

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)1749/16-17
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 27 March 2017, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung

Hon LUK Chung-hung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, MH, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung
Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim
Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

Members attending : Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting

Public Officers attending : Item IV

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Miss Vega WONG Sau-wai, JP
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (4)

Item V

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Angela LEE
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr LAM Wing-hong
Assistant Director (Operations) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr FUNG Man-chung
Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Mrs Alice YU NG Ka-chun
Project Director/3
Architectural Services Department

Mr Tony LEE Cheuk-ming
Chief Project Manager 301
Architectural Services Department

Mrs Clara LEUNG SO Yu-bik
Assistant Director (Administration)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Item VI

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Laurie LO Chi-hong, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mr Vincent FUNG Hao-yin
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic
Affairs) 1

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

Staff in attendance : Mr Richard WONG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mrs Fanny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

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I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1060/16-17]

The minutes of the policy briefing cum meeting on 20 January 2017 were confirmed.

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II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1057/16-17(01)]

Members noted that the Administration's response to the letter dated 23 January 2017 from Hon Nathan LAW [LC Paper No. CB(2)1057/16-17(01)] had been issued after the last meeting.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1038/16-17(01) and (02)]

3. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 24 April 2017 at 8:30 am:

- (a) waterfront promenade adjacent to the Hong Kong Children's Hospital;
- (b) sports ground in Area 16, Tuen Mun – pre-construction works; and
- (c) implementation of New Intelligent Sports and Recreation Services Booking and Information System.

(Post-meeting note: On the instruction of the Chairman, the next regular meeting was rescheduled to 26 April 2017 at 8:45 am.)

4. Ms Tanya CHAN reiterated her concern raised at the last Panel meeting about the proposed timing for discussion of the item "Monitoring of Private Recreational Leases ("PRLs")" on the list of outstanding items for discussion. She said that the Administration should have had completed the policy review on PRLs in 2016, and questioned why the Administration was still unable to brief the Panel on the outcome of the review. The Chairman said that Ms CHAN's concern would be relayed to the Administration for consideration.

Clerk

IV. Review of the Building Management Ordinance

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1038/16-17(03) to (04), CB(2)1071/16-17(01) and (02)]

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on Administration's further legislative proposals

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to update the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) ("BMO") and related administrative measures as detailed in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1038/16-17(03)].

Discussion

Quorum of general meeting for passage of resolutions on large-scale maintenance projects

6. Regarding the new proposal that at least 10% of the owners had to attend the meeting of the owners' corporation ("OC") in person to decide on large-scale maintenance projects, the Chairman, Mr KWOK Wai-keung and Mr HUI Chi-fung expressed concern that it was difficult to meet this requirement given the high threshold. Members also expressed concern about the practical difficulties in arranging venues to accommodate the attendance of a large number of owners particularly for large housing estates.

7. SHA explained that the proposal of raising the quorum of the general meeting for passing resolutions on large-scale maintenance projects from 10% to 20% of the owners sought to encourage owners' participation in making such important decisions, and the proposal received majority support in the previous public consultation exercise. The additional proposal that at least 10% of the owners had to attend the meeting in person aimed to address concerns about the appointment of a large number of proxies and the potential manipulation of proxies in connection with large-scale maintenance projects. The Director of Home Affairs ("DHA") said that as the current quorum requirement under BMO was also 10% of the owners, there was a need to cater for such turnout in planning for an OC meeting. Following the existing practice in venue arrangements, the common areas in housing estates, community halls and school halls could be used for holding OC meetings. The Chairman and Mr WU Chi-wai suggested that the Administration should consider introducing a tiered-system in respect of the quorum requirement which should be set based on the number of flats. They were concerned that for a large housing estate, 10% of the owners could be a very large number. SHA said that the Administration would consider members' views and suggestions.

