Bills Committee on Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganization) Bill

List of concerns (as at 12 October 1999)

		Subject	Date of Meeting	Administration's response	Remarks
1.	Tran autho	sfer of powers and delegation of ority			
	1.1	The Administration to explain the legislative or administrative arrangements in relation to the transfer of powers from the former authority to the new authority when the Ordinance comes into operation (e.g. whether gazette notice of new delegations is required).	13.5.1999	CB(2)2088/98-99(01)	
	1.2	The Administration to provide a list of legislative or administrative means to implement the main recommendations of the Consultancy Report.	13.5.1999	CB(2)2088/98-99(01)	
	1.3	The Administration to elaborate on the procedures for delegation of statutory powers to new categories of public officers after the transfer of authority.	25.5.1999	CB(2)2204/98-99(01)	
	1.4	The Administration to provide a comparison table showing the delegation and authorization arrangements for the statutory powers and the categories of authorized officers under different sections of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132).	4.6.1999	Appendix III to Paper No. CB(2)2387/98-99(01)	

	1.5	The Administration to consider whether designation of one single authority will suffice in respect of section 83A under paragraph 84 of Schedule 3.	15.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
2.	Fees	and charges			
	2.1	The Administration to provide a list of existing fees and charges, categorized by their subsidy levels (including those on full cost-recovery), together with the rationale on the subsidy levels or charging principles.	25.5.1999	CB(2)2204/98-99(01)	
	2.2	The Administration to respond to some members' suggestion of a two-tier fee-setting mechanism (requiring LegCo approval of the subsidy range) for cultural and recreational services.	25.5.1999	CB(2)2204/98-99(01)	
	2.3	The Administration to provide a paper on the proposed mechanism to facilitate LegCo's monitoring over setting the fees for cultural and recreational services.	11.6.1999	CB(2)2374/98-99(01)	
	2.4	The Administration to propose a mechanism, for example, by way of subsidiary legislation, to enable the LegCo to vet and approve certain fees and charges for "basic" services.	25.6.1999		Verbal response by DS(HA) on 8.10.1999 (see also 2.9).
	2.5	The Administration to consider a "CPI-x" model for the determination of subsidy level.	25.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	
	2.6	The Administration to provide information on the frequency of the fee revisions approved by the municipal councils.	25.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	

	2.7	The Administration to clarify whether the District Councils will have a role in approving fees and charges.	25.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	
	2.8	The Administration to provide a paper on the existing and proposed mechanism to determine the market stall rentals and the appeal systems.	30.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(05)	
	2.9	The Administration to provide a composite paper on the criteria/rationale and scope of the proposed negative vetting mechanism for setting the fees and charges in respect of certain popular leisure and cultural facilities.	8.10.1999		Response awaited.
	2.10	The Administration to consider deleting "with the approval of the Financial Secretary" from the new section 124J(1) (new part XIA under paragraph 63 of Schedule 3 of the Bill).	8.10.1999		Response awaited.
	2.11	The Administration to provide a breakdown of the 2000 types of fees and charges for cultural and leisure programmes/activities requiring frequent adjustments in response to market changes.	8.10.1999		Response awaited.
3.		savings to be achieved by the ganization			
	3.1	The Administration to provide information on the total savings to be achieved by the re-organization upon passage of the Bill.	25.5.1999	CB(2)2204/98-99(01) The Administration is studying the staffing establishments of the new structure and will inform Members when details are available.	

	fer of property, rights and			
<u>liabili</u>	ities			
4.1	The Administration to examine the legal effect of clauses 4, 5 and 6 concerning the transfer of property, rights and liabilities of the PMCs to the Government as to whether it can adequately deal with requests for re-negotiation of contracts or claims for compensation by parties to the contracts or by the third party affected by the transfer.	4.6.1999	CB(2)2374/98-99(02)	
4.2	The Administration to provide a list of contracts which were now under negotiation by PMCs or their executive departments and which will likely take effect or continue to be in force after 31 December 1999.	4.6.1999	Appendices I and II to Paper No. CB(2)2387/98-99(01) and CB(2)2522/98-99(03)	
4.3	The Administration to respond whether the Government can be sued by PMCs under clause 5(3) and (4), and whether the Government is currently exempted from certain obligations and liabilities under existing legislation.	4.6.1999	CB(2)2374/98-99(02)	
4.4	The Administration to clarify the arrangements for the use of "UC" and "RC" in car numbers after 31 December 1999, and the transfer of intellectual property including the armorial bearings of PMCs and the artistic work of artists having contracts with PMCs.	4.6.1999	CB(2)2374/98-99(02)	
4.5	The Administration to explain whether the employees of the municipal councils will continue to enjoy the protection of the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) after the transfer.	4.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	

