

(Translation)

**A summary of the  
Fifth Southern District Council (2008-2011) Meeting held on 26.6.2008**

1. The Southern District Council (SDC) held its fifth meeting on 26 June 2008. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

**Urban Design Study for the  
New Central Harbourfront Stage 2 Public Engagement**

2. Representatives of the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the consultancy company attended the SDC meeting to brief SDC on the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront Stage 2 Public Engagement. The Stage 1 Public Engagement of the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront was launched in May 2007, seeking public views on the urban design objectives, urban design issues, sustainable design assessment framework, urban design considerations for the key sites as well as design concepts for re-assembling Queen's Pier and reconstructing the old Star Ferry Clock Tower. A report on the Stage 1 Public Engagement had been completed. In response to the views collected, the Planning Department had refined the urban design framework for the new Central Harbourfront under the principle of sustainable development. The vision was to create a vibrant, green and accessible new Central Harbourfront.

3. SDC received a motion put forth by Mr. LEUNG Ho-kwan before the meeting, which read as follows: "In order to alleviate the traffic congestion at the northern exit of the Aberdeen Tunnel, SDC requests the Government to proceed with the construction of Central – Wan Chai Bypass as early as possible to ease the traffic congestion in Central, Western and Wanchai and to improve the external transportation links of Southern District. SDC considers that in the New Central Harbourfront project, the Government should lower the development intensity and provide extensive green areas, quality open space and facilities for the public while supporting the development of Central as a business hub. SDC also supports the proposal of re-assembling Queen's Pier at the Harbourfront and reviving its public pier function." After voting, SDC passed the motion.

## **The Work of Drainage Services Department**

4. The Director of Drainage Services (DDS) attended the SDC meeting to brief Members on the work of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and its major projects in Southern District and to listen to Members' views on the work of DSD.

5. Some SDC Councillors opined that DSD should commence works on the project – Drainage Improvement in Southern Hong Kong Island as soon as possible so as to alleviate the flooding problem in various blackspots, especially the junction at Wong Chuk Hang Road and Nam Long Shan Road and Pokfulam Village in Southern District. As regards the flooding problem in the Village, Councillors considered that the permanent solution was to construct another drainage channel to collect the rain in the Village. For the flooding problem at the junction of Wong Chuk Hang Road and Nam Long Shan Road, Councillors proposed that the government departments concerned should take preventive action by stepping up efforts to clear up the leaves and rubbish from the intakes of the drains nearby during rainy season. A number of Councillors noted that apart from the above-mentioned flooding blackspots, many areas including Aberdeen, Tin Wan, Shek Pai Wan, Aberdeen Reservoir Road, San Wai Tsuen, Kau Wai Tsuen, Shek O, Big Wave Bay and Lan Nai Wan in Southern District were frequently flooded during rainstorms. They hoped that DSD would commence improvement works as soon as possible.

6. DDS said that DSD would implement the project – Drainage Improvement in Southern Hong Kong Island as soon as possible and conduct a number of studies on the overall drainage system in certain districts (including Southern District). He added that DSD would, based on the findings of the studies, carry out improvement works for those areas with poor drainage.

## **Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting**

7. Representatives of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and the Office of the Telecommunication Authority (OFTA) attended the SDC meeting to update Councillors with the latest development of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting in Hong Kong. The Government issued a consultation document respectively in 2000 and 2003 to seek the views of the public and the industry on DTT broadcasting policy and announced the implementation framework for DTT broadcasting in 2004. The DTT broadcasting network in Hong

Kong was being constructed by phases. It was planned that 50% of the population in Hong Kong would be covered during the initial launch of DTT broadcasting and that the coverage would be extended to 75% in early August 2008. To enable more people to enjoy viewing of the Beijing Olympics Games with DTT, the two local free television programme service licensees, namely Asia Television Limited (ATV) and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), had constructed five major transmitting stations and one supplementary station to extend the coverage to all 18 districts (including Southern District) reaching 75% of the population by phases from July to August 2008. From 2009 to 2011, another 22 relay stations would be constructed one after another so that DTT coverage would be same as that of the existing analogue television service, ie. over 99% of the population.

