

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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seen by the Administration)

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**Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee**

**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting**  
**held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex**  
**on Wednesday, 8 November 2017, at 8:30 am**

**Members present:**

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Alvin YEUNG (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon HO Kai-ming

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu  
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

**Member attending:**

Hon HUI Chi-fung

**Member absent:**

Hon Tanya CHAN

**Public Officers attending:**

Ms Carol YUEN Siu-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Eddie MAK Tak-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1
Miss Joey LAM, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Ms Deborah KUH	Head of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section Development Bureau
Ms Vina WONG	Head of Greening and Landscape Office Development Bureau
Mr LEUNG Koon-kee, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Ms Alice YEUNG	Assistant Director (Architectural) Architectural Services Department

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Connie SZETO	Chief Council Secretary (1)4
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**Staff in attendance:**

Mr Keith WONG	Council Secretary (1)4
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Miss Yannes HO	Legislative Assistant (1)6
Ms Haley CHEUNG	Legislative Assistant (1)9

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The Chairman drew members' attention to the information paper ECI(2017-18)9, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002 and the changes to the directorate establishment in relation to the three items on the agenda. She then reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interest relating to the item under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the item. She also drew members' attention to RoP 84 on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

**EC(2017-18)8      Proposed creation of one permanent post of Chief Landscape Architect (D1) to head a new Landscape Division under the Architectural Branch in the Architectural Services Department upon approval by the Finance Committee to strengthen the provision of professional landscape architectural support to the Department in handling landscape design and tree management planning matters**

2. The Chairman remarked that the staffing proposal was to create one permanent post of Chief Landscape Architect ("CLA") (D1) to head a new Landscape Division under the Architectural Branch in the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") upon approval by the Finance Committee ("FC") to strengthen the provision of professional landscape architectural support to the Department in handling landscape design and tree management planning matters.

3. The Chairman pointed out that the Administration consulted the Panel on Development on the staffing proposal on 23 May 2017. Except for members belonging to the Democratic Party and Mr SHIU Ka-chun who expressed objection to the proposal, other members supported the Administration's submission of the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration. Individual members opined that the

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Administration should timely review the manpower resources of the Landscape Architect ("LA") grade in ArchSD so as to cope with the public works projects with significant landscape input which were ongoing or under planning. Some members were of the view that the Administration should invest public resources to enhance the work of tree preservation and management instead of creating a directorate level post to resolve the promotion issue of the LA grade. Some members also viewed that the Administration should set up the arborist grade dedicated to the work of tree risk assessment and tree preservation.

Work of tree preservation and professional qualifications of tree management personnel

4. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said that he appreciated the Administration's initiative to explain to him the functions of the proposed post after the meeting of the Panel on Development held on 23 May 2017. He pointed out that if the Administration could further illustrate how the creation of the proposed post would improve the work of tree management and preservation, he would turn to support the staffing proposal.

5. Mr Jeremy TAM said that in the preceding typhoon season, a Banyan tree which was uprooted by strong winds was found to have been planted in a concrete flower pot and was suspected to have collapsed due to the failure of its roots to extend outwards to hold the soil in place. This incident had reflected the Government's improper tree management and inadequate communication between the departments in charge of landscape design and management respectively.

6. Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 1 ("DS(W)1") advised that the Government attached great importance to the work of tree preservation. The Development Bureau ("DEVB") had set up the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section ("GLTMS") to focus on tree management work, which included formulating codes on tree management, providing guidelines for various government departments on tree management at venues managed by them (including timely inspection of the condition of trees and immediate removal of the trees when having the risk of collapse). As regards the concern about trees being planted improperly, GLTMS currently advocated adopting a site-specific strategy in planting trees to ensure that trees could grow healthily in an appropriate environment. With the rainy season coming to an end, GLTMS had urged government departments to inspect trees at venues managed by them more closely, including paying attention to whether trees had been planted improperly.

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7. The Chairman advised that she had requested the Administration to amend the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) to require owners' corporations of private properties to take charge of the management of trees within their properties. But the Government had not proactively followed up the suggestion. She enquired about the Government's regulation of tree management within private properties.

8. DS(W)1 replied that trees within private properties should be managed by owners' corporations. In this connection, DEVB had compiled the Handbook on Tree Management for reference by management companies of private properties and owners' corporations.

