

(Information Paper)

**Progress Report of the 13th Meeting of  
the Kowloon City District Council**

**Purpose**

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 13th meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 17 November 2005.

**The Fifth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force (the Fifth Report)**

2. The Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) attended the meeting to listen to Members' views on the package of proposals for the methods for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) in 2007 and for forming the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2008 as put forward in the Fifth Report. Members in support of the government's proposals considered that it would meet public expectations and broaden the base of democracy if all District Council (DC) members were to be included in the Election Committee for selecting the CE and five newly added functional constituency seats in the LegCo to be returned through election by DC members from among themselves. Members said that under the policy of "One Country, Two Systems", Hong Kong should not, in taking forward its constitutional development, disregard the Central Government's expectations that democracy should be developed in a gradual and orderly manner. Members holding opposing views criticised the Fifth Report for lacking a timetable for universal suffrage. They also said that it was totally unacceptable to retain appointed and ex-officio DC members in the CE and LegCo elections and enable them to exercise the same rights as elected DC members. The CS explained that the Government and the public were of one mind, both hoping for the early introduction of universal suffrage. The acceptance of the government's proposals was a major step towards this ultimate aim. Moreover, actual arrangements, such as whether to set up a "bicameral system" and what mechanism to use, had to be decided upon before universal suffrage could be introduced. In this connection, the timetable for universal suffrage could not be set until the Commission on Strategic Development had worked out concrete proposals through discussions. He added that since the District Council Ordinance explicitly provided that both appointed and ex-officio DC members should enjoy equal status with elected members, it was inappropriate, unreasonable and illegal to arbitrarily divide DC members into two classes.

3. After deliberation, the meeting passed by a vote of 15 to 12 a motion to the effect that given that the Fifth Report aimed to strike a balance between “progress in a gradual and orderly manner” and “balanced participation”, the KCDC resolved to support the package of proposals for the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2007 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2008 as put forward in the Fifth Report.

#### **Arrangements for the Sixth Ministerial Conference (MC6) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)**

4. Representatives from the MC6 Co-ordination Office of the Trade and Industry Department and the Hong Kong Police Force briefed Members on the arrangements for the MC6 of the WTO to be held soon. They explained that since the Wan Chai Ferry Pier fell within the restricted access zone around the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, ferry services from Wan Chai to Hung Hom would be suspended during the MC6. Regarding the arrangements in Hung Hom, as the police were not authorised to designate any demonstration area on the private land around the Harbour Plaza Hotel, they would consider using the government land near the Hung Hom Ferry Pier for this purpose if necessary.

#### **Kai Tak Planning Review – Stage 2 Public Participation: Outline Concept Plan**

5. The Planning Department (PlanD) briefed Members on the special features of three different Outline Concept Plans (OCPs) and reviewed the progress made in alleviating the pollution problem at the intake of the Kai Tak Nullah. Members welcomed the PlanD’s proposals to earmark land for a multi-purpose stadium, a cruise terminal and the Shatin-Central Line in the development plan. To make the public realise that the reclamation option was still open to the Government in addressing the pollution problem of the Kai Tak Nullah, Members suggested that the PlanD draw up at least one more OCP involving reclamation works. Many Members urged the Government to take into account the development of nearby districts in planning the land use of the former Kai Tak site with a view to revitalising the old districts in the vicinity. Moreover, some Members suggested that in planning the transport facilities for the Kai Tak site, the Government study the feasibility of setting up a completely new transport system to replace the East Kowloon Corridor (EKC), so as to resolve the long-standing problem of traffic noise that the EKC posed to the residents in To Kwa Wan. The Housing and Infrastructure Committee under the KCDC would hold further discussions on the details of the OCPs proposed by the

PlanD.

**Measures Adopted by the Lands Department to Deal with Metal Receptacles for Old Clothes Recycling in Public Streets**

6. Representatives from the Lands Department (LandsD) briefed the meeting on the various measures they proposed for tightening the application procedure and enhancing the monitoring of metal receptacles for old clothes recycling. The major measures included the followings: (1) A number of spaces would be designated in Kowloon City District for placing metal receptacles; (2) each interested organisation would only be allowed to apply for no more than three spaces at one time and the duration of the receptacles in the streets is set to be one day; (3) only applications from non-profit and charity organisations would be accepted; and (4) applicants who breached the relevant regulations would be banned from submitting similar applications within six months. While Members welcomed the improvement measures put forward by the LandsD, they were disappointed that no new arrangements would be put in place to enable frontline officers of the LandsD to take action on the spot to remove metal receptacles illegally placed in the streets. Furthermore, Members were concerned that an unfair situation might arise in which law-abiding applicants could only place their metal receptacles in the streets for one day, while law breakers could occupy government land for a few days. In response, the LandsD said that they had discussed the matter with the relevant departments on ways to exercise the powers conferred by the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and the Summary Offences Ordinance to take prompt action to remove any metal receptacles found illegally placed in the streets.

**Redevelopment Plan for Pooi To Middle School**

7. Members were briefed on the Redevelopment Plan for Pooi To Middle School, the estimated costs and the transitional arrangements for students to attend classes in the former Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School in Sham Shui Po. Members supported the plan in principle, believing that it would enable Pooi To Middle School to improve its school environment and provide its students with better services.

**Land Formation Works and School Construction Plan for the Proposed Primary School Site on Inverness Road**

8. Members noted that to facilitate the splitting up of the A.M. School and P.M. School of the Bishop Walsh School and the early implementation of whole-day schooling, it was necessary to identify a suitable site for constructing a school to accommodate the students affected. While Members supported the school

construction plan in principle, they urged the Government to vigorously monitor the noise levels of the construction works and the traffic conditions so as to reduce the impacts on nearby schools.

### **Concern over Avian Influenza and Vaccination for the Community**

9. In view of the threat of avian influenza, Members urged the Government to look seriously at the potential hazard of wild pigeons flying around in urban areas and step up supervision of stores selling poultry. Members suggested that the Government ensure a sufficient supply of avian influenza vaccines on the market so that the public would not be anxious about a shortage of such vaccines in the future. Moreover, Members requested the administration to release more information to the public on diseases which caused widespread concern so as to make them aware of the details of reported cases and the preventative measures already adopted by the Government. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau said in response that the Government had stepped up publicity and issued press releases from time to time to remind the public of the importance of practising personal hygiene and avoiding contact with birds. Furthermore, the Government had been actively encouraging chicken vendors to surrender their licenses with a view to introducing central slaughtering at an early date. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) said that the public did not have to worry too much about avian influenza because all poultry sold in licensed stalls came from approved sources, definitely not from countries with suspected cases of avian influenza. In addition, AFCD officers would take samples of poultry faeces from these stalls to test for avian influenza on a regular basis. Since it had been proven that the pigeon was not a suitable carrier of avian influenza, and none of the pigeon carcasses collected by the AFCD so far had shown any signs of infection, it was not necessary to conduct a large scale exercise to catch wild pigeons. As in other advanced countries, it was already sufficient for the Government to dissuade the public from feeding wild pigeons. The Department of Health added that influenza vaccines were mainly used to boost the body's resistance to a particular type of influenza and lower the risks of fatal complications. Since vaccines could not prevent influenza completely, people should practise good personal hygiene and improve their physique in order to avoid being infected with the disease.

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