

**Sixth Meeting of the  
EEC Subgroup on Business Facilitation**

***Agenda Item 7 : Progress Report on other Business Facilitation Work***

**Purpose**

Members are invited to note the progress of the following –

- regulatory review for Theme Park and Family Amusement Centre under the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance and Regulations,
- implementation of the recommendations of the review of cinema licensing,
- review of the regulatory regime for travel agents, and
- a new referral.

**Review of licensing requirements for Theme Park and Family Amusement Centre**

2. The review aims to enhance the business friendliness of the entertainment sector. The Efficiency Unit commenced the study in end March this year.

3. The study team has studied the regulatory regime for operating a theme park / family amusement centre and related licensing processes, and identified improvement opportunities with the legislation, licensing requirements and processes.

4. The study team is consulting the bureau and departments concerned on the identified issues for developing recommendations. Members will be briefed on the findings and recommendations at the Subgroup meeting scheduled for October.

### **Review of Cinema Licensing**

5. EEC endorsed the improvement recommendations at the meeting on 13 June 2005. The trade, professional bodies and associations of specialist contractors were subsequently consulted in July and all had indicated support. The Home Affairs Bureau is drafting the legislative amendment for submission to the Legislative Chamber in December this year. Departments concerned are working on early-harvest measures. An action plan is at **Annex**.

### **Review of regulatory regime for travel agents**

6. The review is in progress. Members will be briefed on the outcome at the October meeting.

### **New referral regarding alternative uses of STT sites**

7. This is a referral from the Economic Development and Labour Bureau regarding suggestions to simplify the approval process for using Short Term Tenancy (STT) sites for open-air BBQ pits, related facilities and other recreation purposes. The Secretariat had a discussion with the complainant to understand the issues involved. Initially, we have advised the complainant of the licensing requirements and processes for the sale of pre-prepared packaged BBQ food products and light refreshment food items as well as staging amusement games with prizes at the STT site. We shall monitor progress.

EEC Subgroup on Business Facilitation Secretariat  
August 2005

**Cinema Licensing  
Action Plan**

<b>Target completion date</b>	<b>Major tasks</b>
Implemented	1. List of licensed cinemas on web-site
	2. Alternate designs accepted for battery room and toilet doors
	3. Licensing requirements sent to Applicants prior to Application Vetting Panel meeting
	4. Applicant to highlight changes on revised layout when seeking approval
Sept 2005	5. A mechanism for regular update of licensing requirements and standards
Oct 2005	6. A central database on “common defects” and “lessons learnt” for public access
	7. A simplified process for approving transfer of licence
	8. Items shown on layout plans rationalised
Nov 2005	9. First regular meeting with trade representatives
	10. Checklists of supporting documents ready for issue
Oct - Dec 2005	11. Shared use of exit routes for cinema on floors of commercial complex
	12. Maximum distance from each seating to gangway extended to 12 m

<b>Target completion date</b>	<b>Major tasks</b>
Dec 2005	13. Performance pledge for processing revised layout plans and alteration works
	14. Applicant to be notified of likely processing timeframe for vetting non-standard items
	15. Submissions to LegCo for legislative amendments on provisional licensing
2006	16. Introduce multi-year licence, e.g. 2-year or 3-year licence
Longer-term	17. Greater use of private participation in advising safety standards and requirements and certifying compliance. (Depending on the timing of putting Registered Fire Engineers in place)