9. Mr KWOK Wai-keung advised that there had been a number of tree collapse accidents causing deaths or injuries to members of the public in Hong Kong, but the Administration had over the years delayed enacting relevant legislation to regulate the work of tree management and preservation ("tree ordinance"), citing an absence of sufficient professional arborists in society. He enquired about the progress of training arboricultural talents and enacting the tree ordinance, including drawing up a timetable for introducing a tree ordinance.

10. Mr HUI Chi-fung and Mr KWONG Chun-yu said that the Democratic Party would not support the staffing proposal at this stage. They opined that the Administration should focus on ways to improve the work of tree management and reform the existing approach to tree management. The proposed creation of the CLA post reflected that the Government had neglected the importance of tree management. They urged the Government to enact the tree ordinance as soon as possible and add the arborist grade in the civil service structure.

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11. DS(W)1 advised that the Government was open to the enactment of the tree ordinance. To achieve effective enforcement of the tree ordinance, the Government had to enhance the professional standards of the arboricultural industry in Hong Kong before enacting the legislation. In this connection, the Government had established the Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry Training Advisory Committee under the Qualifications Framework with a view to developing a set of competency standards for the arboriculture and horticulture industry in Hong Kong by the end of 2018, so that training providers could provide training for arboricultural practitioners in accordance with the industry standards. She supplemented that LAs of ArchSD had participated in various training courses for arborists, including those provided by the International Society of Arboriculture, and thus possessed a certain level of professional knowledge in arboriculture. LAs would design the landscape in

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government buildings from the perspective of tree preservation in addition to the aesthetic dimension, to ensure that trees could grow healthily in the future.

Adm

12. The Chairman said that DEVB had set up GLTMS to focus on the formulation of the policies on tree management and relevant codes, but there was a lack of personnel with professional arborist qualifications in the Section. To her understanding, the head of the Section also did not come from the arboricultural profession, and she was worried that this would affect the quality of tree management work. She requested the Administration to provide details on the professional qualifications of the personnel of the Tree Management Office under GLTMS, including the number of staff possessing the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist qualification and their ranks. She also urged the Administration to consider setting up a grade dedicated to tree management in the civil service structure and filling the posts by persons with arborist qualifications.

13. DS(W)1 replied that there were a large number of personnel possessing the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist qualification in the Tree Management Office. The Government had also established the Urban Forestry Advisory Panel ("UFAP") and appointed professionals (including arboricultural experts) as its members to provide professional advice on the work of GLTMS. When outsourcing the works contracts involving tree management, the Government would also require contractors to engage personnel with professional arborist qualifications for carrying out relevant work. She undertook to provide details on the professional qualifications possessed by personnel of the Tree Management Office in due course.

Adm

14. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan commented that apart from possessing professional qualifications, tree management personnel should also have rich experience in tree maintenance work. Dr CHIANG and the Chairman requested the Administration to provide details on UFAP, including the background of its establishment, membership list, professional qualifications of members, scope of work, issues discussed in the past and tasks completed, as well as number of meetings held.

15. Head of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, Development Bureau replied that UFAP was established in January 2017, and its local and overseas members belonged to various professional sectors relating to urban tree management, including urban forestry, urban arboriculture and urban landscape management. DS(W)1 added that UFAP was run as a government advisory body and provide

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forward-looking advice on urban tree management policy to GLTMS. In case of contingencies relating to tree management, the Government would also invite members of UFAP to provide professional advice. She undertook to provide details on the work of UFAP in due course.

Creation of the proposed post

16. Mr Jeremy TAM enquired about the professional qualifications of the holder of the proposed post and whether an existing LA in the Government would be promoted to fill the post. Mr TAM, Mr CHAN Chun-ying and Mr WONG Ting-kwong also requested the Administration to explain the responsibilities of the proposed post, as well as the differences between them and the work of GLTMS.

17. DS(W)1 advised that there were currently 17 LA grade officers in ArchSD. Upon creation of the proposed post, one Senior LA would be promoted to CLA, and the post holder was required to possess professional LA qualifications. Currently, LAs of ArchSD were mainly responsible for the landscape design in government building projects. After the holder of the proposed post took office, he/she would be responsible for liaising and coordinating with various government departments to ensure that landscape design could be properly maintained after completion of the projects. She supplemented that GLTMS under DEVB was mainly responsible for formulating the policy on tree management, while CLA of ArchSD would offer support in respect of landscape design and project supervision in ArchSD works, so the tasks undertaken by the two were different.

