

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB4/PL/HA

LC Paper No. CB(4)938/20-21
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 15 March 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 WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, 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
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
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 CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP

Member absent : Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Item IV

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Iona SHAM Hiu-tung
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture)²

Ms Linus FUNG Wai-fan
Assistant Director (Performing Arts)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Rebecca YU Chui-may
Chief Manager (Performance Venues Management and
Planning)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Phyllis SO Kit-yee
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)³
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Victor TAI Sheung-shing
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr Kevin SY Kin-man
Senior Project Manager 339
Architectural Services Department

Item V

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Zorina WAN Hiu-yan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation
and Sport)²

Mr Horman CHAN Ming-cheong
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)¹
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Michael CHIU Yat-on
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)¹
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Victor TAI Sheung-shing
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr Joe LAM Sam-ching
Senior Project Manager 337
Architectural Services Department

Item VI

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Mr Edwin WONG Kuo-yang
Project Director (Sports Park)
Home Affairs Bureau

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (4) 7

Staff in attendance : Mr Raymond SZETO
Senior Council Secretary (4) 6

Ms Louisa YU
Legislative Assistant (4) 7

Miss Vivian YUEN
Legislative Assistant (4) 8

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting
[LC Paper No. CB(4)625/20-21(01)]

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021 were confirmed without amendments.

Action

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

2. Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)601/20-21(01) and (02)]

3. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 8 April 2021 at 2:30 pm:

- (a) renovation and improvement project for the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre;
- (b) open Space at Hoi Fan Road, Tai Kok Tsui; and
- (c) Leisure and Cultural Services Department Online Programmes and Improvement Works during the Epidemic.

4. In light of the Audit Commission's report on efforts of the Home Affairs Department in facilitating building management, Mr Vincent CHENG proposed to discuss matters relating to initiatives to support building management of "three-nil" buildings at a future regular meeting.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the above issue raised by Vincent CHENG has been added to the list of outstanding items for discussion.)

IV. Facility Upgrading of Tai Po Civic Centre

[LC Paper No. CB(4)601/20-21(03)]

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)601/20-21(03)].

Discussion

6. Mr Kenneth LAU and Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed support for the proposed upgrading. Mr LAU said that Tai Po district had not been provided with sufficient cultural facilities, and the upgrading of the facilities of the Tai Po Civic Centre ("TPCC") would achieve synergy with the nearby Tai Po Arts Centre

Action

("TPAC"), which would bolster the provision of arts and cultural facilities in Tai Po district. Mr CHAN enquired if there would be any specific plans to achieve synergy with TPAC. Noting that other cultural venues managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") had their own niche (e.g. Ko Shan Theatre specializing in Cantonese opera), Mr LAU enquired about the cultural niche of the upgraded TPCC.

7. USHA advised that TPCC was constrained by the existing facilities and the physical limitations of the venue, which had precluded it from hosting more sophisticated performing arts and cultural events. At present, the venue was mainly used by local cultural groups for Cantonese operatic song concerts or oldies concerts. After upgrading the facilities of the venue to professional performance standards, the Administration envisioned that TPCC would be able to host a variety of quality performing arts and cultural programmes. To generate synergy with TPAC, most of the existing boundary walls of TPCC would be demolished, and an open space that connected TPCC with TPAC would be open to the public round the clock.

8. Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed support for the proposed upgrading. He enquired about the implementation timeline of the project, and urged the Administration to expedite the works.

9. USHA said that subject to approval by the Finance Committee ("FC"), the Administration hoped to commence the upgrading works this year. The project was scheduled to be completed by the second quarter of 2024.

10. Mr Kenneth LAU enquired whether there would be adjustments to the charges for venue hiring at TPCC upon upgrading. USHA said that LCSD had an established mechanism to comprehensively review the hire charges of all 16 cultural performance venues under its purview, including TPCC. Assistant Director (Performing Arts), LCSD supplemented that as the current hire charges for LCSD's cultural performance venues were comparable to market price, there was no immediate plan for adjustment.

11. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that there were complaints from local cultural community that the TPCC's ingress/egress by On Pong Road was too narrow and could not conveniently accommodate trucks loading and unloading large equipment. He asked about the Administration's plans to upgrade these facilities.

12. USHA said that due to site limitations of the current ingress/egress by On Pong Road rendering possible expansion infeasible, the Administration had planned to address the accessibility issues for trucks through traffic arrangement. The upgraded facilities would also include a designated loading and unloading bay

Action

for truck and a cargo lift to transport large sets, props and heavy equipment directly to the Auditorium Stage level.

13. Mr LAU Kwok-fan suggested that the Administration should introduce innovative technologies to improve the cultural performance experience. USHA responded that the adoption of Arts Technology was one of the Administration's pursuits and would be suitably featured in the proposed upgrading. Examples of innovative technologies included an immersive theatre projection and sound systems, projection mapping system, tracking enabled audio-video-light system, and 4K live streaming system.

14. Mr CHAN Hak-kan suggested that in carrying out the upgrading works, the Administration should firstly demolish the boundary wall facing On Cheung Road to reduce pedestrian and vehicular congestion in the area.

15. USHA said that the boundary wall would be demolished. Moreover, to improve traffic conditions, the facilities by On Cheung Road would be moved inward two metres away from the pavement, so as to allow more space for pedestrian traffic.

Improvement and development of art and cultural facilities

16. Mr Holden CHOW noted that the Administration had earmarked \$20 billion in the 2018-19 Budget for the improvement and development of cultural facilities in the coming ten years to align with the long-term development need of culture and the arts in Hong Kong. He enquired about the timetable of implementation, in particular the development of the New Territories East Cultural Centre ("NTECC") in Fanling.

17. USHA said that the pre-construction activities of NTECC, which were approved by FC in 2018, had commenced and were scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2022. After that, the Administration would submit a funding proposal for the main works for the Legislative Council's consideration and approval.

18. Mr LAU Kwok-fan suggested that the Administration should increase the plot ratio of the site of NTECC, which was conveniently situated by the Fanling railway station, for better utilization of land resources under the "single site, multiple use" model.

19. USHA said that the existing development plan of NTECC was already maximizing the development potential of the site. Detailed design of NTECC was still in progress, and the Administration would consider all relevant factors,

Action

including the "single site, multiple use" model, in determining the most appropriate way forward.

20. After discussion, the Chairman said that members supported the submission of the proposed facility upgrading of TPCC to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") for consideration.

V. Open Space at Hung Hom Waterfront

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)601/20-21(04) and (05)]

21. At the invitation of the Chairman, USHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)601/20-21(04)].

Discussion

22. Mr SHIU Ka-fai and Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed support for the proposed development of the Open Space at Hung Hom Waterfront ("the Open Space"). They noted that the Yau Tsim Mong District Council ("DC") and Kowloon City DC were consulted and endorsed the proposed development in 2011, but a decade had passed before the proposal was taken forward. They expressed disappointment at the lack of progress and queried for the reason for the significant delay in implementing the proposed development.

23. USHA said that it had all along been the Administration's plan to proceed with the proposed development as soon as practicable. The proposed development could be taken forward with the allocation of \$20 billion of funding for the "Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities" ("the Five-year Plan") as announced in the January 2017 Policy Address. He also said that the waterfront promenade had been in use since 2011, and the current proposal was to further enhance the facilities in the area. Mr SHIU Ka-fai remarked that the Administration should have brought the proposal forward to seek FC's approval earlier. At Mr LUK Chung-hung's request, USHA undertook to provide supplementary information on the planning and development history of the project.

Admin

24. Mr Wilson OR expressed support for the proposed development. He remarked that in light of the turbulent economic situation faced by Hong Kong, the Administration should adopt a frugal approach in taking forward the proposed development. He added that the implementation timetable of three years was too long, and urged the Administration to expedite the development.

25. USHA said that given the sizable area of the project site, the proposed construction period was considered reasonable. Moreover, the Administration

Action

intended to adopt a phased development approach and avoid the complete closure of the waterfront promenade during the construction period. Under this approach, part of the waterfront promenade would remain open for public usage and thus more time for construction would be needed.

