

**Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Cultural, Education, Healthcare,
Leisure & Social Affairs Committee (CLSAC) (2020-2021)
Central and Western District Council**

Date : 13 May 2021 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room
14/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present:

Chairlady

Ms CHENG Lai-king* [Part I]

Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille* [Part II]

Vice-chairlady

Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille* [Part I]

Vacant [Part II]

Members

Mr KAM Nai-wai, MH*

Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin*

Ms NG Hoi-yan, Bonnie*

Ms WONG Kin-ching, Cherry*

Mr YIP Kam-lung, Sam*

Mr PANG Ka-ho*

Mr WONG Weng-chi*

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy*

Remarks: * Members who attended the whole meeting

Absent:

Mr YEUNG Sui-yin, Victor

Mr HUI Chi-fung

Mr HO Chi-wang

Guest List

Item 5

Miss Melody TONG Executive Officer (District Council) 2, Central & Western District Office
Mr Lawrence CHAN Executive Assistant (District Council) 6, Central & Western District Office

Item 6

Ms CHUNG Lai-tuen, Lily Regional Officer/Hong Kong Island, Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mr SO Yan-wah Senior Community Relations Officer, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Item 7

Mr WONG Chi-leung Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands), Social Welfare Department

Item 8

Ms LAI Yin-kit Chairlady, Yuet Sing Chinese Opera
Ms CHOI Man-na Chairlady, Yu Sum Chinese Opera Troupe
Ms LI Mee-nar, Guna Chairlady, Elina Cantonese Opera Association
Ms CHENG Yuk-lan Chairlady, Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe
Ms CHENG May-kee Event Coordinator, Chinese Arts and Culture Association
Ms NG Po-kuen Chairlady, Raines Cantonese Opera Troupe
Mr LEE Tin-chi, Cario Executive Officer (District Council) 1, Central & Western District Office

In Attendance:

Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP District Officer (Central and Western), Central & Western District Office [Remarks: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm]
Miss NG Wing-hei, Agnes Assistant District Officer (Central and Western), Central & Western District Office [Remarks: Attended the whole meeting]
Mr WONG Yan-kwong Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Central & Western District Office
Mr SO Yan-wah Senior Community Relations Officer, Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mr LAW Hon-fai Senior School Development Officer (Central Western and Southern) 2, Education Bureau
Ms LAU Sau-ping, Jan Senior Manager (Hong Kong West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms ZHAO Yee, Emily Assistant Manager (Hong Kong West) Marketing, Programme and District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms HO Alice District Leisure Manager (Central & Western), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms YAU Yun-wah,
Susanna Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Central and Western, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Mr YEUNG Lok-san Executive Officer (District Council) 5, Central & Western District Office

Opening Remarks

1. Ms CHENG Lai-king, Chairlady of the District Council (DC), welcomed all to the 7th meeting of the Cultural, Education, Healthcare, Leisure & Social Affairs Committee (CLSAC) (2021-2022) under the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC). With the resignation of Mr NG Siu-hong, the former Chairman of CLSAC, as a DC member with effect from 1 May 2021, the post of Chairman of the CLSAC had become vacant. Pursuant to Order 4(2) of the Central and Western District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders), the Committee was required to elect a new Chairman at the current meeting. Hence, the meeting would be divided into two parts while the election of a new Chairman would be conducted in the first part. As Miss YAM Ka-yi, the Vice-chairlady, was a candidate for the post of Chairman, the Chairman of the DC would preside over the election to avoid a conflict of interest. Once the Chairman was elected, the newly elected Chairman would preside over the second part of the meeting. If Miss YAM Ka-yi, the Vice-chairlady, was elected Chairman, the post of Vice-chairman would become vacant and the election of the Vice-chairman would be held at the next meeting. In view of the unstable epidemic situation, the Secretariat had installed partitions to protect the health of the attendees and reduce the risk of infection. To avoid prolonged group gathering, the following arrangements had been made for the meeting: (i) members of the public were not allowed to observe the proceedings of the meeting; (ii) the Secretariat would maintain minimum manpower; (iii) reporters of the media or assistants of Members entering the Conference Room were required to register their real names and phone numbers to facilitate tracking where necessary; (iv) persons entering the Conference Room were required to have their temperatures taken with the non-contact infrared thermometers supplied by the Secretariat; (v) all attendees should bring along and put on their masks; (vi) the Secretariat would not provide any tea cups at the meeting to ensure hygiene and only beverages in Tetra Pak cartons would be provided. Members could also bring along their own water bottles; and (vii) microphone covers would be provided. In addition, in line with the latest disease prevention measures of the Government, starting from 1 March this year, all people entering the Harbour Building were required to use the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile application and scan the QR code displayed at the government premises they visited or register their names, contact phone numbers and the date and time of their visits, so as to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a confirmed case. Otherwise, they would not be allowed to enter the government premises concerned. Staff at the government premises were authorised to verify the information provided by the registrants. The Government understood public concern over privacy and upheld the principle of protecting personal data privacy when designing the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile application to ensure that the personal data collected would not be kept longer than was necessary for the fulfilment of the purpose for which it was collected. If no longer required, the data would be destroyed after 31 days. Attendees of the meeting were asked to take heed of the aforementioned arrangements until further notice. Besides, prior to the meeting, the Secretariat had received an application for sick leave from Mr YEUNG Sui-yin, who was absent from the meeting. If Members had

no comments, the application would be accepted. Mr YEUNG Sui-yin had submitted the sick leave notice to the Secretary. Members were invited to indicate whether they agreed to accept the application by a show of hand.

2. Mr YOUNG Chit-on asked whether Mr YEUNG Sui-yin had submitted a medical certificate.

3. The Secretary replied that Mr YEUNG Sui-yin had indicated that he would submit the medical certificate on the same day.

4. Ms CHENG Lai-king announced that the application was accepted.

Part I – Election of the Chairman of the Committee [chaired by Ms CHENG Lai-king]

Item 1 : Adoption of Part I of the Agenda

(2:40 pm to 2:48 pm)

5. Ms CHENG Lai-king asked Members if they had any comments on the revised agenda.

6. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked the Secretariat about the election of the Chairman of the Committee. He enquired whether it was necessary for the election of the Vice-chairman to be held at the next meeting instead of the current meeting, in the event that the current Vice-Chairman of the Committee who had been nominated for the post of Chairman of the Committee was elected Chairman. He asked the Secretariat to cite the relevant provisions in the District Councils Ordinance or the Standing Orders in respect of his enquiry and requested the Secretary to put it on record.

7. The Secretary said that according to Order 4(6) of the Standing Orders, if the post of Chairman became vacant, the Vice-chairman could run for the election for that office while retaining his or her Vice-chairmanship. If elected, the Vice-chairman must resign from the post of Vice-chairman in accordance with section 62(6) of the District Councils Ordinance. The post of Vice-chairman would then become vacant and an election for the Vice-chairman would be held at the next meeting.

8. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked where in the Standing Orders the said provision was stipulated.

9. The Secretary replied that it was stipulated in Order 4(6) of the Standing Orders.

10. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that he would need some time to verify whether the information provided by the Secretariat was correct and asked Members to proceed with the discussion.

11. Ms CHENG Lai-king said that the post of Chairman of the CLSAC had become vacant due to the resignation of Mr NG Siu-hong, the former Chairman, as a DC member. The election of the Chairman would be held in the first part of the current meeting. Once the Chairman was elected, the newly elected Chairman would preside over the second part of the meeting.

12. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked whether Order 4(6) of the Standing Orders applied not only to the election of the Chairman of the DC but also to that of a Committee. He noted that the Standing Orders was applicable to the situation where the post of Chairman of the DC had become vacant, and in such circumstances, the District Officer would preside at the election of the Chairman. He hoped that the Secretariat would verify whether the Standing Orders applied to the election of the Chairman of the DC also applied to that of a Committee.

13. Mr WONG Yan-kwong, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the C&WDO, remarked that what Mr KAM Nai-wai had said was correct. Unlike the election of the Chairman and the Vice-chairman of the DC, the procedures for the election of the Chairman or Vice-chairman of a Committee were not clearly set out in the Standing Orders. Hence, the Secretariat had suggested in a letter to Members that they should refer to the procedures for the election of Chairman and Vice-chairman of the DC stipulated in the Standing Orders. With the consent of the Chairman of the DC, the letter had been sent to Members. If Mr KAM considered that the Committee should not refer to the said procedures, there would not be any provision in the Standing Orders that the Committee could refer to. In such circumstances, Members would need to discuss and decide whether it was fair if the said procedures were adopted. However, he reminded Members that in accordance with the Standing Orders, nomination forms for the post must be submitted at least one hour before the meeting commenced. Therefore, any nomination form for the post of Vice-chairman should have been submitted before 1:30 pm today, i.e., one hour before the current meeting commenced, which would create a problem as to how the nomination forms should be handled.

14. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked which standing order Mr WONG Yan-kwong had been making reference to when he said that nomination forms should be submitted at least one hour before the meeting commenced. Nevertheless, what he had just put forth was only a suggestion, and he did not mean to ask for implementation at the current meeting. However, he considered the remarks of Mr WONG Yan-kwong misleading since the Standing Orders had not clearly set out the procedures and related details for the election of Chairman and Vice-chairman of a Committee. The Standing Orders only stipulated that the Chairman and Vice-chairman of a Committee were to be elected by the District Council. The remark regarding the adoption of the said procedures was therefore merely a suggestion. In his opinion, if the post of Chairman

of the Committee became vacant again in the future and the Vice-chairman run for that post, the two elections should be held at the same meeting. Nomination invitation for the posts of Chairman and Vice-chairman could be sent to Members together with the notice of meeting. If the Vice-chairman was elected as the Chairman, the post of Vice-chairman would become vacant immediately. As nominations for the post of Vice-chairman had already been submitted, it would not be necessary to hold the election at the next meeting. Although he did not propose to implement such arrangement at the current meeting, he opined that the way Mr WONG Yan-kwong handled the matter was inefficient, unreasonable and misleading and therefore asked to have it put on record. If a similar situation arose in the future, the Chairman of the DC could refer to his suggestion so that operational efficiency of the Council could be improved.

15. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the District Office thanked Mr KAM Nai-wai for his suggestion but clarified that the Secretariat had already discussed with the Chairlady of the DC before sending the letter to Members. Furthermore, the intention was to provide suggestion for Members. Nevertheless, the Secretariat would take into account the suggestion of Mr KAM and handle the elections in an appropriate manner.

16. Ms CHENG Lai-king said that the letter sent to Members by Mr WONG Yan-kwong on 7 May had been read by her in advance. She considered it more desirable if the election of the Chairman could be held first so that the newly elected Chairman could preside over the remaining part of the meeting. What Mr KAM Nai-wai had said was true too. The post of Vice-chairman would become vacant after the current meeting, which was a matter to be dealt with at the next meeting.

Item 2: Election of the Chairman of the Committee

(2:48 pm to 2:50 pm)

17. Ms CHENG Lai-king said that the Secretariat had sent the nomination forms and the revised nomination forms to Members via email on 7 and 10 May 2021 respectively and had announced that the nomination period had ended at 1:30 pm on that day, i.e., one hour before the current meeting commenced. At the close of nomination, the Secretariat had received one valid nomination. Miss YAM Ka-yi had submitted her nomination form to Mr WONG Yan-kwong, Secretary of the DC, at 1:02 pm on that day. Pursuant to Schedule 5 of Appendix I of the Standing Orders, if only one candidate was nominated for the post of Chairman, the candidate concerned would be treated as having been elected Chairman. She therefore declared that Miss YAM Ka-yi was elected as the Chairlady of the CLSAC and Miss YAM Ka-yi would preside at the meeting for the discussion of the remaining agenda items. With Miss YAM Ka-yi being elected as the Chairlady of the CLSAC, the post of Vice-chairman of the CLSAC had become vacant. In accordance with Order 4(6) of the Standing Orders, the election of the Vice-

chairman would be held at the next meeting of the CLSAC. She asked Members to take note of it. She then congratulated Miss YAM Ka-yi and invited Miss YAM Ka-yi to preside over the remaining part of the meeting.

Part II – Meeting [chaired by Miss YAM Ka-yi]

Item 1: Adoption of Part II of the Agenda

(2:51 pm)

18. The Chairlady thanked Members for the nomination. To facilitate effective discussion, the Chairlady suggested keeping the meeting short. It was proposed that each Member could speak for up to four minutes each time, which included time for speech, questions and responses. Members would only be invited to speak for a second time to raise follow-up questions and comments if time permitted. She would appreciate the cooperation of Members. Members were also reminded to declare their interests where necessary. No Member had submitted a request to make an oral declaration at the meeting. As Members had no comments on the agenda of the meeting, the Chairlady announced that the agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th, 5th and 6th Meetings of CLSAC (2020-2021)

(2:52 pm to 3:05 pm)

19. The Secretariat had sent the draft minutes of the 4th, 5th and 6th meetings of the CLSAC to Members via email on 22 October 2020, 24 February 2021 and 11 May 2021 respectively. The relevant comments of Members were tabled at the meeting. The Chairlady reminded Members that some parts of the minutes of the 4th, 5th and 6th meetings had not been confirmed; for instance, the discussion on the Real-name Registration Programme for SIM Cards had not been included in the minutes of the 6th meeting. She asked for comments from Members in that regard.

20. Mr KAM Nai-wai thanked the Secretary for preparing the detailed minutes of the meetings. The proceedings of the meetings, or at least his speeches and comments, were recorded in detail. He would like to have his appreciation put on record. Secondly, he pointed out that the meeting minutes he had received from the Secretariat were in PDF file format sometimes and WORD file format at other times. He asked the Secretariat which file format was the standard one and whether the minutes sent to Members could be standardised in WORD file format. In his own case, as he often made amendments to the minutes of meetings, it would be more convenient if they were in WORD file format to facilitate amendment. Thirdly, he recalled that at the 6th meeting of the CLSAC, he had put forward a proposal regarding the

exclusion of some discussion items in the minutes of the 4th and 5th meetings on the grounds that the items had been incompatible with the functions of the District Council. He asked if the Secretariat had discussed it with the Chairlady. As he recalled, the Chairlady of the DC had told him that even the titles of the discussion items concerned could not be shown in the minutes of the meetings. He hoped that the Secretariat would clarify if it was true. If it was not true, he asked whether the Secretariat could include the titles of the discussion items in the minutes and add a remark in the minutes that due to the discrepancies of opinions between the District Office and Members, the District Office would not provide secretarial services for the discussion of items concerned, including the preparation of minutes. Such an arrangement would allow the inclusion of the opinions of both sides in the minutes and the prompt disclosure of the minutes. If the District Office refused to include the discussion items concerned in the minutes, Members would have to explain it to the public on their own. Considering that the letters concerned had been sent to Members by the Secretariat, he wondered why the Secretariat could not include the letters in the minutes. Furthermore, he could not understand why the Secretariat had not uploaded the letters they sent to Members to the website of the DC or included them in the agenda or discussion papers. Even though he did not concur, as expressed in the letter, with the view that Members had contravened the District Councils Ordinance, he wished to let the public know that Members had tried to discuss the topics at the meeting but had been refrained by the District Office from doing so.

21. The District Officer explained that if the topic for discussion did not comply with the requirements under the District Councils Ordinance, the District Office would not record it in the minutes of the meeting. As regards the issue about the post-meeting notes, the District Office had sought legal advice earlier and it had been suggested that the post-meeting notes should be presented in a standardised format. For discussion items that might not comply with the requirements under the District Councils Ordinance, the District Office would not provide any secretarial support, including audio recording and preparation of minutes. When the District Office prepared the minutes of the meetings, the items that might not comply with the requirements under the District Councils Ordinance would be handled in the standardised format suggested by the Department of Justice.

22. Mr KAM Nai-wai pointed out that the District Officer had not answered his questions. He did not want to change the format of the letter. He hoped that the District Officer could answer the following enquires: whether it was true that the letter sent to Members could not be included in the minutes of the meeting; if so, whether it could be uploaded to the website of the DC. He asked if it was true that the letter could not be disclosed. To his understanding, the letter was neither private nor confidential. He simply wanted to solve the issue about the minutes of the meeting in a pragmatic way, so that the public would know that Members had discussed the item and that the Government had opposed to the discussion of it at the meeting. He also hoped that the Secretary could give a response in respect of his enquiry about the file

format of the minutes.

23. The District Officer said that letters to Members were certainly not secret correspondence and he had seen them being posted to social networking sites by DC Members too. However, as he had just said, the legal advice the District Office had sought was that post-meeting notes should be presented in a standardised format; and the format was not meant to include any letters. The District Office would handle the minutes of meetings and the post-meeting notes in accordance with the legal advice sought.

24. Mr KAM Nai-wai pointed out that the District Officer still had not answered his question as to whether the letter could be uploaded to the DC website. The disclosure of the letters on social networking sites by DC Members was a matter for Members to consider themselves. He just wanted the District Office to confirm whether the letter could be uploaded to the official website of the DC.

25. The District Officer said that, to his understanding, the webpage of the DC would contain documents such as papers for meetings, replies and responses of departments and minutes and audio recordings of meetings that complied with the requirements under the District Councils Ordinance, but the letter in question was not such kind of documents.

26. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if it was the stance of the Government and that the District Office had been instructed not to disclose the letter on the DC webpage. If the District Officer did not fully understand the stance of the Government in that regard, he should consult other people, since the District Officer himself was being manipulated like a chess piece on the chessboard. What he asked for was an official reply from the Government which would confirm that the letter should not be disclosed on the DC webpage. He suggested that the Secretariat should attach the letter to the agenda document with a remark explaining that the Secretariat would not provide any secretarial support in respect of the item as the topic could not be discussed at the meeting. He did not expect to get an answer right away. It would not be a problem if the District Officer wished to save his own skin by following the lead of the Communist Party. He just hoped that the District Officer could get the facts straight and resolve the issue as soon as possible.