18. Quoting the Government's paper, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen mentioned that the proposed post would implement new landscape initiatives and policies. He enquired about the relevant details, including whether consideration would be given to plant more native species and reduce the cost of landscape works.

19. DS(W)1 advised that the new landscape policy included the adoption of a site-specific principle for planting, under which plants could grow healthily in a suitable environment and the diversity of plants could also be enhanced. The concept of place-making would also be introduced to landscape design to allow the integration of the characteristics of a place into landscape design, thereby enhancing the functionality, attractiveness and sustainability of the design. She supplemented that controlling the cost of landscape works would be one of the responsibilities of the proposed post, and DEVB had also set up a task force to control the cost of public works.

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20. Noting from paragraph 7 of the Government's paper that the responsibilities of the proposed post included strengthening communication with the landscape industry through high-level meetings with professional institutes as well as landscape professionals in the private sector, Mr James TO enquired whether this indicated that the Government did not have much communication with the industry over tree management and landscape design at present. He did not agree that the creation of the proposed post could resolve the existing problems in respect of tree management and landscape design.

21. DS(W)1 replied that the Government had been maintaining close communication with the industry and professional bodies in respect of tree management and landscape issues. LAs of ArchSD were also required to have in-depth exchanges with professionals from the industry when handling landscape works projects. Director of Architectural Services ("D Arch S") added that in the absence of the leadership of CLA, the existing 17 LAs of ArchSD were under personnel of other grades. Upon creation of the proposed post, the new CLA would be able to coordinate the landscape design of government works in a systematic manner as well as exchange views and share experience with the industry.

Landscape design concept

22. Noting from Enclosure 1 to the Government's paper that ArchSD helped improve the rehabilitation progress of patients through hospital landscape design, Mr CHAN Chun-ying enquired about the relevant details and whether ArchSD would promote the concept to other public hospitals.

23. Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Government should consider incorporating landscape elements in the design in its planning for the new hospital in the Kai Tak Development Area. Separately, he suggested that ArchSD should take accessibility into account in the landscape design for government buildings so as to offer convenience to the elderly or persons with limited mobility.

24. D Arch S advised that ArchSD had been collaborating with the Hospital Authority in trial projects to incorporate special landscape design into hospital areas in order to facilitate the rehabilitation progress of patients, including the incorporation of special landscape design into a treatment building of Queen Elizabeth Hospital to tie in with the hospital's psychiatric treatment. He added that ArchSD would include barrier-free design in the landscape design at the ground level. In case of green roofing design, lifts would also be provided for access by the elderly and persons with limited mobility.



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25. Mr CHU Hoi-dick opined that apart from considering landscape design from an aesthetic dimension, LAs of ArchSD should also follow the practices of overseas in incorporating "edible landscaping" elements into landscape design or consider the establishment of "urban vegetable gardens" so as to increase the interactivity between the public and landscape design. He also urged the Administration to avoid using insecticides when managing landscape design to minimize the adverse effect on management personnel and members of the public.

26. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan suggested that the Administration set up community gardens for public planting and erect signs adjacent to old trees so as to let the public learn more about the features and historical background of old trees.

27. D Arch S responded that ArchSD was exploring with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department the feasibility of setting aside a site at the new public swimming pool in Tin Shui Wai for the incorporation of the "edible landscaping" design. DS(W)1 supplemented that when it came to landscape design, government LAs had all along attached importance to how to increase the interactivity between the public and plants, and the Government would take members' views into consideration in future landscape design. She added that when managing landscape facilities, the Government would use insecticides which were safe for human health; it had also drawn up guidelines on using insecticides for reference by contractors responsible for managing trees.

*(At 8:45 am, the Chairman said that she had received one proposed motion under paragraph 31A of the Establishment Subcommittee Procedure from Ms YUNG Hoi-yan. She considered the motion directly related to the item under discussion. She would deal with the motion in due course.)*

Motion proposed by a member pursuant to paragraph 31A of the Establishment Subcommittee Procedure

28. At 10:15 am, the Chairman invited Ms YUNG Hoi-yan to read out her [proposed motion](#) and put to vote the question that Ms YUNG's proposed motion be proceeded. The Chairman declared that the Subcommittee agreed that the motion proposed by Ms YUNG should be proceeded forthwith.