8. The Chairman suggested that apart from requiring that the notice of meeting be displayed in a prominent place in the building, there should be an additional requirement such that if an OC meeting was held to discuss large-scale maintenance project(s), the notice of meeting should be delivered

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to the owners' homes to ensure that the owners had received the notice. DHA said that at present, BMO already required the secretary of the management committee ("MC") to give the notice of meeting by, amongst others, leaving it at the flat of the owner or depositing it in the letter box for that flat at least 14 days before the date of the meeting. In the "Guidelines on Procurement Process of an OC" published by the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") in 2016, the Administration proposed, as a best practice, where a tender covering a large-scale maintenance project required approval by a resolution passed at a general meeting of OC, the notice of meeting should be given to all owners at least 21 days before the date of the meeting, and the notice should carry a conspicuous "alert" stating the estimated cost for each project, breakdown of the amount to be borne by each share, and the contribution of funds by each owner which might result from approval of the tender. Moreover, it was noted that owners were generally keen to attend OC meetings when large-scale maintenance projects were discussed.

9. In response to Mr Nathan LAW's enquiry, DHA said that the Administration decided not to adopt the original proposal of raising the required percentage of votes from the existing over 50% to 75% to pass resolutions on large-scale maintenance projects because this would render it very difficult to secure sufficient votes, and as a result most maintenance works might not be able to commence. Mr LAW requested the Administration to consider raising the threshold to, say, 60% or 65%, to better protect the owners. The Chairman considered that decisions concerning large-scale maintenance projects should be made with wide participation by owners. Hence, owners who were unable to attend the OC meeting should be allowed to vote "in writing". DHA responded that under the current proposal, the quorum of the general meeting for passing resolutions on large-scale maintenance projects was raised from 10% to 20% of the owners. While at least 10% of the owners had to attend the meeting in person, the other 10% of the owners could include those who were unable to attend and appointed proxy.

Proxy instruments

10. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Mr LAM Cheuk-ting considered that the failure to curb the use of counterfeit proxy instruments at OC meetings had given rise to many building management disputes and alleged bid-rigging. They queried whether the Administration's proposals could effectively plug the existing loopholes. Mr LAU Kwok-fan asked how to ensure that the

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holder of the proxy really voted in accordance with the owner's voting instruction in the proxy instrument, and whether the Administration would prohibit improper practices such as involvement of monetary interests in soliciting proxy instruments from owners. Mr HO Kai-ming considered that to avoid potential conflict of interests, the verification of proxy instruments should not be conducted by MCs and/or property management companies ("PMCs") concerned, particularly when the meeting was held to discuss the election of MC or the appointment of PMC.

11. SHA and DHA advised that under section 36 of BMO, furnishing false information under BMO was criminally liable. To make any manipulation of proxy instruments more difficult, the Administration had further proposed the new requirements as set out in paragraph 14(i) to (v) of the paper, which sought to enhance the transparency of the use of proxy instruments, facilitate owners to verify proxy instruments, and facilitate investigation into and prosecution against the use of fabricated proxy instruments. In addition, to allow a reasonable time for the Authority (i.e. SHA) to initiate prosecution, the Administration proposed to amend BMO to the effect that "any prosecution under BMO shall be commenced (i) within 24 months of the commission of the offence; or (ii) within 24 months of the offence being discovered by or coming to the notice of the Authority, whichever is the later".

12. DHA further said that the Administration would consider providing a template proxy form which would include three parts as follows: (i) the personal particulars and other details of the owners and the proxy holders; (ii) owners' voting instruction; and (iii) the signature/declaration by the owners and proxy holders. After verification, part (ii) of the proxy form could be torn out for the purpose of voting. Furthermore, the Administration would explore at a later stage the practicability of adopting advance voting for OC general meeting.

13. With regard to the proposed requirement that the list of flats with proxy instruments lodged should be displayed in a prominent place of the building at least 24 hours before the OC meeting and until seven days after the meeting, Mr Alvin YEUNG, Mr Wilson OR and Mr LAM Cheuk-ting considered that to facilitate verification, the 24 hour-requirement should be further extended to, say, 36 hours.