27. The District Officer said that the District Office could look into the suggestion Mr KAM Nai-wai put forth just then at the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: Having examined the matter concerned, the District Office decided to explain the issue regarding topics that did not comply with the requirements under the District Councils Ordinance in the “Post-meeting notes”.]

28. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the District Office explained that the Secretariat could provide the minutes of meetings in both PDF and WORD file formats. However, due to higher format consistency and compatibility of PDF file format, the Secretariat had all along provided the minutes only in PDF file format. There rarely were formatting errors and issues if the documents were in PDF file format, whereas formatting errors sometimes occurred in WORD file format. If Members would not mind, the Secretariat could provide the minutes in both PDF and WORD file formats; with the one in PDF file format as the original and the one in WORD file format a copy for Members' editing.

29. The Chairlady suggested that if the Secretariat could not include the letter in the minutes of the meeting, they should consider including it as a discussion paper for the meeting and assigning a reference number to it. In this way, the public could have a better understanding of the District Councils Ordinance.

30. Ms CHENG Lai-king referred to the agenda of the 6th CLSAC meeting and explained that the discussion topic on the Real-name Registration Programme for SIM Cards had not been included as a discussion item in the agenda because the matter to be discussed was not a district affair under the District Councils Ordinance, as the District Officer had pointed out just then. Members had refused to endorse the minutes of the meeting because they were of the opinion that the minutes were not a complete record of the proceedings of the meeting. She had been eager to solve the issue and had put forward many suggestions to Mr WONG Yan-kwong, the Secretary of the DC, for instance, the inclusion of the title of the discussion item or the addition of a note but all the suggestions had been rejected.

31. The Chairlady requested the District Officer and the Secretary to follow up on Members' suggestions regarding how the minutes of the previous meetings and the letter in question should be handled. The confirmation of the minutes of the meetings concerned would be dealt with in the next meeting.

Item 3: Action Checklist on Matters Arising from the Last Meeting
(C&W CLSAC Paper No. 14/2021)

(3:05 pm)

32. The Chairlady asked Members to take note of the action checklist in Paper No. 14/2021.

Item 4: Chairman's Report

(3:06 pm)

33. The Chairlady had nothing to report.

Item 5: Funding Application – Festive Lantern Decoration in Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, Belcher Bay Park and Hollywood Road Park (2021/2022)
(C&W CLSAC Paper No. 8/2021)

(3:06 pm to 3:32 pm)

34. The Chairlady welcomed the guests to the meeting.

35. Miss TONG Wing-hei, Executive Officer (District Council) 2 of the C&WDO, hoped that Members would support the allocation of \$350,000 for the organisation of the Festive Lantern Decoration in Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, Belcher Bay Park and Hollywood Road Park in 2021/2022. For the previous events, lanterns had been displayed at the aforementioned locations during Mid-Autumn Festival, Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival. Through the promotion of the traditional craftsmanship of lantern making, the event aimed to enhance public understanding of Chinese traditional festival culture and local lantern crafts, as well as to spice up the festive atmosphere. The period of lantern decorations would be divided into two phases. The first phase would be during Mid-Autumn Festival, from the 5th to 22nd of the eighth lunar month, i.e., from 11 to 28 September 2021. The second phase would be from the Lunar New Year Day to Lantern Festival, i.e., from 30 January to 17 February 2022. Upon endorsement by the CLSAC, the paper would be submitted to the Finance Committee (FC) for approval by circulation of paper. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had suspended accepting and processing applications for use of venues managed by LCSD for non-designated uses. Hence, venue bookings for the event could not be made for the time being. The Secretariat would follow the established practice and issued an invitation to quotation in respect of the event. To allow ample time for the appointed contractor to set up the decorations, if LCSD did not indicate that booking applications for the venues would resume by early August, the lantern decoration for Mid-Autumn Festival would be cancelled. However, the Secretariat would proceed with the lantern display to be held from the Lunar New Year to Lantern Festival.

36. Mr KAM Nai-wai pointed out that Members had expressed their wish for a lantern design competition to be organised for the event last year. He then presented a draft plan of the lantern design competition he had just prepared. His idea was that an invitation to quotation for the lantern decoration would be issued as planned. He was not sure if it would be possible to obtain from the contractor the specifications of the lanterns, such as the material to be used and the dimensions, etc., for use in the design competition. He suggested that the competition should be divided into two divisions: secondary school division and open division. Contestants should illustrate their designs by two-dimensional or three-dimensional drawings, and the winner would be chosen by a judging panel formed by the DC. The appointed contractor would not be

responsible for designing the lanterns. Instead, designs would be selected among the entries of the lantern design competition and subsequently sent to the appointed contractor for production. For instance, specifications of the lantern designs could be drawn up by the appointed contractor and used in the design competition organised by the DC. The competition could run for two weeks. He further suggested that the judging panel should comprise five members, namely the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the DC as well as the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Secretary of the CLSAC. They would select the winning design, present the award to the winner and pass the winning design to the contractor for production and follow-up work. He hoped that the competition would be a success, unlike the designs of the local Christmas light decorations last year, which had caused an uproar and “ruined everything in the end”. In respect of DC funding for the event, he enquired in what way funding could be allocated for the design competition.

37. Miss TONG Wing-hei of the District Office replied that funds would be allocated from the budget of the CLSAC to cover the expenses of the event. The proposal for the design competition was a relatively new idea and would require the involvement of different Members and personnel. It would also require a change in the procurement process of the whole lantern decoration event. Therefore, it was a proposal relatively difficult to implement. Furthermore, venue bookings for the event had not yet confirmed. In order to ensure that funds allocated for the activity were used effectively, the Secretariat suggested that the procurement method should be simple and direct. Once the venues were open for booking, the event could be organised smoothly.

38. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that if Miss TONG Wing-hei insisted on going her way, she might just leave the meeting. In his opinion, the meeting was meant for Members to make decisions through discussion and convey them to the Secretariat for execution. It should be the DC and not her who make the decision. He hoped that Miss TONG Wing-hei could try her best to collaborate with him in respect of his proposal. What he had put forward was only a proposal, and it did not necessarily mean that it could be implemented. He looked forward to comments from other Members. If Miss TONG Wing-hei remained insistent, there was no need for her to attend the meeting. Members would make a decision after discussion and forward the decision to her for execution. He pointed out that it had become a practice of the Secretariat to do things in a non-collaborative manner. It was not the first time that Members had proposed the lantern design competition. What he had said at the current meeting, he had said it before. Last year, the DC had spent quite some time on the issue regarding the design competition. The Secretariat, however, had not followed up on the issue. He described the Secretariat as “being fed at the public trough” and the attitude they had towards their work was “the more you do, the more you err; the less you do, the less you err”. He wondered why the Secretariat went against what had been discussed by Members. He wondered if Members had acted in a way that contravened the District Councils Ordinance, just as the District Officer had mentioned earlier.

If so, he would like the Secretariat to pinpoint the specific provision that they had contravened and put it down in a written reply to Members. He then enquired about other viable options for the implementation of the design competition if there were technical difficulties that might render his proposal infeasible. He hoped that the Secretariat could provide suggestions for the implementation of his proposal, instead of simply insisting on what they wanted to do. When the Committee discussed the lantern design competition last year, there were no written information prepared for discussion. Therefore, he rushed himself and prepared the document he had presented at the current meeting. If the Secretariat was unable to give a response right away, they could consider the proposal after the meeting. He went on to ask the representatives of LCSD if they had any update on venue arrangements, and why the Department had rejected the venue booking for the lantern decoration but approved that for the concert of Ronald CHENG. He asked if the decision involved any risk-related considerations. He had attended the concert of Ronald CHENG and found that the concert had been held despite the rain, and the crowd at the concert had been huge.

39. Ms Alice HO, District Leisure Manager (Central & Western) of LCSD, replied that due to the pandemic, LCSD had suspended venue bookings for non-designated uses. As regards the concert of Ronald CHENG that Mr KAM Nai-wai had mentioned earlier, it had been held at a public venue not managed by LCSD. LCSD welcomed applications for the use of venues for the lantern decoration, but would like to remind Members that the use of venues other than those managed by LCSD was also an option they could consider.

40. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked Ms Alice HO if she had consulted her superior before giving such a reply to Members. What she had said implied that the issue could be resolved if the event was not held at venues managed by LCSD. He wondered where the event should be held and why the lanterns could not be displayed at the open space managed by LCSD. He asked if Ms HO noticed what she had said was just ridiculous. He queried if she had meant that the venues managed by LCSD did not belong to the HKSAR Government, or that the venues were breeding grounds for the virus of COVID-19. He expected a more reasonable reply from the Secretariat, even though the replies from the HKSAR Government had always been unreasonable. He did not ask LCSD to give him a reply at the meeting but expected the representatives to convey his opinions to their superior after the meeting. He considered their way of thinking was totally ridiculous.

41. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin recalled that the lantern design competition had been proposed by Mr LEUNG Fong-wai and Mr PANG Ka-ho last year. Perhaps the proposal had been put forth a bit too late for LCSD venue bookings be made in time. As a result, the event could not be held last year and had been postponed until this year. She noticed that the plan the Secretariat devised for the event to be held this year had not been based on the results of Members' discussion last year. She asked whether the District Office had held similar design

competitions in the past, not limited to lantern design competitions but also activities such as poster design contests or voting activities.

42. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the District Office said that all his colleagues at the current meeting had been posted to the C&WDC Secretariat for just a short period of time. Therefore, they did not have any experience in organising such design competitions. As the Secretariat had learned of the plan for the lantern design competition just then at the meeting, they would need some time to look into the different aspects of the proposal, including administrative arrangements such as human resources and time schedule, before they could assess its feasibility. As regards the tender procedures, he supposed what Mr KAM Nai-wai meant was for the Secretariat to prepare the requirement specification for the event and pass it to the appointed contractor for implementation instead of asking the contractor to prepare the specification. In principle, the Secretariat hoped that Members would first endorse the funding for the event at the meeting, and then proceed with the discussion on the details of the event, such as the form of the event.

43. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin was concerned about the preparation time required for the event. Last year, the event could not be held due to the lack of time for preparation. She agreed that details of the event could be discussed later and the first thing for Members to do was to endorse the funding for the event so that the proposal could be submitted to the FC for discussion. However, she stressed that Members should only endorse the funding for the event on condition that the event would be conducted in the form of a design competition. To avoid the possible scenario where winning designs might fail to meet the required specification when they were forwarded to the contractor for production, she suggested that winning designs should be selected among entries of higher quality, such as those from secondary school students or university students who would submit entries that complied with the specification. It would be easier for the contractor to adopt the designs and make necessary adjustments. She suggested that Members should put forth their views first. Then, the Secretariat could modify the plan for the event having regard to Members' views and submit the plan to the FC for consideration without delay, so that the event could be held within the year.

44. Ms CHENG Lai-king recalled that the design competition had not been held last year due to insufficient preparation time and that the Committee had decided to postpone it until this year. She asked whether the DC had decided to display the lanterns at WE Park and Sheung Wan Cultural Square during Christmas and New Year holidays respectively because LCSD had been unable to accept the venue bookings for the lantern displays during Mid-Autumn Festival and Lantern Festival due to the epidemic last year.

45. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the District Office said that due to the epidemic, lanterns had not been displayed during Mid-Autumn Festival and Lantern Festival but Christmas trees had

been set up for festive celebration.

46. Ms CHENG Lai-king added that the cultural squares managed by the District Office and the Lands Department had been used as venues for the activities eventually.

47. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the District Office pointed out that the two different events had been funded separately.

48. Ms CHENG Lai-king went on to say that it was stated in the discussion paper that the event would be organised in a way similar to that of last year. However, she had not seen any lantern decoration in the district last year and therefore could not understand why the current event had to make reference to that of last year. Last year, as LCSD had been reluctant to lend the venues to DC, DC was unable to do anything. Despite the fact that Members had discussed the lantern designs many times at closed door meetings and had even cast their votes in that regard, all efforts had gone down the drain in the end. Considering that the Secretariat intended to invite quotations from potential contractors for organising the event and Mr KAM Nai-wai had already prepared a draft plan, the Secretariat should hold the lantern design competition as Members had requested. The District Office had the experience of organising various open competitions, for instance, photo contests and reunification-related design competitions, and should be familiar with the related procedures. Therefore, she supported the endorsement of funding for the event and the inclusion of a lantern design competition in the event to allow public participation. Previously, lantern decorations had been set up at Hollywood Road Park, Belcher Bay Park and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, where members of the public could parade with their own lanterns and enjoy the festive lantern displays. She suggested that an extra venue should be reserved as a backup, which could be a venue managed by the District Office or, as a last resort, the waterfront promenade where lanterns could be displayed. If all else failed, Members would have to rack their brains to come up with a solution. Displaying the lanterns on the pavement at Caine Road Garden might even be an option.

49. The Chairlady asked other Members if they have any comments. She then announced that Members could speak for the second time.

50. Mr KAM Nai-wai suggested that Members should cast a vote and decide whether to endorse the allocation of \$350,000 for the lantern decoration event on condition that a lantern design competition would be included in the event. He could not understand why the Secretariat had indicated just then that they needed to further consider the proposal. Given that it had been Miss WONG, the predecessor of Miss TONG Wing-hei, who had given responses to Members when the competition had been discussed at the previous meeting, he could not understand why Miss TONG had nodded her head and given a reply to Members just then. As for Mr CHAN Kwok-ying, he had participated in the discussion last time. He noted the

reshuffle of staff in the District Office and said that the incompetence of the District Office had been a well-known fact. Nevertheless, he suggested that funding for the event be endorsed, on condition that a design competition would be included in the event. In addition, pointing out that members of the public had queried the absence of lantern decorations at the parks, he asked the representatives of LCSD to relay the query to their superior. The representatives of LCSD should explain to the public that it was all due to the “idiotic” policy of the Chief Executive, which allowed the concert of Ronald CHENG to be staged but banned lantern displays in parks for fear of the spread of COVID-19. He considered that LCSD should issue a notice to inform the public.

51. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the allocation of \$350,000 for the organisation of the lantern decoration event that comprised a design competition.

(10 affirmative votes by: Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille; Ms CHENG Lai-king;
Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin;
Ms NG Hoi-yan, Bonnie; Mr YIP Kam-lung, Sam;
Ms WONG Kin-ching, Cherry; Mr PANG Ka-ho;
Mr WONG Weng-chi; Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

52. The Chairlady announced that the fund allocation had been endorsed by Members and reminded the representatives of LCSD that they should notify the Secretariat of the DC promptly if the Department resumed booking services for venues managed by them.

**Item 6: Work Plan 2021/2022 of the Regional Office (Hong Kong West/Islands) of
Independent Commission Against Corruption
(C&W CLSAC Paper No. 9/2021)**

(3:32 pm to 4:02 pm)

53. The Chairlady welcomed the guests to the meeting.

54. Ms CHUNG Lai-tuen, Regional Officer/Hong Kong Island of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said that the West Hong Kong Island and Islands Office (the Office) was one of the district offices of the Community Relations Department of the ICAC. It aimed to educate the public against the evils of corruption, enlist the support of all sectors of the community in combating corruption, step up corruption prevention education and provide

advisory services for and receive corruption complaints from members of the public. The work plan of the Office for the current year had been listed in detail in the discussion paper. This year, the Office planned to organise 630 visits and seminars on corruption prevention and around 70 programmes to promote the core values of integrity, reaching out to more than 72 000 people. This year, the target participants of the “Shine with Integrity” Youth Integrity Project for Central & Western District included students of tertiary institutions, secondary and primary schools, and kindergartens in the district as well as their parents, together with residents in the Central and Western District. Activities of the project would be held from May 2021 to July 2022 to align with school term dates. Given that the project was an annual programme on corruption prevention and integrity management for the Central and Western District, the ICAC hoped that the C&WDC would become one of the supporting organisations of the project. All the expenses of the projects would be borne by the ICAC. Activities organised under the project, which aimed at passing on the torch of integrity to the younger generation, would be divided into two categories, which would target school students and young people district-wide respectively. For activities targeting school students, picture books illustrated by local artists had been produced under the “Reading for Integrity” Project and had been distributed to kindergartens last year. Through shared reading of the picture books, parents and teachers were able to convey positive values to children. This year, the production of picture books would continue and English picture books would also be produced for non-Chinese speaking students. Furthermore, moral education worksheets would be produced for use during parent-child activities. For primary schools, the ICAC planned to launch a new programme named “i Junior Programme for Primary Schools”, with the letter “i” representing “Integrity”. To instil positive values of honesty and integrity among primary students, moral education worksheets incorporating augmented reality experiences and online guided tours would be provided during on-campus activities. Besides, to encourage students to make better use of the summer vacation, moral education stories and articles as well as post-reading activities would be provided for self-learning purposes. As for secondary schools, nine secondary schools in the Central and Western District had participated in the “iTeen Leadership Programme for Senior Secondary School Students” last year. This year, the Office would continue to promote the programme in the Central and Western District and encourage senior secondary students to become iTeen leaders. Training would be provided for them to assist them in organising corruption prevention activities for fellow students. For tertiary students, the “ICAC Ambassador Programme” would continue to be organised at tertiary institutions in Hong Kong this year. Under the programme, participants, like those in the iTeen Leadership Programme, would be trained to conduct corruption prevention activities on campus. At district-wise level, the Office had designed and arranged guided tours of “Anti-corruption Walks” on Hong Kong Island for citizens to visit historic spots, local landmarks and places in the Central and Western District, as well as other districts on Hong Kong Island pertaining to the work of the ICAC and anti-corruption history of Hong Kong last year to enhance the understanding of the participants on the local communities and the work of the ICAC. Unfortunately, physical tours had to be cancelled due to the

