

THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY

Memorandum for the Housing Authority

Delegation of Powers to Public Officers and Classes of Public Officers by the Housing Authority

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' approval for a number of proposed changes to the existing delegation of powers from the Housing Authority to public officers and classes of public officers under various Ordinances and Regulations in line with organizational changes and to meet operational requirements.

BACKGROUND

2. The Housing Authority has delegated its powers under various Ordinances, namely the Housing Ordinance, Cap. 283 (Paper No. HA 41/95), Housing (Traffic) By-laws, Cap. 283 Subsidiary Legislation A (Paper No. HA 38/91), Housing (Traffic Contraventions) (Fixed Penalty) By-laws, Cap. 283 Subsidiary Legislation C (Paper No. HA 25/94), Crown Land Ordinance, Cap. 28 (Papers No. HA 64/89 and HA 7/90) and Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Cap. 132 (Paper No. HA 40/91) to public officers and classes of public officers. The Housing Authority has also delegated its powers concerning/in the Housing Authority Stores Regulations and Procurement and Supplies Instruction (Paper No. HA 20/94).

3. Members were informed via Paper No. HA 26/97 of the re-organization of the senior directorate structure of the Department and related streamlining of operations which came into effect on 15 April 1997. To fully reflect the new responsibilities of the senior directorate officers under the new structure, their post titles have been renamed. There is therefore a need to make changes to the existing schedule of delegation to reflect the changes in post titles. Opportunity is also taken to propose new delegations necessitated by the pilot

scheme of merging the management and maintenance functions in the Management Branch ^(Note) and by operational requirements needs.

PROPOSALS

Reshuffling of Duties and Retitling of Senior Directorate Posts Arising from the Reorganization

4. As a result of the reorganisation of the senior directorate of the Department resulting in the reshuffling of duties and retitling of posts, it is proposed that part of the existing delegation be amended. Proposed amendments are intended to cover the following changes-

- (a) delegating to Director Corporate Services (formally called Deputy Director/Administration) where powers are delegated to Deputy Director. This is necessary to ensure that powers previously delegated to Deputy Director/Administration are now properly delegated to Director Corporate Services;
- (b) retitling Senior Assistant Director of Housing to Business Director and reshuffling of duties among the four Business Directors; and
- (c) retitling the former Assistant Director of Housing/Finance (upgraded to Deputy Director of Housing/Finance) to Finance Director.

— Details of the proposed amendments are at **Annex A**.

5. Besides, two of the posts of Assistant Director of Housing have been retitled to Project Director. Hence, it is proposed to delegate powers specifically to Project Director where such powers have been delegated to Assistant Director of Housing. Details of such proposed amendments are at **Annex B**.

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^{Note} : A pilot scheme to merge the management and maintenance functions in the New Territories (West) Region in the Management Branch has been launched on 1 June 1997. Under the pilot scheme, the Region has been divided into two pilot areas (Kwai Tsing/Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun/Yuen Long), each headed by a D1 officer with title of Chief Manager/Management which may be from the grades of the Chief Housing Manager, Chief Building Services Engineer, Chief Maintenance Surveyor or Chief Structural Engineer. Except for some internal redeployment of staff and reshuffling of duties, no additional staff is required for the pilot scheme. Further implementation of the merger is subject to the review of the pilot scheme to be conducted in six months.

Other Amendments to the Existing Delegation

6. Amendments to the existing delegation are also proposed as follows -

(a) under the pilot scheme to merge the management and maintenance functions in the Management Branch, functions previously performed by Chief Housing Managers (CHM), Chief Building Services Engineers (CBSE), Chief Maintenance Surveyors (CMS) or Chief Structural Engineers (CSE) in the pilot districts will be merged and performed by the newly-created Chief Managers/Management (CM/M). It is therefore necessary to delegate powers currently delegated to CHM, CBSE, CMS and CSE to CM/M. Details of the proposed delegation are at **Annex C**; and

(b) as a result of regular review of the existing schedule of delegation, certain amendments are proposed at **Annex D** to promote greater administrative efficiency and to accord with the current duties and responsibilities of the Committees of the Housing Authority and Housing Department officers.

RECOMMENDATION

7. It is recommended that the proposals in paragraphs 4 to 6 above be approved and take immediate effect. The proposals, if approved, will be published in the Gazette for public record.

PRESUMPTION

8. It is not thought that Members will object to the recommendation in paragraph 7 above. If no objection or request for discussion is received by the Committees' Secretary **by noon on 25 June 1997**, Members' endorsement will be presumed and action taken accordingly.

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Date : 18 June 1997