14. Dr YIU Chung-yim declared that he was a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (Property and Facility Management Division) as well as the Deputy Chairman of the residents' association of a private housing

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estate in the Southern District. Dr YIU urged the Administration to assume a more proactive role in building management, particularly on matters relating to convening general meetings of OCs. He suggested that at the request of not less than 5% of the owners, HAD should designate its staff to collect and verify proxy instruments for the OC meetings concerned. He considered that this would enhance owners' confidence in the use of proxy instruments. SHA said that as building management was the responsibility of private owners, the Administration considered it inappropriate to intervene too much. He added that the current proposals sought to enhance the relevant provisions in BMO regarding OC meetings, procurement arrangement and appointment of proxy, with a view to enhancing the protection of owners.

Definition of large-scale maintenance projects

15. Mr CHAN Kin-por declared that he was the Chairman of the owners' committee of a private housing estate in the Southern District. Regarding the proposed definition of large-scale maintenance projects in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Administration's paper, Mr CHAN Kin-por considered the proposed threshold for "Tier 1" (i.e. where the building contained more than 500 flats) too low, which would mean that some buildings classified as "Tier 1" with high annual expenditure would need to convene OC meetings very frequently to discuss "large-scale maintenance projects". Mr Nathan LAW and Mr HUI Chi-fung expressed concerns that for "Tier 3" (i.e. where buildings contained not more than 100 flats), the proposed threshold was too high. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Administration's paper, Mr HUI said that as most of the buildings with less than 50 flats did not hire PMCs, there would be practical difficulties for their OCs to comply with the proposed requirement that the financial statements of OCs be audited. As a result, for these buildings, projects involving a cost of less than \$1 million could not be defined as large-scale maintenance projects and the proposed quorum requirement (20% of the owners) also could not apply.

16. SHA said that the three-tier system was proposed taking into consideration buildings/housing estates of various scales. Nevertheless, the Administration was willing to consider the views of members and relevant stakeholders. DHA explained that the Administration proposed to link the definition of large-scale maintenance projects with the average audited annual expenditure of OC for the past three years immediately before the maintenance proposal was put to OC for discussion in order to prevent

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attempts to circumvent the definition of large-scale maintenance projects. She pointed out that as the annual budgets of OCs was only an estimate, there were risks that it might be artificially inflated to allow for a higher contract ceiling to circumvent the definition of large-scale maintenance projects. For this reason, the Administration also proposed to require OCs of buildings with less than 50 flats to audit their annual expenditure, so as to provide a more accurate benchmark reference for large-scale maintenance projects.

Safekeeping and circulation of records

17. Mr WU Chi-wai, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Mr CHAN Kin-por and Mr Nathan LAW held the view that the Administration should impose criminal sanctions on non-compliance of the requirements on safekeeping and circulation of records in order to achieve deterrent effect. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung urged the Administration to step up efforts to ensure that OCs would comply with such requirements. Mr WU suggested that MCs should be required to submit a copy of each relevant records to the Lands Registry for owners' easy access to the records.

18. SHA and DHA advised that one of the current proposals was to extend the criminal liability (currently applicable to MC members) to the deeds of mutual covenant ("DMC") Manager/PMC in case of failure to produce annual audited accounts or audited accounts as required by contract. Any contravention would be an offence and the party concerned would be liable on conviction to a fine at level 5. Furthermore, the Administration proposed to impose a criminal liability on DMC Manager/PMC/MC Members for non-compliance with the requirements for proper safekeeping and circulation of minutes of MC/OC meetings as well as safekeeping of tender documents. Any contravention would be an offence and the party concerned would be liable on conviction to a fine at level 2. Meanwhile, the existing Code of Practice on Procurement of Supplies, Goods and Services under BMO already required MC to maintain and keep in safe custody for at least six years all documents relating to the procurement of supplies, goods and services (including tender documents, copies of contracts, accounts and invoices). Furthermore, the documents must contain sufficient information to enable the person doing inspection to calculate the financial liability of OC at the time of inspection (including any financial liability in future). MC must permit the Authority, the tenants' representative, an owner, a registered mortgagee or any other person authorized in writing by an owner or a registered mortgagee to inspect the documents concerned at any reasonable time.