epidemic. Instead, the ICAC had uploaded relevant information to its website for the public. If conditions permitted this year, the Office would organise physical guided tours for the residents. Currently, visits to landmarks such as Tai Kwun, Shing Wong Street and HKEX Connect Hall were included in the guided tours. As regards the Community Involvement Programme, a total of 22 organisations had participated in activities under the Programme organised in the Central and Western District last year. This year, the Office would continue to invite voluntary agencies, building management bodies, estate management advisory committees and mutual aid committees in the district to organise activities to promote the culture of probity in the community. The ICAC would offer support such as the provision of booths, exhibition stands, leaflets and publicity videos for the organisations. She hoped that the C&WDC and Members would render their support for the programme. She then introduced the preventive education services the Office would provide for various sectors in the Central and Western District this year. The ICAC would continue to invite theatre troupes to stage ICAC Interactive Dramas at schools in the district to disseminate probity messages to students. Students would also be invited to visit the ICAC Headquarters and encouraged to join the ICAC Club, a volunteer group established by the ICAC. The Office would continue to conduct anti-corruption talks and seminars for the public and private sectors in the district. In particular, to raise public awareness on the importance of integrity building management, the Office had all along organised corruption prevention talks for owners' corporations and building management bodies in the district. With the implementation of the new licensing regime for property management, the ICAC would, in collaboration with the Property Management Services Authority, prepare tailor-made teaching materials on corruption prevention for the "Specified Courses" organised by the said authority this year. In addition, in view of the upcoming elections in Hong Kong, the ICAC, as the enforcement agency for the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (ECICO), would continue to distribute pamphlets and posters and organise talks and briefings on the electoral law for election candidates, agents, helpers and voters to promote the importance of upholding a clean election. To sum up, this year, programmes integrating online and offline activities would be launched by the ICAC with the support and participation of local organisations to promote the culture of probity. The ICAC would consider whether adjustments to the mode of work would be needed to increase work effectiveness, having regard to the latest development of the epidemic.

55. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that the ICAC had been established for a long time. The public who expected that Hong Kong would become a clean society were disappointed that the ICAC had turned into a "hatchet man" for the tyranny. The most obvious example of it had been the ICAC's refusal to deal with the "721 incident" and its persecution of elected councillors. There had been a lot of discussion on news reports about the disciplined forces recently. He was not sure whether the ICAC was one of the disciplined forces, but it was clear that the public had doubts on the discipline of officers of the disciplined forces in respect of some incidents, for instance, the way the Immigration Department had hit back on the report of the Audit

Commission and the scandal involving a Senior Assistant Commissioner of the Police Force. Some might argue that they were trivial incidents that did not cause significant impact. However, the incidents reflected the current deplorable situation of the disciplined services. He queried what the ICAC had done in the face of such situation. He referred to a news report on the conviction of two people who had induced fellow residents to vote for the “loyal garbage” by offering them lucky bags. The court in its ruling had questioned the lack of law enforcement against people behind the scenes as the defendants had been mere pawns. He questioned who the ICAC was going after, the lowly flies or the powerful tigers; and whether it had acted as if it had been giving a smack but had actually been giving a helping hand to the tyranny. He pointed out that there would be a number of “pointless” elections to be held in the year. He was particularly worried about this type of “lousy inner-circle” elections, as they often involved the transfer of benefits and pork barrel politics that were more difficult to monitor when comparing to the distribution of lucky bags. He enquired how the ICAC would regulate such activities and what specific arrangements and procedures were in place to let Hong Kong people know that the ICAC was still doing its job and combating such illegal activities.

56. Ms CHUNG Lai-tuen of the ICAC first gave a response regarding the “721 incident”. The ICAC understood that the public was concerned about the “721 incident”, and had already confirmed that it had received related complaints from the public. Although the ICAC could not disclose details of on-going investigations, it must stress that it took every complaint seriously. When the ICAC had completed the follow-up work on a complaint of corruption, a report would be submitted to the Operations Review Committee. Investigation on the complaint would not be closed until the Committee had reviewed it and gave consent to its closure. As regards the issue on the disciplined services, various government departments, including the disciplined forces, had been the target audience of the education work carried out by the ICAC. The Community Relations Department of the ICAC participated in meetings of corruption prevention panels and integrity management committees of various government departments to assist in the formulation of corruption prevention and integrity promotion activities, for instance, conducting seminars to remind staff members of the requirements under the laws. In line with the improvement to the electoral system, the ICAC would conduct briefings on the electoral law for related groups and organisations. In particular, the ICAC would adopt a proactive approach in contacting members of the new “Specified Groups” under the Election Committee Subsector and the Legislative Council Functional Constituency and briefing them about the requirements under the ECICO. She reiterated that the ICAC had all along been the law enforcement agency for the ECICO and had strictly enforced the law regardless of changes in the electoral system. Apart from conducting seminars, ICAC also promoted the importance of clean election to election-related stakeholders through various channels, such as handing out brochures, leaflets and posters, and enhancing publicity on television, radio and online platforms. The ICAC continued to maintain liaison with major political parties and groups, professional bodies and district organisations to advise them on the

related legislative requirements. Besides, the ICAC had a dedicated website to provide the related information for the public and remind them of the important aspects of the electoral law.

57. Ms CHENG Lai-king recalled that at about 2 pm on 8 May, she had seen a group of elderly lining up near the junction of Peel Street and Gage Street. At that time, she was worried that they might have breached the regulation on the group gathering restriction. However, as she was in a hurry, she had not moved forward to remind them of the risk. Later, a fellow resident had told her that the elderly had been lining up for a flower-giving activity that day, and the fellow resident had expressed the concern over such activity. Ms CHENG opined that the DC did not oppose to the act of giving flowers to the elderly in the district. However, some elderly residents had reflected to her that after they had received the flowers, they were asked to complete a voter registration application. As the voter registration had already ended on 2 May, she wondered how they had been able to register as voters on 8 May. With the details of the future electoral system remained unclear, she hoped the ICAC would step up efforts on public education, for instance, approach the elderly at the community elderly centres and advise them not to provide their personal particulars in exchange for small gifts, such as flowers and lucky bags. She was worried that chaotic situations might occur on the election day and she had no idea how she should explain the situation to the residents. Therefore, she hoped that the District Office and ICAC would assure the public that the election would be carried out in a fair and clean manner.

58. Ms CHUNG Lai-tuen of the ICAC said she would not comment on individual incidents at the meeting. Under the ECICO, any person who offered an advantage to another person as an inducement for him/her to vote at the election for a particular candidate would be regarded as committing an offence. Citizens could report suspected contraventions of the ECICO to the ICAC, who would stringently follow up on the complaints upon receiving them if there was sufficient information. In response to the suggestion of Ms CHENG Lai-king that the ICAC should carry out publicity and educational activities at elderly centres, Ms CHUNG pointed out that the ICAC had all along been organising such activities before elections, for instance, the ICAC would contact the elderly centres proactively and arrange related talks for them. Furthermore, the ICAC would remind the elderly of the items they should be aware of during the election periods through various publicity channels. The ICAC would keep up its efforts in that regard.

59. The Chairlady enquired about the role the C&WDC would play if the DC became a supporting organisation of the “Shine with Integrity” Youth Integrity Project for the Central & Western District; whether it meant that the logo of the C&WDC would be used in the activities or that the ICAC would organise the activities in collaboration with the C&WDC.

60. Ms CHUNG Lai-tuen of the ICAC explained that all expenses of the project would be borne by the ICAC and no DC funding would be required. The ICAC believed that District Councils, as the representative organisations in the districts, could play a leading role in appealing to the residents in the district and getting the anti-corruption message across to them. The ICAC hoped that Members could incorporate integrity messages into various activities and help to disseminate integrity messages through their networks.

61. Mr WONG Weng-chi said that the upcoming elections that Ms CHUNG Lai-tuen had mentioned just then were very important elections. He referred to the improvement to the electoral system recently announced by the Government, for instance, regulating the act of inciting voters to cast blank or invalid votes, and enquired if the ICAC was the law enforcement agency in that regard. Members of the public generally considered that there were still ambiguities in the electoral changes, for example, what constituted an act of openly inciting voters to cast blank votes during an election period and whether a post on a private social network account calling for people to cast blank votes would be considered as an appeal to the public. He asked the ICAC for its views in that regard.

62. Ms CHUNG Lai-tuen of the ICAC said that the Bill proposed to amend the ECICO to prohibit any person from inciting others not to vote or to cast invalid votes during an election period through public activities. Since it was an amendment to the ECICO, the ICAC would be responsible for its enforcement. However, as the Bill was still being reviewed by the Legislative Council and it was not known whether there would be further amendments, it was not appropriate for her to elaborate on the amendments at the meeting. Upon the enactment of the amended Ordinance, briefing sessions would be organised by the Office to explain to the public the requirements under the ECICO, including the latest amendments.

63. The Chairlady invited Members to cast their votes to indicate whether they agreed that the C&WDC should become a supporting organisation of the “Shine with Integrity” Youth Integrity Project for the Central & Western District.

