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10 projects speeded up

The Urban Council yesterday decided to speed up 10 much-needed projects with a total value of about \$108 million.

Work on these projects will start in the coming financial year.

A spokesman for the council said the decision was taken at a meeting of its standing committee.

It was made after a painstaking reappraisal of the council's works programme, taking into account the views of district boards on the need for certain amenities and services.

He said the council took into consideration many factors.

"These include what the council itself sees as necessary to do, what in the harsh realities of its financial situation it can afford to do, what is feasible concerning projects already in the blueprint stage, plus the added highly important factor of availability of land, and of course what the district boards would like it to do," he said.

The approved projects included a recreation ground in Kowloon Bay reclamation, a multi-storey columbarium at Diamond Hill, development of the open space facing Har-

bour Road in Wanchai, Carpenter Road park in Kowloon City, a cooked-food centre in Kut Shing Street in Chaiwan and a temporary market in Shamshuipo.

The spokesman said the speeding up of these projects had been made possible by projected under-spending on the council's works programme, which currently extends to the 1987/88 financial year.

Careful monitoring of the programme would continue, and if further opportunities arose to advance other much-needed projects, this would also be considered, he added.

● The environmental hygiene select committee of the Urban Council will study in depth harbour pollution and whether the council should offer to take over cleaning services from the Marine Department.

This was decided at yesterday's meeting of the standing committee of the whole council when a motion originally proposed by Mr Walter Sulke was discussed at length.

Mr Sulke believes that pollution in the harbour is becoming worse, and wants the council to take over the job of cleaning it up, provided the Government will reimburse it.