

Appendix I to LC Paper No. CB(2)910/03-04

Panel on Home Affairs

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 January 2004)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Policy on the preservation of heritage and monuments

Item proposed by Hon IP Kwok-him at the meeting on 11 January 2002. Hon Tommy CHEUNG requested in writing on 1 November 2002 that the Administration should explain how to resolve conflicts between Government's policy on and development plans of privately owned historical buildings. Members also want to be briefed on the outcome of the review of the policy and ordinance(s) relating to the preservation of monuments in Hong Kong.

February 2004

The motion on "Policy on heritage preservation" moved by Hon LAU Ping-cheung was carried at the Council meeting on 12 February 2003. According to the Administration, it is intended to launch a public consultation exercise on the policy on heritage conservation before the end of 2003. A related issue was raised at the Members' meetings with Wong Tai Sin District Council members on 10 January and 31 October 2002. Duty Roster Members also received views on this subject from representatives of a private archaeological company on 31 March 2003.

2. Government boards and committee system

The results of a survey on government advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) conducted by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in 2001 and improvement measures recommended by HAB were discussed on 12 March 2002. Members suggested that the Administration should undertake a comprehensive review of the ASB system and provide a report on the review for discussion.

February 2004

At the meeting on 14 March 2003, the Administration briefed members on the review of ASBs being conducted. The Administration proposed to provide a progress report on this issue in February 2004.

3. Management and resumption of private streets

At the Members' meeting with Kowloon City District Council on 14 March 2002, resumption of private streets was discussed. It was suggested that the Administration should introduce legislation to improve the management of private streets. This issue was also discussed at the Members' meeting with Wanchai District Council on 3 April 2003. Hon IP Kwok-him moved a motion on "Resumption of private streets" at the Council meeting on 11 June 2003. The motion as amended by Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun was carried.

To be confirmed

4. Application for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence (the PPE licence)

At the Members' meeting with Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) on 4 July 2002, KTDC members requested that non-profit making activities jointly organized with Government departments should be exempted from the application for the PPE licence and that activities subsidized by Government should benefit from a simplified procedure. They opined that the application procedures for the PPE licence were cumbersome and not conducive to the objective of promoting community relationship. Members attending the meeting considered it necessary to review the relevant licensing procedure and explore if it was possible to waive such organisers the charges for the PPE licence and for the relevant Fire Services Certificate. The subject was referred to this Panel for follow-up on 30 July 2002.

March 2004

According to the Administration, it will consider whether the valid period of a permanent PPE licence can be extended to at least 24 months. It will also review the differences in fees of an annual PPE licence in the urban and New Territories (NT) areas. The review should be completed by October 2003.

5. Grant of land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organizations

An oral question was raised at the Council meeting on 13 November 2002 about the grant of government land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organizations for use as clubs or clubhouses. The Administration has been requested to review the criteria for the grant of land for sports and recreational uses.

March/April 2004

6. Enforcement of maintenance order

a. Setting up an intermediary body for the collection of maintenance payments

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Hon CHOY So-yuk. The issue was last discussed by the Panel on 8 February 2002. The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has also recommended this Panel to discuss the setting up of such an intermediary body.

b. Streamlining the relevant court procedures

March 2004

The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has requested the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services (AJLS) to follow up with the Administration on ways to streamline the court procedures in relation to enforcement of maintenance order and to address the problem of evasion of service of summons by maintenance payers who have defaulted on their maintenance payments. Some members of the Bills Committee have suggested that the summons should be considered to have been served so long as the summons has been served to the address provided by the payer.

Director of Administration has recently advised that the Home Affairs Bureau may be ready to discuss the item in January 2004. AJLS Panel has agreed that as the item falls under the policy area of the Home Affairs Bureau, it is more appropriate for the matter to be followed up by this Panel.

7. Future development of public libraries

The Panel received a briefing on the report of the consultancy study on the future development of public libraries on 13 December 2002. Members agreed that the Administration should report to the Panel before finalizing its recommendations on the future development of public libraries. An interim report should be available around June/July 2004.