**8. Some SDC Councillors were concerned about whether the upgrading works for the communal aerial broadcast distribution system to receive digital signals in the public rental housing estates would be completed as scheduled before the Beijing Olympics. Other Councillors enquired whether the Government would switch off the analogue TV system about one and a half years after the launch of DTT broadcasting. In addition, there were concerns over the promotion of telecommunication services by unscrupulous means. The representative of the Housing Department replied that the said upgrading works in public housing estates in the Southern District were expected to be completed in August 2008. The representative of CEDB responded that the Government had clear guidelines which stated that switching off the analogue TV system would not be considered until 2012 at the earliest, adding that such a decision would only be made after careful study and deliberation and having regard to the popularity of DTT. The representative of OFTA remarked that they had received a complaint saying that there was a rumour that television could not be viewed without a television receiver tuner. He reiterated that the rumour was false, adding that members of the public should contact the government departments concerned or the Police if they encountered such a situation.**

**The traffic impact assessment relating to the operation of Singapore International School at No. 2, Police School Road**

9. In line with the principle of making the most effective use of the valuable land resources, the Education Bureau (EB) allocated the former Shue Yan Secondary

School premises to Singapore International School (SIS) for expansion in the school allocation exercise in June 2007. In response to the concern raised by Members at the Southern District Management Committee meeting, EB requested SIS to conduct a traffic impact assessment (TIA). In this connection, SIS commissioned a transport consultancy to conduct the TIA. The representatives of EB, SIS and the consultancy attended the SDC meeting to report the findings of the TIA and the traffic arrangements to be made after the operation of the expanded secondary school premises of SIS. The representatives of SIS pointed out that SIS had stipulated that all school buses were required to pick up/drop off students within the school premises and that SIS had encouraged parents to pick up/drop off their children within the school premises since January 2008. Those measures were effective to a certain extent. As for the medium term traffic measures, SIS was studying the feasibility of making classes begin 10 minutes later so as to reduce the overlapping traffic flow to SIS and Canadian International School. With regard to the long-term traffic measures, SIS was actively studying the feasibility of providing adequate parking spaces and pick-up/drop off points on the expanded school premises.

10. Most SDC Councillors appreciated that SIS attached importance to the views of SDC as SIS was willing to render cooperation and actively consider carrying out improvement works on the school premises in order to minimize the traffic problem resulting from its expansion. Some Councillors pointed out that the site visit revealed that the impact of SIS on the traffic in its vicinity was mainly felt in the busy morning hours, adding that the traffic congestion, albeit lasting only about half an hour, should not be overlooked. As such, they urged the Transport Department and the consultancy to work out other measures to ease the traffic on Police School Road. Besides, they opined that the traffic problem in the morning busy hours could be readily solved if classes began later from the next school term. They hoped that SIS would positively consider their views. In addition, some Councillors expressed concerns that the pedestrian and vehicle flow would further increase upon completion of the development project at the Wong Chuk Hang depot site. As such, they considered that the Government should redesign the transport infrastructure of Southern District to tie in with the future development of the District.

11. Some SDC Councillors noted that there were still many vacant school premises in Southern District. They requested EB to consult SDC before any allocation was made in the future. The agenda concerned was discussed in the meeting of the Community Affairs and Publicity Committee on 1 September 2008.

**Concern about the serious flooding  
in Pokfulam Village during the Black Rainstorm Warning on 7 June**

12. The item was raised by Mr. CHU Ching-hong, Vice-chairman of SDC, who pointed out during the Black Rainstorm Warning on 7 June 2008, Pokfulam Village was seriously flooded. He hoped that the government departments concerned would work out measures to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. He considered that the flooding was attributed to the followings: (a) water overflowed from the Pokfulam Reservoir rushed down to the drainage channel and the surplus water then rushed to the Village; (b) The muddy rainwater with debris from the hill behind Chi Fu rushed to the Village and washed the rubbish from the Village to the surface drain near the Midland Realty office, thus blocking the drainage inlet. He opined that, even if the drainage inlet had not been blocked, the surplus rainwater might not have been discharged. In this connection, he considered that the Drainage Services Department (DSD) should regularly cleanse the drains and commence works on the project – Drainage Improvement in Southern Hong Kong Island (to widen the drainage channel and construct a sluice) as soon as possible to ensure no blockage of drains.