	4.6	The Administration to explain the possibility for a party to rescind contract upon the transfer of the contractual rights and liabilities to the	25.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	
	4.7	Government. The Administration to clarify whether contracts or agreements signed by committees of the municipal councils will have the same status as contracts signed by the councils.	25.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	
	4.8	The Administration to ascertain whether any of the existing contracts signed by the municipal councils contain provisions against transfer of rights and liabilities.	25.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	
	4.9	The Administration to clarify whether the Bill can adequately deal with contractual relationship between the councils and other territories or governments after the transfer.	25.6.1999	CB(2)2522/98-99(02)	
	4.10	The Administration to provide details of a court case relating to recovery of rental arrears after transfer of ownership.	25.6.1999	CB(2)2510/98-99	
	4.11	The Administration to confirm whether the court judgement on the above case has any impact on the Bill.	6.7.1999	CB(2)2598/98-99(02)	
5.		equential, transitional and gs provisions (clauses 10 and			
	5.1	The Administration to explain the purpose of clause 10 in respect of offences and to improve clarity of the drafting.	6.7.1999	CB(2)2598/98-99(02)	

5.2	The Administration to provide a copy of the relevant sections in other legislation which contain similar provisions as clause 11 .	6.7.1999	Enclosures I to IV to Annex A to Paper No. CB(2)2598/98-99(02)	
5.3	The Administration to provide a paper on the purpose and legal effects of clause 11.	6.7.1999	Annex A to Paper No. CB(2)2598/98-99(02)	
5.4	The Administration to provide examples on how continuing offences were dealt with after the enactment of the Hong Kong Reunification Ordinance.	20.7.1999	CB(2)2630/98-99(02)	
5.5	The Administration to limit the scope of clause 11 to consequential, savings and transitional provisions only.	20.7.1999	CB(2)2630/98-99(02)	
5.6	The Administration to explain why clause 11 is necessary and who can seek a judicial review if the provisions made exceeds the enabling powers.	20.7.1999	CB(2)2630/98-99(02)	
betwe	nciliation of differences een subsidiary legislation edules 1 and 2)			
6.1	The Administration to provide a comparison table on the provisions of the subsidiary legislation as listed in Schedules 1 and 2 .	6.7.1999	Annex B to Paper No. CB(2)2598/98-99(02)	

7.	Divis	ion of responsibilities among			
		rnment departments and nizations (Schedule 3)			
	7.1	The Administration to explain the division of responsibilities among the Department of Health, the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and the proposed Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.	20.7.1999	CB(2)2630/98-99(02)	
	7.2	The Administration to elaborate division of responsibilities in respect of food and drug hygiene under Cap. 132.	23.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(03)	
	7.3	The Administration to elaborate in detail the procedures and authorities under the proposed organizational structure in dealing with outbreak of foodborne diseases.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(04)	
	7.4	The Administration to provide a comparison of the existing and proposed procedures in dealing with food and environmental hygiene matters.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	7.5	The Administration to explain the existing and proposed arrangements for secondment of health officers from the Department of Health.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	7.6	The Administration to explain the authorities for identification and control of communicable diseases, including those involving bathing beaches, livestock and seafood.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	

