# ITEM FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEAD 703 - BUILDINGS Recreation, Culture and Amenity - Open spaces 369RO - Improvement to Victoria Park in Causeway Bay

Members are invited to recommend to Finance Committee the direct injection of **369RO** to Category A at an estimated cost of \$256.6 million in money-of-the-day prices for the improvement to the Victoria Park in Causeway Bay.

#### **PROBLEM**

The existing facilities and infrastructure capacity including water and electricity supply in the Victoria Park cannot meet current standards and requirements.

# **PROPOSAL**

2. The Director of Architectural Services (D Arch S), with the support of the Secretary for Home Affairs, proposes to directly inject **369RO** to Category A at an estimated cost of \$256.6 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices to carry out improvement works to Victoria Park.

# PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

3. The project will provide the following improvements -

- (a) upgrading of all infrastructure facilities in the Park including lighting, power supply, water supply, irrigation, plumbing and drainage systems;
- (b) upgrading of the Park's recreational facilities including soccer pitches, basketball courts, jogging track and children's play areas;
- (c) upgrading of the Park's ancillary facilities, including toilets and changing rooms, public address system, bandstand, rain-shelters, pavilions, paving and footways, seats and benches;
- (d) enlargement of the Park's main entrances to facilitate the circulation of pedestrians and create a more intimate linkage between the Park and the city; and
- (e) incorporation of new design features and more softlandscaping works to upgrade the quality of the Park and urban greenery.

A site plan is at the Enclosure for Members' reference. We plan to start the improvement works by phases from April 2000 for completion in December 2002. We will divide the Park into a number of areas and carry out the works by phases with one or two discrete areas being included in each phase. During the construction period, we will open the unaffected parts of the Park to the public.

# **JUSTIFICATION**

- 4. The main purpose of the project is to improve the infrastructure and recreational facilities of Victoria Park and to upgrade its quality to that of a modern city park.
- 5. Victoria Park has been in use since 1957. It is well patronized and is a major venue for organising large outdoor functions and activities on Hong Kong Island. We have carried out certain minor improvements and regular maintenance works in the past but the limited infrastructural capacity and the lack of a comprehensive improvement plan have limited the scope of earlier works. There is no formal water supply system for irrigation purposes and we have to use pipes and rubber tubes to divert water from the existing service building to water

the plants. The capacity of the electricity supply is inadequate to meet the present-day requirements and this has made it difficult to improve the illumination in the Park. Whenever large functions are held, we have to seek temporary additional power supply from the Hong Kong Electric Company Limited. The tarmac surfacing on of the soccer pitches is coarse and not durable. Apart from the potential to cause injuries to players, it is vulnerable to damage due to the erection of temporary structures for the holding of functions. The existing main entrances at Great George Street, Sugar Street and Hing Fat Street are too small and we encounter difficulties in regulating the flow of pedestrians when large functions are held in the Park. Other facilities like toilets and changing rooms, paving, seats and benches, rain-shelters and pavilions are in a dilapidated condition and need to be replaced with a better design.

- 6. To resolve the aforesaid problems and to upgrade the quality of Victoria Park to meet the rising aspirations of the community, we need to carry out comprehensive improvement works to the Park as proposed in paragraph 3 above.
- 7. Members are asked to note that the proposed North Hong Kong Island Railway Reserve runs along the northern part of the Park. We will confine the proposed upgrading works under this project to minor improvements to the limited facilities currently located on the Reserve, namely, part of the children's play area and a courtyard garden.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. We estimate the capital cost of this project to be \$256.6 million, in MOD prices (see paragraph 9 below), made up as follows –

		\$ million
(a)	Site clearance	15.1
(b)	Building	8.4
(c)	Building services	38.9
(d)	Drainage and external works	130.6

the EMSTF.