26. Mr Vincent CHENG and Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed support for the proposed development. They expressed worry that the upgrading works at the waterfront promenade, which would include additional greening and trees to be planted, would narrow the paved space currently there and reduce the amount of space available for joggers and weekend visitors enjoying the area.

27. USHA said that in drawing up the proposed design for the waterfront promenade, the Administration had sought to fully utilize the available space for visitors' enjoyment and leisure. In upgrading of the waterfront promenade, the existing seaside walkway would be maintained to allow sufficient space for joggers. Instead of affecting joggers, the additional greening would provide more natural shades for the users. Lawn areas would also be provided for visitors to enjoy resting by the waterfront.

28. Mr Vincent CHENG suggested that the Administration should not close off the entire waterfront promenade during the upgrading works, so as to allow joggers to continue using the paved space at the promenade for running exercises. Mr CHENG and Mr LAU Kwok-fan further suggested that the Administration should build additional facilities for joggers in the Open Space, such as shower rooms and lockers.

29. Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1, LCSD said that drinking water fountains, washrooms and rain shelters would be provided in the Open Space for use by joggers. While there was no plan to build shower rooms at the moment, the Administration would consider installing lockers for joggers to store their personal belongings.

30. Mr LAU Kwok-fan said that the Administration should find ways to better utilize the leisure areas in the Open Space, such as expanding the viewing deck or the greening area. Mr Wilson OR enquired about whether signature attractions were included in the proposed development to attract visitors and tourists.

31. USHA said that as a signature attraction, the viewing deck design at Kin Wan Street open space imitated a ship being constructed to signify the shipbuilding history of the Whampoa Dock. The viewing deck design would strike an optimal balance between providing sufficient space for visitors and avoiding obstructing the view of the nearby residential buildings.

Action

32. Citing that basketball courts were available at Tai Wan Shan Park, which was about 10 minutes away from the Open Space in walking distance, Mr Vincent CHENG queried whether there was actual need to include a basketball court in the Open Space. He said that the Administration should instead consider using that space for more innovative facilities for joggers.

33. USHA said that the basketball court was included based on local demand. The Administration understood that there were many young families living in the area, and thus there was keen interest in more sports facilities to be built, including the basketball court.

34. Mr Wilson OR and Mr Vincent CHENG expressed concerns about the shortage of parking space provision for vehicles in the area. Mr CHENG said that some hearses had been parking in the area of the Open Space. If the proposed development did not include enough parking spaces for vehicles in the area, these hearses might be forced to park at locations closer to residential areas in Hung Hom, which could be undesirable for local residents. Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed a similar concern.

35. USHA responded that there were sufficient parking spaces available in the area. The public parking lot at Hung Lok Road provided 178 spaces for passenger cars and 200 spaces for trucks. There was also a temporary public parking lot at the intersection of Bailey Street and Hung Hom Road, providing about 220 spaces for passenger cars, 50 spaces for coaches and 20 spaces for trucks. USHA also pointed out that in addition to visitors arriving by private vehicles, the Open Space would also serve some 30 000 local residents living within walking distance.

Admin

36. At members' request, USHA undertook to provide detailed information on parking spaces in the area to confirm sufficient provision for different vehicles (including hearses).

37. Mr Vincent CHENG expressed concerns about foul smell from water pollution affecting the Waterfront Promenade, and suggested that the Administration should consider installing dry weather flow interceptors. USHA said that the Administration was actively considering initiatives to deal with the problem, including the solution suggested by Mr CHENG.

Issues relating to the Five-year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities

38. Mr Wilson OR noted that the proposed development was one of the projects for implementation under the Five-year Plan, and enquired about the implementation progress of the 26 projects involved. He also asked about the

Action

criteria for selection of the 26 projects.

39. USHA said that the Five-year Plan was proceeding as planned. Of the 26 projects under the Five-year Plan, 16 had already been approved by the Legislative Council. One of the 16 projects had already been completed and opened to the public, and implementation of the other 15 projects was underway.