	7.7	The Administration to consider transferring the control and management of public cemeteries under paragraph 56 to another department.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	7.8	The Administration to consider transferring the responsibilities for exhumations under paragraph 58 to another department.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	7.9	The Administration to provide a paper on the role of the proposed Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene.	30.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	7.10	The Administration to provide supplementary information to elaborate the proposed division of responsibilities for food and environmental hygiene matters.	10.9.1999		Response awaited.
	7.11	The Administration to take urgent action to review the authorities for taking charge of certain grey areas in food and drug matters under section 60 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance.	29.9.1999		Response awaited.
8.	Repe	al of subsidiary legislation			
	8.1	The Administration to explain why it proposes to repeal sections 40 and 40A in the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) relating to labourers' lines, since labourers' lines still exist in some remote areas.	13.5.1999	CB(2)2088/98-99(01)	
	8.2	The Administration to provide supplementary information on whether existing legislation can adequate cover those by-laws to be repealed in Schedule 2 .	20.7.1999	Annex A to Paper No. CB(2)2646/98-99(02)	

	8.3	The Administration to advise whether there are other by-laws under Cap. 132 which have been repealed.	23.7.1999	CB(2)2646/98-99(02)	
9.	_	ments, Hotels and Boarding es (Schedule 3)			
	9.1	The Administration to explain whether section 87 need to be retained.	23.7.1999	CB(2)2646/98-99(02)	
10.	Other	provisions in Schedule 3			
	10.1	The Administration to clarify the various authorities for granting permission to post bills, posters and billboards under paragraph 42 .	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	10.2	The Administration to clarify the policy and arrangements for the display of art collections in places other than the museums under paragraph 45.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	10.3	The Administration to clarify the need to retain the word "organized" in reference to games and sports under paragraph 50.	27.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	10.4	The Administration to explain its initial views on the Consultant Report on streamlining food business licensing.	30.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02) and (06)	
	10.5	The Administration to provide a paper on the existing regulatory systems and the feasibility of providing uniform standards for public and private swimming pools.	30.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(07)	

10.6	The Administration to provide a paper on the rationale for applying different regulatory requirements to public markets in Government and Housing Authority premises and markets in private premises.	30.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(05)	
10.7	The Administration to provide more details on the future arrangement/policy considerations for fixing the public market rental in urban areas and in the New Territories.	10.9.1999		Response awaited.
10.8	The Administration to advise whether section 94 under paragraph 84 will be retained or deleted.	15.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
10.9	The Administration to provide information in the practice of the Provisional Urban Council in vetting applications in respect of section 105P under paragraph 84.	15.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
10.10	The Administration to provide a comparison table to explain the differences between existing and proposed authorities who will initiate proceedings for offences under section 131(1) (paragraph 87).	15.9.1999	CB(2)2886/98-99	
10.11	The Administration to provide information on the rationale of section 105S of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and to review its drafting.	29.9.1999		Response awaited.

	10.12	The Administration to review and provide further information on the mechanism, criteria and public consultation arrangements for naming of new streets and alteration of existing street names under section 111D of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance.	29.9.1999		Response awaited.
	10.13	The Administration to explain the licensing criteria for public table tennis saloon and billiard establishment under paragraph 91.	15.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
11.		osed appeal mechanism edule 3 and 4)			
	11.1	The Administration to provide a paper on the rationale of the existing and proposed appeal mechanisms and the proposed membership.	30.7.1999	CB(2)2747/98-99(02)	
	11.2	The Administration to consider including a member of the relevant District Board in the panel of the Municipal Services Appeal Board.	29.9.1999		Response awaited.
	11.3	The Administration to consider including market stall tenancy cases (and rentals) in the appropriate appeals mechanism.	29.9.1999		Response awaited.
	11.4	The Administration to consider how the existing functions of Review Committees of the two Provisional Municipal Councils can be adequately covered by the proposed appeals mechanisms.	5.10.1999		Response awaited.

	11.6	The Administration to consider whether there should be restriction for government departments to make use of the second tier appeals mechanism. The Administration to provide information on the current criteria for determining whether an appeals hearing should be held in camera.	5.10.1999 5.10.1999		Response awaited. Response awaited.
12.	(parag	tisement Regulation graphs 145 - 152) The Administration to review section 11 under paragraph 149.	15.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
13.	Bathin (paras	ng Beaches Regulation graphs 153 - 168) The Administration to consider deleting section 13 (paragraph 165) on public meetings and assemblies on bathing beaches as there are already separate legislation governing public assemblies and proceedings.	15.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 15.2 and 25.3.
14.	(parag	mercial Bathhouses Regulation graphs 180 - 194) The Administration to explain the licensing policy, standards and procedures for bathhouses in private clubhouses, fitness centres and large private residential estates.	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(03)	