(9 affirmative votes by: Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille; Ms CHENG Lai-king;
Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin;
Ms NG Hoi-yan, Bonnie; Mr YIP Kam-lung, Sam;
Ms WONG Kin-ching, Cherry; Mr PANG Ka-ho;
Mr WONG Weng-chi)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

64. The Chairlady announced that the proposal was adopted.

**Item 7: Social Welfare Department Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office 2021-22 Business Plan and Report on Work Progress in the Central and Western District
(C&W CLSAC Paper No. 10/2021)**

(4:02 pm to 4:30 pm)

65. The Chairlady welcomed the guests to the meeting.

66. Mr WONG Chi-leung, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), said that due to the pandemic, 2020 had been a difficult year for members of the public. “Tide Over the Epidemic and Adversity” had been set as the theme for the Central Western, Southern & Islands District Social Welfare Office (the Office) since last year. The Office aimed to support individuals and families affected by the pandemic through the promotion of cross-sector cooperation so that they could tide over the epidemic and adversity. This year, the Office would continue its work of last year and provide welfare services that could meet the needs of the residents, with the focus on “strengthening family relationship and enhancing family harmony”, “caring for the physical and mental health of the youth and providing support for youth life planning”, “providing support for the elderly and their caretakers” and “providing support for the disadvantaged”. Detailed information could be found in the paper. Having briefed Members on the content of the paper, Mr WONG invited Members to give their comments and opinions.

67. Mr KAM Nai-wai opined that the mental health of many residents in the district had been affected by the social movement in 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, the opposing views of the Government and the media on vaccination had increased the mental stress of the residents. He enquired SWD about the measures they had in place for residents with mental health needs and the publicity they had in respect of the support services provided by SWD so that those in need could contact them for help. He then declared that his family member was on the waiting list for residential care services for the elderly and asked whether SWD had requested for the inclusion of residential care homes for the elderly in facilities provided by other government departments to meet the growing demand of the community. Besides, he did not understand why SWD had not publicised the data on the waiting list for residential care services for the elderly. With such data publicised, the public could know more about the waiting time for residential care services. He had been told that the waiting time for such services was longer in the New Territories than that on Hong Kong Island; but that was just speculation. He hoped that SWD would publicise the relevant data in adherence to the principles of openness and transparency, so that members of the public could have a better

understanding of the situation and get prepared for it.

68. Mr WONG Chi-leung of SWD gave a response and said that SWD had been providing one-stop, district-based and accessible community support and social rehabilitation services ranging from early prevention to risk management for persons who had mental illness, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families/caretakers, and residents in the Central and Western District through the Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW). Furthermore, to enhance the services provided for young people who needed emotional support, SWD had implemented the measure of “two social workers for each school” and lowered the age requirements of the target groups of the ICCMW with the inclusion of secondary students, so that social workers of the ICCMW and the social workers at schools could work together to help young people in need. In response to Members’ suggestion at an earlier DC meeting, SWD had asked the ICCMW in the district to strengthen publicity to minimise the effect of adverse labelling, and encourage people in need to seek help promptly. As regards residential care services for the elderly, SWD understood Members’ concern about the provision of residential care homes for the elderly in the Central and Western District and would convey the views of Members to the headquarters of SWD. In respect of the waiting list information for residential care services for the elderly, it was difficult to provide the statistics as each elderly person on the waiting list could choose the residential care homes in up to three different districts or a specific residential care home.

69. Ms CHENG Lai-king put forth a number of questions: 1) in what ways SWD had informed people, who had lost their jobs due to the epidemic, of the support they could get from SWD, for example, the unemployment support under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, so that they would not feel unsupported and overly anxious; 2) whether it was more difficult for ethnic minorities in the district to obtain the latest information related to the pandemic, such as the anti-epidemic measures implemented in restaurants, and whether SWD would step up publicity in that regard; 3) there were currently a lot of restrictions on hospital visits, for instance, visitors were required to present a negative COVID-19 test result obtained within 72 hours before their visit to hospital wards. However, members of the public had reflected to her that they had been unable to make the visits because the Department of Health had failed to send them the results within 72 hours and they had to undergo the test again. She enquired about the assistance SWD could provide for families that had members hospitalised to reduce the impact of visitation restrictions on the relationship among family members; and 4) some elderly patients had been assigned to infirmary hospitals in relatively remote areas, making it even harder for their families to visit. She recalled that a member of the public had expressed the regret he/she had for not having the chance to visit his/her mother on her deathbed. She enquired if the social workers stationed in hospitals could help to arrange hospital visits for family members.

70. Mr WONG Chi-leung of SWD said that residents with financial difficulties could contact the Social Security Field Unit directly or seek assistance at the Integrated Family Service Centre in the district. SWD would release the latest information on CSSA through the media. After recognising the needs of the residents, the service units would follow up on the situation or refer the cases to the relevant service units so that assistance could be provided for the residents. In respect of services for ethnic minorities, SWD had allocated funds for the setting up of outreaching teams to connect the ethnic minorities in need with mainstream welfare services. The outreaching teams would provide appropriate assistance for the ethnic minorities having regard to their needs. For hospital visits, it was the policy of hospitals to make appropriate arrangements for hospital visits with a view to ensuring the safety of both the inpatients and their families amid the pandemic. Residents could approach the hospital concerned and make requests if they had special needs.

71. The Chairlady was aware that SWD had allocated more resources for works related to the promotion of mental health, such as the setting up of ICCMW. She considered that work to enhance the mental health of the public could be carried out at multiple levels. Basic education, for example, destigmatisation, would be at the first level. She pointed out that there was still a lack of understanding about mental health in Hong Kong, making it hard for people in need to take the initiative to seek help from the ICCMW. She therefore asked whether SWD would adopt a proactive approach to promoting among the local communities the importance of mental wellness. Early intervention would be at the second level, which was also the work of the ICCMW. However, as most of the staff members at the centres were social workers, residents who were in need of the treatment would very likely be referred to hospitals and would require longer waiting time. The waiting time for the first appointment of new cases, even for people with suicidal ideation, would be at least one to two weeks. If the symptoms were mild, the wait could be over a year. She hoped that SWD would allocate more resources for the support for those new cases and enhance publicity to raise public awareness. Furthermore, she asked if SWD could strengthen the support for street sleepers during the hot summer in July and August.

72. Mr WONG Chi-leung of SWD gave a response and said that the ICCMW provided one-stop services for residents with different needs, including various activities, support groups and casework follow-up. In addition, the ICCMW maintained liaison with the Community Psychiatric Services of the Hospital Authority to provide timely and appropriate support for persons with suspected mental health problems through “medical-social collaboration”. Regarding the services for street sleepers, the social workers of St. James Settlement Integrated Services for Street Sleepers had kept in touch with street sleepers in the district and, through visits and counselling, encouraged them to accept help and give up street sleeping. If the street sleepers were willing to apply for a shelter place, social workers would also provide help in that

regard.

73. The Chairlady added that she understood that there were different reasons for people to sleep on streets but many of them had no other choices due to the pandemic. She believed that those people were in desperate need of short-term assistance and therefore hoped that SWD would look into the situation and consider providing more support, such as the provision of shelter places.

**Item 8: Funding Application – Applications from Local Arts Organisations
(C&W CLSAC Paper No. 15/2021)**

(4:30 pm to 6:17 pm)

74. The Chairlady welcomed the guests to the meeting.

75. Mr YIP Kam-lung noted that the District Officer had just left the meeting but he had some questions for the District Office regarding the allocation of DC funds. He considered it impossible to proceed with the discussion if the District Officer was not present at the meeting.

76. The Chairlady asked Members to let her finish her welcome message first. Members would be invited to raise their questions afterwards.

77. Mr YIP Kam-lung pointed out that he had not received the discussion papers for the item before the meeting. Instead, he had found the application documents tabled at the meeting. He noticed that a lot of information in the documents had been obliterated. As far as he remembered, such information had not been obliterated when Members considered the funding applications last year. He asked the Secretary and the District Office to explain the justifications for obliterating those information. As he could recall, information such as the names of the responsible persons, the addresses of the organisations and contact phone numbers had not been obliterated previously. Of course, personal particulars had to be obliterated when the application documents were uploaded to the webpage of the DC. However, it would not be acceptable if such information was obliterated in the documents presented to Members for discussion at the meeting. Such arrangements also violated the principle of allowing Members to obtain required information, as Members were unable to check the record or performance of the applicant organisations. Without the required information, Members would not be able to process the applications. He noted that the District Office and Members of the pro-establishment camp had claimed that there had been a decrease of 40% in the amount of funds allocated by the DC last year, i.e., only 60% of the funds had been allocated. However, it was the District Office who was trying to obstruct the processing of the funding applications. He said if the Assistant District Officer was unable to provide a proper response, she should ask the

District Officer to return to the meeting.

78. The Chairlady suggested that they should give the District Office some time.

79. Mr YIP Kam-lung said that the timer could be paused temporarily.

80. The Assistant District Officer said that she needed to check why the documents had been handled in that way.

81. The Chairlady remarked that if the Assistant District Officer was unable to answer such a simple question, she should request the District Officer to return to the meeting. Since all the guests had already arrived at the meeting, it was impossible for the Committee to suspend the discussion due to an issue with the documents.