13. DSD had identified short, medium and long-term improvement measures. Short-term measures involved thorough cleansing of the drains before the rain season began and after each rainstorm as well as physical inspection of the drains every two days and immediate arrangement of thorough clearance if blockage was found. Besides, during red or black rainstorm warning, DSD would have staff on duty to deal with emergency drainage works and rainstorm events. As for medium-term measures, about 50 metres of a covered drainage channel on the south of the Village would be widened; DSD would consult with the nearby Village residents and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department about moving the refuse collection point from the said covered drainage channel to somewhere else; and improving the intake of the box culvert connecting to the north of the Village. Regarding long-term measures, an independent drainage channel would be constructed in Pok Fu Lam Village to collect and discharge the water from the Village.

14. Most SDC Councillors agreed to the proposed measures in general and hoped that DSD would implement such measures as soon as possible so that the serious flooding problems in the Village during rainstorms could be completely

resolved. A SDC Councillor enquired how to identify the DSD staff on duty in the Village during red or black rainstorm warning. Another SDC Councillor proposed that DSD should, to mitigate the flooding situation, consider implementing interim measures, such as providing a pumping system, for the Village until the drainage improvement project was completed. The representative of DSD responded that the DSD staff on duty in the Village during red or black rainstorm warning would be concentrated in the area around the Midland Realty office in order to be prepared to clear the blocked drains if and when necessary, which was more effective than an interim pumping system in mitigating the flooding problem caused by channel blockage.

### **Proposal to Construct a Civic Centre and Government Complex in Wong Chuk Hang**

15. The item was raised by Mr. FUNG Wai-kwong. As Mr. FUNG did not attend the meeting because of sickness, Mr. CHAI Man-hon, said on his behalf that he hoped that a suitable site in Southern District would be identified to construct a civic centre and government complex. He noted that, according to the information provided by the Government, the rent paid for the property for office purpose in Southern District amounted to some \$4.43 million in total a year. He said that to construct a civic centre cum government complex would not only make the proposal more cost effective, but also save government resources (such as rent), facilitate the operation of various government departments and shorten the cost-recovery period.

16. After deliberation, SDC resolved to request the MTR Corporation to set aside certain space for the civic centre, and if space allowed, a government complex as well while developing the depot site at the former Wong Chuk Hang Estate.

### **Leisure and Cultural Services Department – Review of the Arrangement for the Designated Smoking Areas in Public Pleasure Grounds**

17. The Representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) introduced the review of the arrangement for the designated smoking areas in public pleasure grounds. She said that the number of public pleasure grounds in Southern District would be increased from 73 to 75 and that after the careful review, LCSD proposed to implement a total smoking ban in two additional passive facilities (less than 2000 square metres in total), namely Shek Pai Wan Road Amenity Plot and the

sitting-out area in San Wai Village in Southern District. As for other facilities, the arrangement remained unchanged. SDC agreed to the proposal.

### **Review of the Southern District Council Funding Guidelines**

18. SDC endorsed the proposed amendments. The revised Southern District Council Funding Guidelines was applicable to those funding applications submitted to SDC on or after 1 July 2008.

### **Application for DC Funds:**

#### **Activities of the Southern District Fight Crime Committee**

19. The Council endorsed the following eight projects:

- ◆ Fight Beach Crime Promotion Programme (\$9,380);
- ◆ Southern District Fight Crime Week (\$19,580);
- ◆ Southern District Mentor Scheme (\$26,380);
- ◆ Chinese New Year Fight Crime Activity (\$13,850);
- ◆ Knowing more about Correctional Services 2008 (\$26,000)
- ◆ Drama – Internet Crime being Tackled (\$26,000);
- ◆ Fight Against Drugs Abuse (\$20,000); and
- ◆ Knowing more about the Law Campaign (\$22,500).

Projects (a), (b) and (d) were implemented by government departments whereas Projects (c), (e) and (h) by non-government organisations. SDC approved to release 50% of the project cost for the Southern District Fight Crime Committee to meet the initial cost of the projects implemented by non-government organisations.

Southern District Council Secretariat

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