15.	Reme	nation and Gardens of embrance Regulation agraphs 195 - 222)			
	15.1	The Administration to explain why there is a residency requirement for disposal of ashes at a crematorium under section 13 (paragraph 207).	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
	15.2	The Administration to consider deleting the provisions governing public meetings and clothings as these provisions under section 15 (paragraph 209) are out-dated and redundant.	17.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 13.1 and 25.3.
	15.3	The Administration to provide further information on the registration policy, procedures and monitoring of private crematoria in respect of New Part IIIA (paragraph 212).	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
	15.4	The Administration to provide further information on the proposed arrangement for cremation of the dead bodies of pets, and incineration of animal carcasses and clinical waste, etc.	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
16.		Business Regulation agraphs 231 - 266)			
	16.1	The Administration to provide further information on the rationale/policy for exemptions.	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
	16.2	The Administration to provide further information on the purpose of proposed amendment and the legal effects of paragraph 248 .	17.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	

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	16.3	The Administration to provide reasons for adopting the Regional Council By-laws which imposed more stringent licensing conditions than the Urban Council under paragraph 260.	17.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	16.4	The Administration to consider re-inserting "accidentally defaced" under section 31(6) for the issue of a duplicate licence under paragraph 250(e).	17.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	16.5	The Administration to review the licensing policy and requirements for the sale of various types of prohibited/restricted food in restaurants under Schedules 1 and 2 of the Regulation.	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
17.		en Confections Regulation egraph 277)			
	17.1	The Administration to advise whether hawkers of frozen confections are actually required to wear uniforms and display numbers.	17.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	17.2	The Administration to confirm that the existing policies of Provisional Urban Council and Provisional Regional Council for itinerant hawkers in urban areas and the New Territories will remain unchanged for, say, two years, after the reorganization.	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	

	17.3	The Administration to consider re-inserting section 18(1)(i) of the Frozen Confections (Regional Council) By-laws under section 18 of the proposed Regulation (for prohibiting manufacture and storage of frozen confections near soil fitments or latrine fitments).	17.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 22.1.
18.		ral Parlours Regulation ngraph 304)			
	18.1	The Administration to consider deleting "under the age of 21 years" as a condition for revocation of licence.	17.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
19.		cer Regulation ngraphs 315 - 318)			
	19.1	The Administration to provide a comparison table to illustrate the differences between the existing and proposed provisions, and to provide the reasons for adopting the proposed provisions.	17.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(04)	To discuss at future meetings.
20.		ries Regulation ngraphs 372 - 404)			
	20.1	The Administration to consider whether the Regulation should be renamed as Public Libraries Regulation.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	20.2	The Administration to consider whether it was necessary for the librarian to impose restriction on the taking of writing implements into the library.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	

21.		nration of Markets Notice ngraph 405)			
	21.1	The Administration to consider whether the Schedule should set out the complete list of markets in both Chinese and English.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
22.		Regulation graphs 406 - 441)			
	22.1	The Administration to consider re-inserting the provision prohibiting the processing, reconstituting or storage of any milk or milk beverage in any part of the premises containing any soil fitment or latrine fitment as one of the licensing requirements.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 17.3.
	22.2	The Administration to consider adding the phrase "the temperature to which the milk or the milk beverage is subsequently cooled" to section 19(1).	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
23.		eums Regulation agraphs 442 - 454)			
	23.1	The Administration to consider requiring museums to open on Sunday and public holidays in the legislation.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	23.2	The Administration to review the necessity to include provision regarding absolute exclusion of liabilities for lose or damage in all relevant Regulations under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 27.2.