40. As regards the selection criteria for the 26 projects, USHA advised that the Administration would look into factors such as the demands and requests raised by local residents, the provision of similar facilities in the area as well as the suitability of the selected sites in developing the planned facilities.

41. After discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel supported the submission of the proposed development for PWSC's consideration, and that the Administration should provide the supplementary information requested by members before that.

VI. Proposed retention of one supernumerary post of Government Architect (D2)

[LC Paper No. CB(4)601/20-21(06)]

42. At the invitation of the Chairman, USHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)601/20-21(06)].

Discussion

43. The Chairman and Dr Junius HO remarked that the Administration's proposals to create or retain directorate posts should be carefully scrutinized to ensure that public money was spent prudently, and the Administration should provide detailed justifications as far as possible.

44. Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed support for the staffing proposal under discussion. Noting that the post was originally created in 2018 for only three years and eight months but not for five years, and re-approval had to be sought for an extension now, he queried whether such development was a result of unexpected delays to the Kai Tak Sports Park ("the Sports Park") project. Dr Junius HO shared similar concerns, and said that the Contracted Party might not have the incentive to complete the project on time. Dr HO enquired about the penalty mechanism for delays to the project, and how the proposed post could ensure that the Contracted Party was carrying out the works promptly and within the approved project estimate.

Action

45. USHA assured members that the implementation progress of the Sports Park had been satisfactory, and on schedule. As regards the justifications for extending the post, USHA advised that the post was originally created in 2018 for handling the preliminary work for the Sports Park relating to the tendering exercise, including the drafting of tender requirements and leading the work on tender evaluation, for the Sports Park before the award of the contract. The Administration proposed to extend the post as there was a genuine service need for the post to oversee the implementation and progress of the development of Sports Park until its scheduled completion in 2023. This arrangement was consistent with the usual practice of handling supernumerary posts of a similar nature.

46. USHA further said that the Contracted Party would be subjected to \$4.3 million per day liquidated damages for failing to meet the target schedule set out in the terms of the contract, which should be sufficient in deterring the Contracted Party from deliberately delaying the project.

47. Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") supplemented that the post was responsible for, inter alia, scrutinizing closely the project's progress and controlling the budget based on the programme and estimate submitted by the Contracted Party. To this end, the post holder had the responsibility to verify if expenses claimed by the Contracted Party were consistent with the project progress. Also, should there be any delays in progress, the post holder had to ensure that the Contracted Party would pick up the pace of the construction to adhere to the project programme.

48. In response to a further enquiry by Mr LUK Chung-hung, C for S said that the total project estimate approved by FC was a budget ceiling; actual expenditure would be contingent on the expenses incurred, the claims of which would be under heavy scrutiny by the post holder and his team. If the total project expenditure exceeded the project estimate approved by FC, the Government would need to seek FC's approval for supplementary provisions. Mr LUK said that the post holder should be highly diligent in ensuring that the Sports Park could be completed on schedule, so no further extension of the supernumerary post would be needed.

49. Mr Holden CHOW noted that the post was responsible for working with C for S on a wide range of duties concerning overseeing the implementation of the Sports Park. He enquired about whether there had been major changes and/or alterations relating to the implementation of the Sports Park that was not in line with the Government's interests and warranted intervention by the post holder.

50. C for S said that as the construction of the Sports Park had been progressing according to the target schedule, there had yet been any major changes and/or alterations.

Action

51. Mr Holden CHOW enquired about the construction progress of the Sports Park and proportion of the total project estimate expended.

52. C for S advised that at present, the piling works of the Sports Park had generally been completed while superstructure construction had commenced as scheduled. Detailed design of the Sports Park was also underway. As for the expenditure of the Contract, the works of the Sports Park had been going on for two years, and the total amount of project estimates spent was about 10% of the total project estimate. This expenditure pattern was typical for this type of contract procurement method, where higher expenditure would be expected after completion of the piling works. As such, the Administration envisioned that the expenditure should increase accordingly.

53. After discussion, the Chairman said that members supported the submission of the staffing proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration.

VII. Any other business

54. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:49 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 May 2021