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Debate on the motion proposed by Ms YUNG Hoi-yan

29. The Chairman advised that as the Subcommittee had passed that Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's proposed motion be proceeded, there would be a debate on the said motion. She said that Ms YUNG could speak on her motion for three minutes while other members could speak once on the motion for not more than three minutes. The Administration could make a response after members had spoken. Ms YUNG would then have one minute to make a reply.

30. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan said that members were in general concerned about the tree safety and management issues in Hong Kong, and opined that the Government should increase resources for handling tree management. Therefore, she moved a motion requesting the Administration, in parallel with the creation of the proposed post, to set up a tree management team with background in the arboricultural profession to enhance the tree management level in Hong Kong.

31. Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed support for Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's motion and agreed that the Government should attach more importance to the work of tree management.

*(At 10:24 am, the Chairman enquired if members agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to complete the voting on Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's proposed motion and put the item to vote. No members expressed objection.)*

32. Mr WU Chi-wai said that the existing tree management policy of the Government was inadequate and there was a lack of coordination among departments. The Administration had also not responded to members' request for increased resources to handle tree management work and failed to undertake to require government LAs to possess arborist qualifications. Therefore, the Democratic Party would not support the staffing proposal and expressed reservation about Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's motion.

*(During the debate, Mr HUI Chi-fung requested to speak on Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's motion. The Chairman advised that as Mr HUI was not a member of the Subcommittee, he could neither speak on the motion proposed by Ms YUNG nor vote. In response to Mr HUI Chi-fung's further enquiry, the Chairman said that the Subcommittee had also dealt with non-members' requests for speaking on Members' motions in the same manner in the past.)*

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33. At the invitation of the Chairman, DS(W)1 made a response to Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's motion. She advised that the Government was determined to cope with the work of tree management, and that GLTMS personnel possessed different professional qualifications. Other government departments and contractors would also maintain trees in accordance with the guidelines drawn up by GLTMS, instead of following different policies. She stressed that the Government would continue to strengthen the training for tree management personnel, and would also introduce advanced technology to facilitate tree maintenance.

34. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan spoke in reply in respect of her motion. The Chairman forthwith put the motion to vote. At the request of Ms YUNG, the Chairman ordered a division, and the division bell rang for five minutes. Eighteen members voted for the motion and two abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried. The votes of individual members were as follows:

*For*

Dr Priscilla LEUNG  
Mr Charles Peter MOK  
Mr KWOK Wai-keung  
Mr IP Kin-yuen  
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok  
Mr CHU Hoi-dick  
Mr SHIU Ka-fai  
Ms YUNG Hoi-yan  
Mr CHAN Chun-ying  
(18 members)

Mr WONG Kwok-kin  
Dr KWOK Ka-ki  
Dr Fernando CHEUNG  
Mr POON Siu-ping  
Mr Alvin YEUNG  
Mr HO Kai-ming  
Mr SHIU Ka-chun  
Dr Pierre CHAN  
Mr Jeremy TAM

*Abstain*

Mr James TO  
(2 members)

Mr KWONG Chun-yu

Voting on the item

35. The Chairman put the item EC(2017-18)8 to vote. At the request of Mr KWONG Chun-yu, the Chairman ordered a division, and the division bell rang for five minutes. Twenty-six members voted for and two voted against the item. The Chairman declared that the Subcommittee agreed to recommend the item to FC for approval. The votes of individual members were as follows:

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*For*

Mr WONG Ting-kwong  
Mr WONG Kwok-kin  
Mr Charles Peter MOK  
Dr KWOK Ka-ki  
Dr Fernando CHEUNG  
Dr Elizabeth QUAT  
Mr POON Siu-ping  
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok  
Mr Alvin YEUNG  
Mr HO Kai-ming  
Mr SHIU Ka-fai  
Ms YUNG Hoi-yan  
Mr CHAN Chun-ying  
(26 members)

Dr Priscilla LEUNG  
Mr Steven HO  
Mr CHAN Chi-chuen  
Mr KWOK Wai-keung  
Mr IP Kin-yuen  
Mr Martin LIAO  
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan  
Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Mr CHU Hoi-dick  
Mr Holden CHOW  
Mr SHIU Ka-chun  
Dr Pierre CHAN  
Mr Jeremy TAM

*Against*

Mr James TO  
(2 members)

Mr KWONG Chun-yu

36. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen requested that the item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

37. The meeting ended at 10:44 am.