	23.3	The Administration to explain the rationale of the 20% surcharge under section 11.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
24.		nsive Trades Regulation ngraphs 456 - 468)			
	24.1	The Administration to consider the implications of introducing additional licensing conditions to offensive trades under section 10(1) in the existing jurisdiction of the Provisional Urban Council and whether a grace period should be allowed for implementation.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	24.2	The Administration to consider deleting the word "absolute" before "discretion" in section 19.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	24.3	The Administration to explain the rationale for setting the age limit at 14 under section 21 (Restrictions as to certain persons).	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 34.1.
25.		ure Grounds Regulation ngraphs 491 - 514)			
	25.1	The Administration to consider whether the amendment to add "statue or other sculpture" to section 20(1) is necessary.	22.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	25.2	The Administration to consider whether it is necessary to add "hand cart" to section 14(1).	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	25.3	The Administration to consider whether it is necessary to retain section 28 (Public addresses, etc.) as there are other legislation governing public addresses, public meeting or procession.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 13.1 and 15.2.

26.		te Cemeteries Regulation agraphs 517 - 530) The Administration to consider whether it is necessary to retain section 9(2) in respect of prohibition to leave any coffin or urn deposited on the surface of the ground.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
27.		c Cemeteries Regulation agraphs 550 - 564)			
	27.1	The Administration to review the drafting of the Chinese version of section 7A (Size of grave covering and restriction on interments) to provide greater clarity.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	27.2	The Administration to provide background information on section 9 (Government or Council not liable for loss of or damage to articles) introduced in 1996.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 23.2.
	27.3	The Administration to provide a list of provisions in the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and the Regulations and examples in other legislation which contain similar disclaimer clause.	24.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	
28.		c Cleansing and Prevention of ances Regulation (paragraphs 586)			
	28.1	The Administration to consider whether a uniform age, say, 14 or 16, should be adopted for section 15 and in other Regulations.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	

29.			24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
30.		c Markets Regulation agraphs 610 - 622)	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
31.	(para)	The Administration to consider deleting "or so sparsely clad" from section 4(k). The Administration to review the age limit (8 years old) or the height restriction (1.35 metres) under section 7 (Exclusion from dressing rooms allocated to persons of the other sex).	24.9.1999 24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01) CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
32.		thterhouses Regulation agraphs 648 - 685) The Administration to consider imposing more stringent licensing conditions to reduce noise pollution and nuisance caused to the neighbourhood of Tsuen Wan Slaughterhouse.	24.9.1999	CB(2)96/99-00(02)	

33.		nming Pools Regulation ngraphs 700 - 714)			
	33.1	The Administration to consider adding provision of equivalent latrine accommodation such as aquaprives and chemical closets under section 6(1)(h).	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	33.2	The Administration to consider whether more stringent licensing requirements contained in the existing Regional Council By-laws for private swimming pools should be adopted, provided that a grace period for implementation is allowed.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
	33.3	The Administration to consider deleting the obsolete provisions regarding hire of towels in section 15.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	
34.		rtakers of Burials Regulation agraphs 715 - 726)			
	34.1	The Administration to consider removing the age limit in section 7 (Refusals and revocations).	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	See also 24.3.
	34.2	The Administration to consider improving the drafting of section 8 by adopting the version in the existing Urban Council By-laws.	24.9.1999	CB(2)67/99-00(01)	

35.	-	or Licensing Board edule 5)		
	35.1	The Administration to re-consider whether the number of members, quorum requirements and frequency of meetings are appropriate and adequate to cope with the future workload of the Liquor Licensing Board.	5.10.1999	Response awaited.
	35.2	The Administration to consider the suggestion of improving the operation of the Liquor Licensing Board to ensure fair hearings and decisions, e.g. setting up several smaller panels.	5.10.1999	Response awaited.
	35.3	The Administration to provide the definition and coverage of "clubs" and the current criteria/procedures for exemption from the requirement of a liquor licence.	8.10.1999	Response awaited.
	35.4	The Administration to provide the number of liquor licence applications which would await a decision by the Provisional Municipal Councils by 31 December 1999.	8.10.1999	Response awaited.
	35.5	The Administration to address the enforcement problem under Section 32 of the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations concerning the power to apprehend persons drinking intoxicated liquor outside the licensed hours in licensed premises.	8.10.1999	Response awaited.

36.	<u>Consequential and Miscellaneous</u> <u>Amendments (Schedule 7)</u>		
	36.1 The Administration to provide a paper/table setting out the significant changes to those ordinances in Schedule 7.	8.10.1999	Response awaited.

Legislative Council Secretariat

12 October 1999