

(Information Paper)

**Progress Report of the 16th Meeting of
the Kowloon City District Council**

Purpose

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 16th meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 18 May 2006.

“Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils”

Consultation Document

2. All Members supported the Government’s proposal to devolve responsibility for district affairs to District Councils (DCs). Some members suggested that the authority devolved should be enlarged to match that enjoyed by the two former Municipal Councils. Members, however, were divided on the retention of appointed and ex-officio seats. While some Members called for their gradual replacement, others deemed it necessary to retain appointed seats to balance the interests of different sectors of the community and complement the role of elected members.

“Review of Domestic Rent Policy” Consultation Paper

3. Members agreed with the Housing Authority (HA) that an objective rent-setting mechanism should be set up and they were generally in favour of a calculation method that determined the reasonable rent according to the actual incomes of tenants. Many Members further suggested that the HA should reduce rent first and discuss the details of the rent-setting mechanism later. While Members expressed reservations about differential rents, they would accept if HA let out “unpopular” public housing units in remote areas or with unfavourable orientation at a discounted rate so as to shorten the vacancy period of these units.

**2006-07 Work Plan of the Community Relations Department Regional Office
(Kowloon West) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)**

4. Members were briefed on the work focus and proposed main categories of activities of the ICAC Community Relations Department Regional Office (Kowloon

West) this year. They supported the ICAC's efforts to promote continuously the culture of integrity and consolidate its work against corruption.

2006-07 Work Plan of the Kowloon City (KC) and Yau Tsim Mong (YTM)

District Welfare Office

5. Members noted the work objectives and related strategies of the KC & YTM District Welfare Office and backed its future work direction which promised greater support for strengthening families, developing the potential of all quarters of the community and building a harmonious society.

Tighter Regulation of Beauty Products

6. In response to Members' enquiry about whether the Government had taken any action to fully regulate Polyacrylamide Gel (PAAG) and similar beauty products, the Department of Health (DH) explained the differences between PAAG as a substance used in plastic surgery and PAM added to cosmetics: the former was a material for injection under the skin in plastic surgery, whereas the latter was a substance with myriad uses, namely food and water processing, industrial uses and the production of cosmetics etc. Although both were harmless in themselves, the two substances might, in theory, cause cancer if they remained in the body. Since PAAG was largely used in direct injection for breast enlargement, it posed a higher health risk than other externally-used products such as cosmetics. Currently, PAAG was classified as a medical device and therefore subject to government regulation. The Government planned to tighten the regulation of such medical products through legislation in future.

7. The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) explained to Members how it ensured the safety of consumer goods, including cosmetics, through sampling inspection. Members expressed concern over the uneven quality of services provided by the existing slimming and beauty parlours and the proliferation of detox slimming drugs of doubtful efficacy in the market. Members urged the Government to pay due attention to these services and products.

Stop Playing up Bullying and Violence

8. Members reflected that some TV series had unduly exaggerated violence and a few were even suspected of encouraging woman battering. In this regard, Members called upon the Government to curb this unhealthy trend. The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority told the meeting that the Broadcasting Authority (BA) had put in place arrangements for relaxing regulation of programmes during specific viewing hours for domestic free television programme services, so as to ensure that programmes unsuitable for children would not be broadcast during the viewing hours intended for young viewers. In addition, a complaint mechanism, which made full use of public wisdom and perception, had been set up to monitor the contents of broadcasting services. The BA would amend the provisions of the codes of practice for television stations in the light of the recommendations of its Complaints Committee and advisory groups and the views of the public collected through regular surveys.

Kowloon City District Office

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