

## **Progress Report of the 19h Meeting of the Kowloon City District Council**

### **Purpose**

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 19th meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 11 November 2010.

### **Consultation Paper on Should Hong Kong Bid to Host the 2023 Asian Games**

2. Members noted the main points of the Consultation Paper on Should Hong Kong Bid to Host the 2023 Asian Games introduced by the Deputy Head of the Asian Games Bid Team. At the meeting, 19 Members expressed their opinions with 8 giving support, 2 showing opposition and 6 reflecting reservations while 3 making comments only.

3. On the whole, Members sided with the Government to allocate resources on an incremental approach to implement long-term policy objectives for sports. It was agreed that additional resources should be provided for constructing sports venues and upgrading current sports facilities. Members in favour of the proposal recognized the merits of hosting the Asian Games as mentioned in the consultation paper such as elevating the international image of Hong Kong and spurring local economy. However, Members who held opposite views and expressed reservations opined that, to win the general support of the public for hosting the Games, the Government should in the first place formulate policies on sports in the long run, actively train up athletes and widely promote sports activities at grassroots level.

### **Meeting with the Director of Environmental Protection**

4. Members welcomed the Director of Environmental Protection to the meeting to give a brief account of the Department's tasks of reducing air pollution, managing climatic changes and disposing wastes.

5. During the discussion, Members raised various proposals / opinions for the consideration of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD):

- (a) to tackle the problem of smoke emission of funeral parlours and explore

the recycling of glass products and plastic materials;

- (b) to supervise old vehicles maintenance shops and waste paper recycling companies etc. in Kowloon City;
- (c) to take practical measures to ensure that major projects in the district such as Kai Tak Development would not affect the environment of the surrounding area;
- (d) to explore in-depth the possibility of erecting a noise barrier at the East Kowloon Corridor and the flyover at Fat Kwong Street;
- (e) to motivate developers to adopt a wider range of green building services during the construction of buildings so as to categorize wastes at an early stage to save work and to study ways of handling electronic waste;
- (f) to publicise the newest technology and merits of disposing wastes by incinerators so as to promote the use of the method in the territory;
- (g) to promote to the public the work of the EPD and enhance the environmental protection awareness of citizens through education at an early age; and
- (h) to control smoke emission from restaurants in Whampoa Garden to minimize the impacts on residents in the area.

6. The Director of Environmental Protection, in response, said that new buildings in Hong Kong had to meet the requirements for energy efficiency. In addition, the Department made it a law that a material recovery room should be provided in every storey of a building. Electric wires would be laid in parking lots to facilitate the setting up of a charging station for electric vehicles in future. Considering that the design of some flyovers were old and outdated, which would pose technical difficulties to the erection of acoustic barriers, the Department would strive to bring in the latest technology as well as to explore various road and paving materials to minimize noise effects. Besides, new-style waste incinerators and related facilities were imported to Hong Kong. And upon the approval of the Legislative Council, a sludge treatment plant was under construction in Tuen Mun to replace tipping by incineration. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) had conducted a strategic environmental assessment on Kai Tak Development and monitored regularly the pollutant emission data. It would continue to supervise the engineering divisions concerned to ensure that the environment in the area remained good and the large-scale infrastructural projects would not affect the surroundings. The Director also pointed out that the EPD would try its best to balance the interests of the recycling industry and those of residents as well as to monitor cases of

non-compliance or refer cases to relevant departments for handling. The Department would follow up the tasks properly.

7. Responding to the question of Member, Mr. WONG Chi-sing, Chief Engineer / K2 (KIn) from the CEDD, manifested that the Department made no plan to extend the sand depot and cement factory inside the old Kai Tak Airport.

### **Healthcare Reform Second Stage Public Consultation**

#### **Concern about Healthcare Reform Second Stage Public Consultation**

#### **Comments on the Second Stage Public Consultation Document on Healthcare Reform**

8. Members noted the following main points stated in the second stage public consultation document on healthcare reform:

- (a) the Government would only increase, and not reduce, its resources input into healthcare when implementing healthcare reform;
- (b) the voluntary Health Protection Scheme (HPS) which could offer citizens better protection was proposed on the basis of the opinions collected during the first stage public consultation and existing health insurance policy holders were allowed the option of transferring to HPS;
- (c) citizens would enjoy private healthcare services with better value for money by joining the HPS;
- (d) the private healthcare service providers would be encouraged to provide healthcare services with packaged charging to tie in with the standard premium set by private insurance companies according to package charges so as to enhance the transparency of medical fees and allow policy holders to have a clear idea of the fees required and hence strengthening protection for citizens; and
- (e) the Government would consider establishing a body to oversee the private service providers joining the HPS including private practitioners, private hospitals and private insurance companies as well as setting up an arbitration mechanism to handle medical insurance claims.

9. Upon discussion, Members were generally in support of the main direction of the Government. It was agreed that the Government should duly restructure the current medical system and policies and implement a healthcare reform package to the benefit of every sector. Some of the Members proposed that during the consultation period, the Government should consider the advice of all quarters of the community with a view to attracting the youth and healthy people to join and to achieving risk management. Besides, Members agreed that the Government should set up an arbitrary mechanism to handle medical claims and work out the way to help people who stopped paying instalments due to financial difficulties.

**The Alliance for Small-class Learning and Teaching to Promote Quality Education Requesting the Government to Implement Small Class Teaching in Secondary Schools**

**Strive for Small Class Learning and Teaching to Promote Quality Education**

10. In view of the shrinking population, Members advised the Government to grasp the chance to implement small class teaching at secondary schools with a view to improving the quality of education, addressing the problem of drug abuse in schools and helping out children with learning difficulties. It was suggested that the Government had to draw up a comprehensive plan when implementing the policy by firstly reducing the number of classes, strengthening the training of teachers and solving the inadequacy of classrooms and then perfecting the mode of teaching step by step.

11. Upon discussion, Members subsequently passed the motion of “the SAR Government should study and develop policies for implementing small class teaching in secondary schools”.