

Progress Report of the 22nd Meeting of the Kowloon City District Council

Purpose

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 22nd meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 12 May 2011.

Meeting with the Director of Health

2. Members welcomed the Director of Health to attend the meeting to brief them on the work of the Department of Health (DH) in 2011/12. During the discussion, Members raised various proposals / opinions for his consideration with main points as follows:

- (a) to propose to the Government that appropriate assistance should be rendered to the manufacturers of Chinese herbal medicines who were anxious that, with the enactment of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, their business would wind up due to a lack of resources for examining the herbal medicines and the relevant ancient formulas, and that a feasibility study of developing insurance coverage for treatment by Chinese herbalists with insurers should be conducted;
- (b) to strengthen the publicity of dental service and to extend the scope of the service to cover infants, children and elders;
- (c) to enhance the law enforcement efficiency of the Tobacco Control Office, to adopt creative methods to promote anti-smoking education or to employ new treatments to help smokers quit smoking;
- (d) to improve various services considering the long waiting time for elders and patients with chronic diseases to consult specialists, the expensive cost of medicines, the difficulty in getting through lines for enquiry and appointment as well as the unclear instructions for contacting general clinics and specialist out-patient departments;
- (e) to consider the practice of the Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Police by assigning staff to the offices of District Board Members to discuss with Members or their assistants about policies of the DH and district hygiene issues with a view to strengthening communication;
- (f) to improve the hygiene of the vicinity of methadone clinics;
- (g) to retain the facilities of the Maternal and Child Health Centre at Hung

Hom so as to continue to provide service for residents in the district;
and

- (h) to inject more resources into child assessment service in a bid to shorten the waiting time of the public for undergoing the test or receiving treatment.

3. In reply, the Director of Health expressed that though no financial support would be offered to the manufacturers who lacked capital for examining their Chinese medicine products, the department would not remove them from the list so as to facilitate their reapplication for licence when their products successfully passed the quality test. Besides, recommended formulas would be preserved and qualified manufacturers would be allowed to submit application for producing medicine according to the formulas. The DH would also study the proposal for insurance coverage of Chinese medicine service, strengthen the communication with District Board Members and communities, improve the environment around Methadone clinics with relevant departments and enhance service of intelligence testing for children. In view of the large number of elders in Hong Kong, the expenditure of dental service for the group would be colossal and hence, the proposal was not feasible. However, the Secretary for Food and Health had reserved \$88 million dollars for a pilot scheme to provide 100,000 dental checks for 88,000 elders staying at day care centres or residing at homes for the aged in the form of outreach service. The department would also consider providing an annual dental check-up and cleansing service for secondary school students jointly with the Hong Kong Dental Association Ltd. He said that the smoking cessation service offered by the DH was diversified and of world standard. A training programme would be devised for doctors to help provide advice to patients with the habit of smoking during consultation. The training would be extended to include pharmacists, nurses, dentists and other professionals. Regarding outpatient service, he would relay Members' opinions to the Hospital Authority for consideration as this fell within its ambit of work.

Meeting with the Director of Civil Engineering and Development

4. Members noted the briefing of the Director of Civil Engineering and Development on the work of the department and raised various proposals / opinions for its consideration with main points as follows:

- (a) to blend more creative and distinctive artistic elements into city design and planning;

- (b) to upgrade current transport network when formulating Kai Tak development plan by linking up Central Kowloon Route and Trunk Road T2 with the target of channeling the traffic flow in the area and planning for better linkage between new developments in Kai Tak and adjacent old districts;
- (c) to extend and widen the promenade and to consider linking it with Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade and the Avenue of Stars with a view to providing more space for the public to admire the view of Victoria Harbour and to explore the possibility of building a cycle track on the promenade;
- (d) to take forward the greening work in Kowloon City upon the completion of the Master Greening Plan and to co-ordinate with the relevant departments to replant the trees after removing withered ones; to install some shared pipeline facilities to hold electric lines, cables and drains to facilitate the planting of trees on roads;
- (e) to improve the water quality at the seashore of To Kwa Wan; and
- (f) to set up a monitoring station to ensure zero impact of the works on the air quality at Kai Tak area.