82. Mr YIP Kam-lung reiterated that all funding applications submitted by the applicant organisations last year had been endorsed by the Committee and subsequently funded by the DC. Therefore, Members had no intention to obstruct the endorsement of the applications. However, he wanted to know why the District Office had obliterated the information in the application documents presented to Members at the current meeting for no reason. He would feel sorry if the funding applications could not be processed at the meeting due to the mistakes of the District Office and suggested that the District Office should be the one to blame.

83. After verification, the Assistant District Officer confirmed that the District Office could provide for Members application documents without obliteration. She believed that it had been a careless mistake that the version intended for public perusal had been provided for Members.

84. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked when the correct version could be provided for Members.

85. The Assistant District Officer said that the Secretariat was preparing the relevant documents for Members.

86. Mr YIP Kam-lung suggested that the meeting should be adjourned.

87. The Chairlady announced that the meeting would be adjourned for ten minutes to allow time for the Secretariat to prepare the required documents.

[The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm and resumed subsequently at 4:51 pm.]

88. The Chairlady thanked the guests for their patience. She said that the revised application documents had been tabled and asked Members if they needed to declare interests in

respect of the funding applications. She added that the total amount of funds available for applications by local arts organisations this year was \$207,000 while that of last year was \$300,000.

89. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked the Secretary whether the six organisations that submitted funding applications this year had been allocated an amount of \$20,000 each last year; whether the organisations had actually organised the activities; and the actual expenditure they had incurred in respect of the activities.

90. The Secretary said that the six organisations that submitted applications this year had been allocated an amount of \$20,000 each last year. As regards the details on the activities organised by the six organisations last year, representatives of the organisations would provide the required details.

91. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked the Secretary if he had any information that could confirm that the activities had actually been organised.

92. The Secretary replied that he did not have such information on hand.

93. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired if all six organisations had each received an allocation of \$20,000 last year.

94. The Secretary replied in the affirmative.

95. The Chairlady remarked that as the Secretary did not have the required information on hand, she would like the representative of each of the organisations to provide information on the activity they had organised last year and the related expenses incurred, so as to facilitate Members' discussion on the applications.

96. Ms LAI Yin-kit, Chairlady of Yuet Sing Chinese Opera, said that they had not organised any activity last year due to the epidemic.

97. Ms CHOI Man-na, Chairlady of Yu Sam Chinese Opera Troupe, said that they had not organised any activity last year due to the epidemic.

98. Ms LI Mee-nar, Chairlady of Elina Cantonese Opera Association, said that they had not organised any activity last year due to the epidemic.

99. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan, Chairlady of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe, said that they had not organised any activity last year due to the epidemic.

100. Ms CHENG May-kee, Event Coordinator of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, said that they had not organised any activity last year due to the epidemic.

101. Ms NG Po-kuen, Chairlady of Raines Cantonese Opera Troupe, said that they had not organised any activity last year due to the epidemic.

102. The Chairlady concluded that all six applicant organisations had not organised any activities last year due to the epidemic.

103. Ms CHENG Lai-king noted that all six applicant organisations had cancelled their activities last year because of the pandemic. She enquired whether the opera troupes could apply for the carry-forward of allocated funds from last year to the current year. She said that the Cantonese opera performance of the working group she was responsible for planned to stage at the City Hall during the Chinese New Year, but had also been cancelled due to the epidemic, and she had applied to the DC for the carry-forward of allocated funds. She hoped that the performance could be successfully held in July. She asked if the representatives of the opera troupes had approached the DC and requested for the carry-forward of allocations, for instance, postponing the activities from March to July or August.

104. The Assistant District Officer indicated that this would require an answer from Mr LEE Tin-chi, Secretary of the FC.

105. Mr KAM Nai-wai hoped that the District Office could find a suitable person to answer the enquiry. Referring to what Ms CHENG Lai-king had just said, he asked the District Office whether the applicant organisations could apply for the carry-forward of allocated funds themselves; whether the applications concerned needed to be endorsed by the DC; and whether the amount of allocated funds carried forward would be included in the budget of last year or that of the current year. He added that if none of the applicant organisations had requested for the carry-forward of allocated funds, there was no need to pursue the subject any further. He hoped that the representatives of the applicant organisations could confirm whether they had applied for the carry-forward of allocated funds. If not, the current funding applications would be treated as new applications and there was no need for the District Office to provide answers to the questions he had asked.

106. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked the Assistant District Officer and the District Office to confirm if the District Officer would return to the meeting. If not, it should be put on record that the

District Officer had left at 4:30 pm.

107. The Assistant District Officer replied that the District Officer had left the meeting.

108. The Chairlady asked the Secretary to put the relevant time on record. She further asked the Secretary if he was contacting the relevant colleagues to respond to Members' enquiries. She then asked the representatives of the applicant organisations at the meeting if they had applied for the carry-forward of allocated funds. She asked those who had made such applications to introduce themselves and explain their situations to Members.

109. Ms LI Mee-nar, Chairlady of Elina Cantonese Opera Association, said that when they had realised that the activity could not be held at the beginning of this year, they had asked the District Office several times whether the allocation could be carried forward to next year; but the answer was in the negative and they were required to complete the activity within the month. Later, she had found out that some other groups had been allowed to hold their activities in April. She had been very upset and felt that they had been treated in an unfair manner. She learnt from the other applicant organisations that they had also made similar requests and had been rejected. She was aware that some organisations that did not belong to the Central and Western District had been allocated large amount of funds. She asked Members to verify if it was true.

110. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked Ms LI Mee-nar if she could reveal the identity of the staff member she had contacted and the way she contacted the staff member concerned, so that Members could follow up on the matter.

111. Ms LI Mee-nar, Chairlady of Elina Cantonese Opera Association, replied that Mr LEE had been the one she usually contacted.

112. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked which Mr LEE she was referring to.

113. The Chairlady replied that it would probably be Mr LEE Tin-chi, Secretary of the FC. However, they could only confirm it when he arrived at the meeting.

114. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that even if the applicant organisations had requested for the carry-forward of funds, Members could still consider the current applications as new applications.

115. The Chairlady said that they were new applications.

116. Mr KAM Nai-wai went on to say that Members could process the new applications first and deal with the issue of carry-forward after the meeting.

117. Ms CHENG Lai-king said that the carry-forward system meant to carry forward allocated funds from the previous year to the following year and must be endorsed by the FC. She did not know if the opera troupes had applied for the carry-forward of funds last year, and whether the allocation of \$20,000 they had for last year had been returned to the Treasury because the staff members concerned did not process their requests. Given the current epidemic situation, it might be difficult for LCSD and District Office to lend venues to the organisations. Furthermore, she was worried about the problem of crowd gathering. She suggested that the Secretariat should prepare an application form for the representatives of the organisation to apply for the carry-forward of funds so that they could hold the activities in the following year.

118. The Chairlady suggested that issues related to the applications last year and the carry-forward of allocated funds should be dealt with after Members had finished processing the new applications for this year. She added that \$300,000 had been allocated to the CLSAC for the organisation of activities by local arts groups last year, whereas the amount of allocation for the current year was \$207,000. The six applications in the current round were all in the Cantonese opera category. Last year, the Committee had decided to allocate an amount of \$20,000 across-the-board to every Cantonese opera troupe. Given that the amount of available funds of this year was lower, she asked Members if they had any comments in that regard.

119. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that first of all, it was necessary to look into the matter regarding the carry-forward requests as it would affect the financial arrangement of the DC. For instance, if eight organisations that had been allocated \$20,000 each last year were allowed to have their allocated funds carried forward, a total of \$160,000 would be available for use this year. There would be no need to allocate the amount from the budget for the current year, and the resources available to the DC would not be reduced. However, he had never heard of the carry-forward arrangement even though he had been a DC member for a long time. The Secretariat or the District Office should be responsible for informing Members that carry-forward was a viable option. Unfortunately, the District Office had been infamous for the way they mishandled their duties. The Secretary of the DC and the District Officer had their focus on political affairs and ignored community affairs. Members were seriously disappointed. He believed that the issue of accountability should be pursued. Secondly, if the funding applications were endorsed at the current meeting, the applicant organisations should be notified of the carry-forward arrangement, as Ms CHENG had suggested just then. He asked the Secretary to remind the applicant organisations of it. Given the current epidemic situation, the activities might have to be cancelled in the end. Not to mention that they could be affected by the absurd policy of LCSD; for instance, banning the display of lanterns at parks but endorsing the staging of the concert of Ronald CHENG. Thirdly, he agreed that the budget for the current year was lower

than that for last year. If Members endorsed the full amount the six applicant organisations had applied for, the total amount of allocation would be close to \$180,000, accounting for a very high percentage of the available funds of \$207,000. Therefore, he suggested that they should “live within their means” and, in the same way as last year, allocate an amount of \$20,000 across-the-board to each applicant organisation. In that way, about \$80,000 could be reserved for the applications from other organisations or for other uses to be decided by Members. On one hand, the arrangement followed the practice of the previous year. On the other hand, it helped to reserve the financial resources of the DC. He suggested that representatives of the applicant organisations should indicate at the meeting whether an allocation of \$20,000 would be sufficient for their activity. He recalled that at the previous FC meeting, an allocation of \$100,000 had been endorsed for an activity that originally applied for an allocation of \$200,000. At that time, the applicant organisation had indicated at the meeting that they would cancel the activity. However, it had turned out that the activity had been organised anyway.