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19. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting considered that despite the Administration's proposed new penalty provisions as detailed in paragraphs 25 to 30 of its paper, these provisions were rather narrow in scope and the penalty level too lenient to achieve adequate deterrent effect. He suggested that more criminal sanctions should be provided in BMO to deter MC members from breaching the requirements of BMO. Mr YIU Si-wing, however, considered that as owners served as MC members on a voluntary basis, adding too many criminal sanctions in BMO might discourage owners from serving on MC.

20. Regarding the proposal in paragraph 16 of Annex B to the Administration's paper that the Authority should be empowered to, at the request of not less than 5% of the owners, dissolve the non-performing MC, Mr Alvin YEUNG took the view that for such an important decision, the required percentage should be raised to 10% of the owners.

Other issues

21. Mr Wilson OR expressed concern about the long time required by the Lands Tribunal to process building management dispute cases. Mr Alvin YEUNG considered that a designated queuing system should be set up in the Lands Tribunal for processing building management dispute cases. He requested the Administration to provide information on the time usually required by the Lands Tribunal to process a case of building management dispute involving owners' corporation(s) from application to adjudication. Mr YEUNG and Mr LUK Chung-hung suggested that a designated Tribunal modelled on the Small Claims Tribunal/the Labour Tribunal should be set up for handling building management dispute cases so as to lower the legal costs borne by property owners and speed up the processing time.

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22. Mr HUI Chi-fung requested the Administration to put forward proposals to address building management problems arising from "one building with multiple DMCs". Dr YIU Chung-yim expressed concern about the practicability of the proposed amendment on the continuity of OCs after the expiry of land lease as detailed in paragraph 5 of Annex D to the Administration's paper.

23. SHA reiterated that the Administration would take into consideration members' views and comments and consult the Department of Justice where necessary. He said that given the time required to amend BMO, the

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Administration intended to include those proposals which were not in conflict with BMO in the Code of Practice issued under section 44 of BMO, so as to respond to the public concerns on the arrangements for procurement and proxy instruments by OCs as soon as practicable.

24. At the request of members, the Chairman said that the Panel would arrange a special meeting to receive public views on the proposed amendments to BMO.

V. Reprovisioning of Shanghai Street refuse collection point and street sleepers' services units to the site of Hau Cheung Street for the Phase II development of Yau Ma Tei Theatre project
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1038/16-17(05) to (10)]

25. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1038/16-17(05)] on the latest progress and the revised proposal of the reprovisioning of the Shanghai Street refuse collection point ("RCP") and the street sleepers' services units ("SSSU") to the site on Hau Cheung Street in Yau Ma Tei ("the reprovisioning project"). The reprovisioning project aimed to vacate the original site for the phase II development of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre ("YMTT") project.

Discussion

26. The Chairman expressed support for the revised proposal as he considered that it had adopted Members' suggestions as far as possible. He also relayed the Cantonese opera sector's view that there was an urgent need for the implementation of the YMTT phase II development project, and requested the Administration to explore ways to expedite its implementation. He enquired whether it was possible that, if the funding proposal was approved by the Finance Committee ("FC"), the construction of the reprovisioned facilities on Hau Cheung Street could be completed before 2020 and whether the design work for the YMTT phase II development project could commence as early as possible. He also enquired whether the Administration would take measures to improve the existing facilities of the Shanghai Street SSSU pending completion of the reprovisioned SSSU on Hau Cheung Street. Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Mr YIU Si-wing, Mr KWOK Wai-keung and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung were also of the view that the revised proposal had struck a balance among various social needs,

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and expressed support for the early implementation of the reprovisioning project.