5. In response, the Director of Civil Engineering and Development said the department would strive to extend the promenade to its greatest length so that more citizens could appreciate the scenery of Victoria Harbour. Efforts would also be made to better greening works near the promenade. Owing to the limited width of the seaside corridor, the provision of cycle tracks would be unfeasible. As to the Kai Tak Development project, the department had outlined a comprehensive plan on transport facilities and would continue with the study on the construction of an environmental-friendly transport system. He would report to the District Board about the result of the study upon completion of it. In the matter of tree planting, as public facilities were laid underground at some areas, the proposal was not practicable. The department would embark works with reference to the themes of the Greening Master Plan. And the installation of shared pipelines in old developments were thwarted by various technical problems. Nevertheless, a well-laid plan would be formulated for new developments. He also mentioned that an interdepartmental working group was formed earlier to formulate plans on improving the water quality in To Kwa Wan. Despite the report of *Escherichia coli* count exceeding the statutory limit at the waters near To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter, he pointed out that quality of sea water from the typhoon shelter was similar to that of the Victoria Harbour and found to meet standard upon test. As regards the bad odor in the vicinity of Hoi Sham Temple, joint efforts with other departments would be made continuously to follow up the problem. An air

quality monitoring station was set up and the data collected was uploaded on the Internet for the public's browsing.

Update on the Progress of the Key Initiatives in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)”

Providing Motivation Factors to Help Reduce Municipal Solid Waste from Its Origin

6. Members noted the latest progress of the key initiatives in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” as introduced by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and then raised various opinions / proposals for the consideration of the department:

- (a) to establish organic food waste centres as early as possible and try speeding up the treatment of food remnants by promoting food waste recycling to restaurants and extending this to housing estates and schools; to offer support to non-governmental organisations and schools such as streamlining the procedures of application for funds or providing technical support to organisations lodging applications for promotion activities;
- (b) to take different measures to dispose of solid waste and to consider adopting the environmental protection policy of Taiwan;
- (c) to pave environmental-friendly tiles with glass components on footways;
- (d) to urge the Government to generate electricity from waste and allocate the revenue arising from this to residents of the areas being affected as compensation so as to reduce their resistance to the construction of incinerators in their vicinity; and
- (e) to step up the prosecution of offenders against the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

7. Responding to the comments, the staff of the EPD said that though Members wished the department to solve the problem of food waste earlier, caution should be exercised in order to avoid overbuilding waste treatment facilities. They also had reservations about the suggestion of taking reference from policies implemented in Taiwan as every place was unique and hence, the Government should map out policies according to the actual environment and conditions of Hong Kong when considering experiences of other places. However, the department agreed to

further strengthen the recycling network with a view to collecting or handling wastes of low value or discarded by recycling companies such as waste glass bottles and useless electrical or electronic products. Glass bottles were collected through various recycling schemes and were crushed into small pieces for the production of tiles for paving footways, which were widely used in government projects. As to the disposal of food waste, the Food Waste Recycling Partnership Scheme was launched last year mainly for handling food waste from industrial and commercial sectors. Frontline workers were trained to understand the importance of reducing food waste and categorizing wastes for recycling purpose. Pamphlets were printed for experience sharing. The department would subsidise housing estates to dispose of food wastes later this year including making contribution to the purchase of necessary equipment and provision of technical support.

8. The representative from the Highway Department said that mud and stone dredged during works of the Shatin-Central Link would be used to produce cement or to carry out refilling works of the Link or other government projects. The department previously planned to store mud and sand on a piece of land with an area of 19 hectares in Kai Tak Development for future use in works but the materials were subsequently moved to other places for storage in view of Members' advice and public opinion.

Kowloon City District Office
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