used as a temporary car park with more than a hundred parking spaces. He expressed concern about the arrangements to be made upon the closure of this temporary car park to cater for the parking needs in and around Jordan. He asked whether consideration would be given to providing some public parking spaces in HKGGA's new composite headquarter building. SHA responded that many parking spaces were available for public use in the nearby Elements Mall and the West Kowloon Cultural District. The Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB") had been monitoring the parking needs in the district and would take measures to increase the provision of car parking spaces where appropriate. SHA added that HKGGA's project site was located within reasonable walking distance from various major public transportation services and the youth hostel tenants were encouraged to use public transport as far as possible. SHA undertook to relay Mr CHENG's views and concerns regarding the provision of parking spaces in and around Jordan to THB for consideration. At the request of Mr CHENG, the Administration also undertook to look into the feasibility of providing some public parking facilities in HKGGA's new composite headquarter building.

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30. In response to a further enquiry from Mr Vincent CHENG, SHA said that the Administration had not yet decided on the future use of HKGGA's current headquarter site, which would be surrendered to the Government in exchange for the site located at the junction of Ferry Street and Jordan Road on which the proposed youth hostel and HKGGA's new headquarter would be built.

31. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that members raised no objection to the submission of HKGGC's project and TWGHs' project to PWSC for consideration.

V. Any other business

32. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:13 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 March 2021