27. SHA stressed that there was an imminent need for the YMTT phase II development project and hoped that the revised proposal could be approved by FC. The Project Director 3/ArchSD ("PD3") advised that subject to the funding approval of FC, the tendering of the reprovisioning project would commence as early as possible. Construction, decanting and demolition works of the reprovisioning project were scheduled for completion by the end of 2020.

28. In response to Dr Helena WONG's enquiry, SHA explained that YMTT would continue to serve its function as a centre for nurturing new talents for Cantonese opera, while the Xiqu Centre in the West Kowloon Cultural District to be opened in 2018 would be a world-class arts venue specifically built for large-scale xiqu (Chinese opera) performances.

(Due to other urgent commitments, the Chairman left the meeting at this juncture. The Deputy Chairman took the chair.)

29. Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Dr YIU Chung-yim queried why the Administration did not propose to reprovision the existing SSSU in-situ and incorporate it with the YMTT phase II development project. Dr CHEUNG said that he objected in principle to the reprovisioning project as he considered that SSSU should not be reprovisioned at the same location of RCP. Dr YIU expressed concerns on whether the reprovisioned SSSU on Hau Cheung Street would comply with the Hong Kong Planning and Standards Guidelines, which specified that there should be a distance of at least 15 metres between a low-density residential/incidental dwelling and a liquid petroleum gas ("LPG") filling station. Dr LAU Siu-lai also asked why the Administration did not select another site to separately reprovision the Shanghai Street RCP and SSSU, and whether the Administration would explore the feasibility of reprovisioning RCP as an underground facility.

30. SHA explained that there were practical difficulties in identifying another site in the district to separately reprovision the Shanghai Street RCP and SSSU. PD3 added that given the height restriction of the YMTT phase II development project and the space required for expanding the side stage and the foyer of the YMTT phase I as well as rehearsal rooms and lavatories, incorporating SSSU with the YMTT phase II development project was not feasible as doing so would greatly reduce the usable area of the YMTT phase

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II development project. She added that there would be a distance of 18 metres between the reprovisioned SSSU and the LPG filling station at the Hau Cheung Street site. Based on the risk assessment by the Administration, it was considered that the risk was within acceptable range, and the assessment report had been endorsed by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. In response to Dr YIU's further enquiry about the design plan including the schedule of accommodation for the YMTT phase II development project, PD3 said that the design plan had yet to be finalized.

31. SHA advised that the Administration had repeatedly enhanced the design of the reprovisioned building taking into account Members' views. The revised proposal had reasonably adopted Members' suggestions as far as possible under feasible circumstances. Any further revision at this stage would further postpone the implementation of the reprovisioning project. He appealed to members for their support for the revised proposal.

32. Mr HO Kai-ming, whilst considering the Hau Cheung Street site suitable for the reprovisioning project, enquired whether the nearby public toilets and temporary car park would be affected. SHA advised that the temporary car park would not be affected by the reprovisioning project, whereas the public toilets would be reprovisioned and incorporated with the YMTT phase II development project.

33. Noting that the number of overnight shelter places for street sleepers to be provided at the reprovisioned SSSU would remain to be 70, Dr Helena WONG, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan and Dr LAU Siu-lai expressed concern that given the increasing number of street sleepers in West Kowloon in recent years, the Administration should take the opportunity to provide more such shelter places in the reprovisioned building. The Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare)/SWD advised that there were a total of 393 shelter places in West Kowloon, and the utilization rate remained steady at about 80%. He added that the utilization rate of the Shanghai Street SSSU was about 70% in the past year, and considered that the overall supply of shelter places in the district was adequate.

34. Citing a research study conducted by the City University of Hong Kong, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan questioned whether the actual number of street sleepers was larger than the number provided by the Social Welfare Department. She requested the Administration to explore the feasibility of increasing the number of shelter places in the reprovisioned SSSU.