		\$ million	
(e)	Soft landscaping works	11.0	
(f)	Furniture and equipment	0.5	
(g)	Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Funds (EMSTF) for project management <sup>1</sup>	0.1	
(h)	Contingencies	22.9	
	Sub-total	227.5	(at December 1998 prices)
(i)	Provisions for price adjustment	29.1	
	Total	256.6	(in MOD prices)

9. Subject to approval, we will phase the expenditure as follows -

Year	\$ million (Dec 1998)	Price adjustment factor	s million (MOD)		
1999 – 2000	3.0	1.01500	3.0		
2000 - 2001	38.7	1.05814	41.0		
2001 - 2002	105.4	1.11104	117.1		

/2002 - 2003

Since the establishment of the EMSTF on 1 August 1996 under the Trading Funds Ordinance, government departments are charged for design and technical consultancy services for electrical and mechanical installations provided by EMSTF. Services rendered for this project include project management services for the provision of electrical and mechanical installations. The figures above are based on estimates prepared by the Director of Architectural Services. The actual cost for the service charges is subject to further negotiation between the Government and

2002 - 2003	56.9	1.16660	66.4
2003 – 2004	19.4	1.22493	23.8
2004 - 2005	4.1	1.28617	5.3
	227.5		256.6

- 10. We derived the MOD prices on the basis of Government's latest forecast of trend labour and construction prices for the period 1999 to 2005. We will tender the contract on a lump-sum basis with provision for price fluctuation because the construction period will be longer than 21 months.
- 11. The project will not give rise to any additional annually recurrent expenditure.

# **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

12. We consulted the then Eastern Provisional District Board and Provisional Urban Council in February 1997 and December 1998 respectively. Members supported the project. The Administration consulted the LegCo Subcommittee to Follow up on Outstanding Capital Projects of the Two Provisional Municipal Councils for Inclusion into Government's Public Works Programme on 1 February 2000 and Members did not raise any questions on the proposal to inject this project into the Public Works Programme (PWP) as a Category A item.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. The Director of Architectural Services completed an Environmental Study in March 1998. The Director of Environmental Protection vetted the Environmental Study and agreed that the works will not have long term environmental impacts that exceed the established criteria, after provision of the recommended mitigation measures. We will control construction nuisance through implementation of good site practices including the use of silencers, mufflers, and frequent cleaning and watering of the site. In the operational stage, we will provide a 30 m wide landscaping area as a vehicular emission buffer from the Victoria Park Road.

14. We estimate about 300 cubic metres of construction and demolition waste will be disposed of at landfills and 30 000 cubic metres of public fill will be delivered to public filling areas. In the planning and design stages, we considered ways of reducing the generation of construction and demolition waste, such as specifying the use of recycled materials or proprietary equipment, and refurbishing, rather than replacing, building elements wherever possible. Reusable metal hoardings are specified, and the contractor will be encouraged to use non-timber formwork and other temporary elements during construction. We will require the relevant contractor to submit a waste management plan to D Arch S for approval, with appropriate mitigation measures including allocation of an area for waste segregation. We will ensure that the day-to-day operations on site comply with the waste management plan submitted. We will also require the contractor to re-use as far as possible the excavated material as filling materials on site or at other sites in order to minimize the disposal of public fill to public filling areas. As a result, we will require the contractor to separate public fill from construction and demolition waste for disposal at appropriate locations and to sort the construction and demolition waste by category on site to facilitate reuse/re-cycling in order to reduce the generation of such waste. We will also control the disposal of public fill and construction and demolition waste to a designated public-filling facility and/or landfills respectively through a trip ticket system, and record the disposal, re-use and re-cycling of construction and demolition materials for monitoring purposes.

# LAND ACQUISITION

15. The project does not require land acquisition.

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

16. At the Public Works Subcommittee meeting and Finance Committee meeting on 8 December 1999 and 17 December 1999 respectively, the Administration agreed to set aside funding for 12 projects which had received funding approval from the two Provisional Municipal Councils but which had not yet entered into any contractual commitments, and to fast-track the direct injection of these projects to Category A of the Public Works Programme.

369RO is one of the 12 projects. There is no change to the original project scope, estimated cost and programme.

17.	D Arch	ı S	has	substantially	completed	the	detailed	design	of	the
project using in-house staff resources.										

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