June/July 2004

8. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk (HYK)

At the meeting of the Duty Roster Members with representatives of the Association of NT Indigenous Residents on 16 December 2002, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the provisions of the Heung Yee Kuk Ordinance (Cap. 1097) under which the NT Justices of the Peace (JPs) also served as Ex Officio Councillors of the Full Council and Ex Officio Members of the Executive Committee of HYK. They considered that the NT JPs, and Special Councillors and Co-opted Councillors of HYK could not represent and protect the interests of the villagers and indigenous inhabitants of NT and requested that the membership of HYK should be reviewed. Their views and requests were referred to the Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

April/May 2004

This item may be considered along with item 13 and can be discussed after HYK elections which would take place on 1 December 2003.

9. Promotion of youth development

At the policy briefing held on 15 January 2003, members noted that the Commission on Youth (the Commission) had submitted a draft report on unemployment problems of young people to the Chief Executive recently. Members have requested to be briefed on how HAB would cooperate with the Commission to tackle youth problems.

First quarter of
2004

10. Priority of the provision of leisure and cultural services facilities

This issue was last discussed at the meeting on 11 April 2003. Members requested that the subject should be further discussed in June 2003 or when the results of the Consultancy Study on the Provision of Regional/District Cultural and Performance Facilities were available. A paper provided by the Administration responding to the concerns raised at that meeting was issued on 10 July 2003.

March/April 2004

The House Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils on 20 June 2003. According to the recommendations, this Panel should follow up the outstanding projects involving leisure and cultural facilities and receive periodic progress reports by the Administration on these projects.

Consideration can be given to combining this item and item 7 when discussed.

11. Sports policy review and problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations

The new administrative structure for sports development was discussed by the Panel on 14 and 29 July 2003. Supplementary information on the detailed arrangements for the new administrative structure provided by the Administration was issued to members on 24 October 2003 under LC Paper No. CB(2)178/03-04.

March/April 2004

At the meeting on 9 October 2003, Hon Albert CHAN proposed to discuss problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations (NSAs). He considered that the Administration should look into problems relating to the administration, financial arrangements, structures and selection of members of NSAs.

12. Research on monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of international human rights treaties in selected places

At its meeting on 9 May 2003, the Panel requested the Research and Library Services Division to conduct a

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research on monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of international human rights treaties in selected places. The Panel endorsed the research outline at its meeting on 14 July 2003. The research will be completed by the end of November 2003.

13. Traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT

At LegCo Members' meeting with HYK Councillors on 10 June 2003, the issues relating to the enactment of legislation to implement Article 40 of the Basic Law and exemption from payment of Government rent were discussed. Members agreed that the issues involved policy consideration on the traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers in NT. The views of HYK Councillors were referred to the Panel for follow-up on 4 August 2003. Members attending the meeting have suggested that HYK should be invited to give views to the Panel when the issues are discussed.

April/May 2004

This item will be discussed together with item 8.

14. Human rights reports

At the meeting on 9 October 2003, Hon Emily LAU proposed that the Panel should convene a meeting to receive views from deputations on the following two reports -

June/July 2004

- (a) the Second Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China in the light of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and
- (b) the Report of the HKSAR under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Administration has advised that China's initial report under the ICESCR, of which the second report of the HKSAR forms a part, is scheduled for hearing in the spring of 2005. The session will run from 25 April to 13 May 2005. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has scheduled the hearing of China's second report under the Child Convention (of which the initial report of the HKSAR

forms a part) for May 2005.

- 15. Request for the Government to formulate a child policy as well as measures to improve the living environment of poor children and assist them to eradicate poverty based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child** To be confirmed

At the meeting of Duty Roster Members (DRM) with representatives of the Society for Community Organisation (SOCO) on 20 November 2003, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the Government's failure to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They urged Members to request the Government to formulate a child policy as well as measures to improve the living conditions of poor children. They also provided a copy of their survey report on the overcrowded living conditions of poor children to DRM members. On the instruction of the DRM members, the subject has been referred to this Panel and the Panels on Welfare Services and Housing for consideration.

This item may be considered along with item 14.

- 16. Research study on hosting of the 2009 East Asian Games** To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 December 2003, the Panel agreed that the Research and Library Services Division should conduct a research study on the experience of hosting previous East Asian (EA) Games and the possible economic and other impact of hosting the 2009 EA Games on Hong Kong. Members also agreed that a research outline for the study should be provided to the Panel for endorsement at the meeting on 13 February 2004.