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Admin Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that there should be unmet demand for shelter places for street sleepers as there was constantly a waiting list for such shelter places. Dr Helena WONG requested the Administration to provide supplementary information, including the number of street sleepers, the number of shelter places for street sleepers and the number of street sleepers on the waiting list for such places, before submitting the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC").

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's supplementary information was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1343/16-17(01) on 5 May 2017.)

35. In response to Mr LAU Kwok-fan's enquiry about the feasibility of providing more shelter places after construction of the reprovisioned building was completed, PD3 advised that there was a certain degree of flexibility in the structure to allow for slight modification to the interior layout. SHA added that the current operators of the Shanghai Street SSSU had expressed support for the reprovisioning project, and they had not requested the provision of more shelter places for street sleepers in the reprovisioned SSSU.

36. Mr Kenneth LAU expressed concern about the dormitory and working environment and hygiene condition of the reprovisioned SSSU, and sought details of the usage of the two additional floors to be taken up by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"). The Assistant Director (Administration)/LCSD advised that one of the floors would be used by some 40 staff of the Information Technology Office of LCSD. Another floor would be used as storage areas of the Finance Section and Supplies Section of LCSD. In response to Dr Helena WONG's enquiry, SHA said that the reprovisioned RCP on Hau Cheung Street would not have adequate space for providing additional facilities for waste separation and recycling, but such facilities could be provided at other areas as appropriate.

37. Summing up, the Deputy Chairman said that the Panel did not oppose the submission of the reprovisioning project to PWSC for consideration.

(The Deputy Chairman advised that the meeting would be extended for 15 minutes.)

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VI. Provision of funding for the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship and the International Youth Exchange Programme

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)975/16-17(01) and CB(2)1038/16-17(11)]

38. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, SHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)975/16-17(01)].

Discussion

39. Mr Christopher CHEUNG expressed support for the Administration's proposal of providing additional funding to the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship ("the Scholarship") and the International Youth Exchange Programme ("IYEP"). He enquired how the Administration would ensure that the exchange activities under IYEP met the objective of broadening the international horizons of the young people. He also asked about the eligibility criteria, selection procedures and the evaluation mechanism for the exchange activities. The Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) advised that the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") liaised directly with its overseas partners to set the itinerary and detailed arrangements of the youth exchange programmes. The IYEP participants were nominated by schools, uniformed groups and non-governmental organizations, etc. Nominees were then shortlisted by a selection board consisting of members of the Commission on Youth. Selection criteria included various factors such as academic background and experience in voluntary or community services.

Admin

40. Dr Helena WONG and Ms Tanya CHAN expressed support for providing additional resources to the Scholarship so as to double the annual quota for the Scholarship from 20 to 40 starting from the 2018-2019 academic year. At the request of Dr WONG, SHA agreed to provide a list of the universities that had admitted Scholarship awardees in the past two years and the programmes they had enrolled for. Ms CHAN enquired whether, after implementing the current proposal, IYEP and the Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries would overlap. SHA advised that under the existing IYEP, youth exchange activities were organized with overseas partners on a reciprocal basis. With the additional funding allocation, HAB planned to launch a new funding scheme under IYEP to sponsor community organizations to organize overseas youth exchange activities, which might focus on outbound exchange visits only so that more young people could gain international exchange opportunities to broaden their horizons. SHA further advised that the scope of the proposed

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Admin funding scheme would be much wider than that of the Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries, covering all overseas countries instead of being restricted to Belt and Road countries. Dr WONG further requested the Administration to provide a list of the projects funded in 2016-2017 under (i) IYEP and (ii) the Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries, including the name of the funded organization, the amount of funding granted and the destination visited for each project.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's supplementary information was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1584/16-17(01) on 8 June 2017.)

41. Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed support for providing additional funding to the Scholarship and international youth exchange programme. He enquired whether the Administration had set a list of destinations for the exchange activities of the new funding scheme to be introduced. SHA advised that the Administration had not drawn up such a list and would let the community organizations concerned propose the destinations for their overseas youth exchange activities.

VII. Any other business

42. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:15 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 June 2017