

## **Progress Report of the 12th Meeting of the Kowloon City District Council**

### **Purpose**

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 12th meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 17 September 2009.

### **District Aspirations Study on Urban Renewal**

2. Members welcomed the proposal of the Development Bureau for carrying out the non-technical District Aspirations Study on Urban Renewal jointly with seven district councils with the aim to solicit views and expectations of local residents on the renewal plan in the respective district. The result of the study would be used as reference information by the Government, the Urban Renewal Authority and relevant organizations in the future implementation of the regeneration programme. Members appreciated much the Government's initiative of inviting district councils to play a key role in the conduct of the study as this showed respect to the status of the councils. They also believed that the study would provide more chances for the public to express aspirations for the future development of their district. In view of these, Members unanimously agreed to undertake the study on the invitation of the Government. The estimated cost of the study should not exceed \$300,000 and detailed arrangements were to be mapped out by the Housing and Infrastructure Committee of the KCDC.

### **Resumption of Private Land in Pak Tai Street / Mok Cheong Street in Ma Tau Kok and Chi Kiang Street / Ha Heung Road in To Kwa Wan for Development by the Urban Renewal Authority**

3. Members gave full support to the proposed land resumption for the two URA redevelopment projects. Only by speeding up the redevelopment process and expanding the scale of the urban regeneration could the appearance of old districts be revitalized and the environment remarkably improved. However, some members were concerned that compensation for property owners affected might not be enough for purchasing a replacement flat in the same area and hence, they suggested the URA to offer higher compensation to the property owners affected if situations warranted. They also hoped that the URA would make best endeavour to negotiate with the owners who had not agreed to sell their properties and the tenants who had not agreed to move out so as to reach an agreement.

### **Public Consultation on Ambulance Services: Medical Priority Dispatch System**

4. Members noted that ambulance services in Hong Kong were of comparable standard to many advanced countries. However, with the incessant growth of population and the increasing proportion of elderly persons, a study of how to achieve effective use of ambulance services should be conducted. Members thus agreed in principle the introduction of the Medical Priority Dispatch System as proposed by the Security Bureau in order to enable the Fire Services Department to assign ambulances with greater flexibility. In regard to the detailed arrangements, Members raised some concerns and advised the Department to make further study before implementing the system.

### **Meeting with the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department**

5. Members welcomed the Acting Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation to attend the meeting and brief them on the following work of the Department:

- (1) to contribute to the development of agriculture and fisheries in Hong Kong;
- (2) to monitor prevention and control of animal diseases, management and welfare of animals as well as import and export of animals;
- (3) to manage country parks, marine parks and the Wetland Park; and
- (4) to commit to the conservation of wild animals and natural ecology.

In answer to the question about the way of handling disputes between households over pets, the Acting Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation explained that as long as residents gave adequate care to their pets, no restrictions would be imposed on the number of pets they owned. And the Department had all along dealt with complaints of this kind lodged by the public according to this principle. Yet he stressed that people who owned pets for profit-making purposes should obtain a pet shop licence before trading.