120. The Chairlady asked the Assistant District Officer to make arrangement for the colleague concerned to come to the meeting and explain the carry-forward arrangements to Members. She believed that both the guests and Members at the meeting would like to know why the requests for carry-forward had been rejected.

121. The Assistant District Officer said that it would be more appropriate for colleagues of the Secretariat to explain the carry-forward arrangement at the meeting as they had the best understanding of the arrangement. Meanwhile, colleagues of the District Office were preparing the information requested and would provide it for Members as soon as possible.

122. The Chairlady said that while they were waiting for the officers concerned, she would like to remind the Assistant District Officer that, as the representative of the District Office, she should acquaint herself with all aspects of the work of the office and, in particular, the arrangement for carry-forward of funds. Otherwise, the District Officer should better stay and answer the enquiries next time. She added that the CLSAC had a budget of \$300,000 for activities organised by local arts groups last year but the allocation had been reduced to \$207,000 this year. She had learned from the Secretary that a total of 12 applications had been submitted last year, including eight submissions in June; two in September and two in October. Based on the standards of last year and upon simple calculation, it might be appropriate if an amount of \$18,000 could be allocated across-the-board for each activity to be organised by the Cantonese opera troupes this year. If an amount of \$20,000 were to be allocated for each activity, the total allocation would amount to \$120,000. Only about \$80,000 would be left for applications from other organisations, which would not be sufficient. She therefore hoped that Members would further consider and discuss the item as there were limited financial resources available to the Committee.

123. Mr YIP Kam-lung concurred with the view of Mr KAM Nai-wai that Members should apply the criteria adopted in the previous year first, and then wait for Mr LEE Tin-chi, the Secretary of the FC, to explain the carry-forward arrangement. If the organisations had not organised the activities last year, it might be appropriate if they could be given another opportunity this year. As for the allocation amount, the Chairlady and Mr KAM Nai-wai had different suggestions. If the available allocation was not enough for the purpose, he suggested that Members should consider making use of the allocation for “Community Involvement Projects”. He had often heard the comments of the “loyal garbage” that DC funds had not been spent effectively last year, but he believed that the representatives of the organisations at the meeting would not agree with the comment concerned. Members had to avoid over-allocation and ensure that the funds were allocated wisely. Some organisations might even consider that Members had been mean to them. He had organised some concerts before and understood that the expenses for such activities were high. An allocation of \$20,000 might not be able to cover the expenses. However, what made him angry was that the “loyal garbage” had been talking nonsense at the Legislative Council meeting and criticised the DC for spending just 60% of the available funds. In fact, many activities had to be cancelled due to the epidemic. He did not know if those people had been “blind-folded” or “given the wrong injections”. To his understanding, Members had tried their best to have more activities organised for the enjoyment of residents in the district, even though the Committee had a very tight budget. According to the Government’s strategy of “Together, We fight the Virus”, the epidemic should significantly improve in the second half of the year. Otherwise, the Government should be held accountable for its failure and the senior officials should step down.

124. The Chairlady said that she would like to know more about the carry-forward arrangement first, since some representatives of the applicant organisations had just mentioned that their requests for carry-forward had been turned down, while some of those from other applicant organisations had been successful.

125. Mr LEE Tin-chi, Executive Officer (District Council)¹ of the C&WDO, said that between January and March this year, the Secretariat had reviewed the progress of various “Community Involvement Projects” and worked out the amount to be carried forward to the current year. He had noticed that some performance groups had intended to stage their performances in the community halls in the district. However, at that time, some of the community halls had been used as temporary testing centres and there had been the emergence of the “Gym cluster” in the district. Therefore, the Secretariat had approached the applicant organisations to enquire on whether the activities would be held as scheduled; whether the organisers had prepared for the implementation of proper anti-epidemic measures; and whether the organisations, with public health as their primary concern, considered that the activities could be completed by the end of the financial year. Some of the applicant organisations had considered the advice and decided to cancel their activities without asking for the carry-forward

of allocated funds. Some organisations had indicated that they wished to wait until April or May to decide whether they would cancel their activities. Therefore, the Secretariat might have arranged the carry-forward of allocated funds for the organisations at the request of the organisations.

126. The Chairlady referred to the comments of Ms LI Mee-nar, Chairlady of Elina Cantonese Opera Association, and said that the organisation had claimed that they had firmly indicated their wish to have the allocation carried forward but their request had been rejected by the District Office. Therefore, she would like to have a better understanding of the issue.

127. Mr LEE Tin-chi of the District Office pointed out that as the conversation had been made quite some time ago, it was not possible for him to confirm the content of the conversation then. He reiterated that the stance of the Secretariat was that applicants should, as far as possible, complete their activities in the current financial year to avoid any carry-forward. He believed that Members would not wish to see a huge amount of funds being carried forward, since it would indirectly reduce the amount of funds available for allocation in the following year. Therefore, every time the Secretariat explained the situation to the organisations concerned, the Secretariat would advise them not to choose to carry the activities forward to the next year but some organisations had decided to do so.

128. The Chairlady remarked that according to what Mr LEE had said, if the organisations insisted, the Secretariat would arrange the carry-forward of funds for them. She wondered why the request of Ms LI Mee-nar for carry-forward had been rejected right away at that time.

129. Mr LEE Tin-chi of the District Office said that if the applicant organisation had agreed to cancel the activity at that time, the Secretariat would certainly welcome the decision. Therefore, as long as Ms LI Mee-nar had submitted a new application this year, the activity could still be organised. The only difference was whether the funds had been allocated from the budget of last year or that of the current year. He reiterated that it had been the intention of the Secretariat to convince applicants to cancel their activities amid the pandemic, so that the amount of funds to be carried forward to the following year could be reduced.

130. Ms LI Mee-nar, Chairlady of Elina Cantonese Opera Association, added that they had changed the date of the activity many times and had asked Mr LEE Tin-chi about the carry-forward arrangement many times. When she heard that some groups had been allowed to carry forward the allocation of funds and postpone their activities to April, she had asked Mr LEE if she could apply for carry-forward. Mr LEE had turned down her request on the grounds that it had been too late. She asked if Mr LEE remembered that she had called the Secretariat many times. She had kept calling just because she had known that other groups had been allowed to

carry forward their allocation of funds.

131. The Chairlady said that she understood the situation concerned and would like to know more about the procedures of the carry-forward mechanism. She asked if the applicant organisations were required to approach the Secretariat proactively to apply for carry-forward and whether it was true that Members might not be informed of such applications.

132. Mr LEE Tin-chi of the District Office said that in general, the Secretariat would call the organisations near the end of a financial year to enquire if the activities had been successfully organised. In response to the enquiry of Ms LI Mee-nar, he reiterated that the Secretariat's stance was to convince the organisations not to apply for carry-forward, because it was not desirable for a huge amount of funds to be carried forward to the next financial year. For instance, about \$3.3 million had been carried forward to the last financial year and about \$3.7 million had been carried forward to the current financial year. Therefore, the Secretariat would try to reduce the amount to be carried forward as far as possible. Furthermore, at that time, Members had been of the opinion that it would not be desirable for large scale events or activities to be held between January and March amid the coronavirus outbreak in the community. Therefore, the Secretariat had reiterated the stance to each applicant organisation and tried to convince them not to hold the activities during this period, so that the amount to be carried forward could be reduced. Therefore, the Secretariat was not going against any organisations.

133. The Chairlady said that she understood the situation and asked if any organisations had successfully applied for the carry-forward of funds and eventually organised the activities in April or May.

134. Mr LEE Tin-chi of the District Office replied in the affirmative.

135. Ms CHENG Lai-king asked Mr LEE Tin-chi to confirm if it was true that although the amount of allocation had been carried forward in name only, it was actually included in the budget for 2021-2022.

136. Mr LEE Tin-chi of the District Office confirmed that it was true.

137. Ms CHENG Lai-king went on to say that she had discussed with the Chairlady of the FC that after deducting from the budget, which was over \$10 million, over \$3 million of funds that was being carried forward, the remaining amount should be reserved for the current financial year. She agreed that it might cause some problems if the organisation that had applied for carry-forward failed to organise the activity in the subsequent year due to the pandemic. On the other hand, if the organisation cancelled the activity, the allocated amount would not be carried forward to the next year; and it seemed to be the easiest way to handle the matter.

Besides, many venues in the district were unavailable for booking due to the epidemic. Therefore, the organisations needed to consider if they were able to carry forward the funds and postpone their activities to March or even beyond April next year.

138. Mr YOUNG Chit-on noted that all representatives of the six applicant organisations at the meeting had indicated that they had tried to apply for the carry-forward of funds last year but none of them had been successful. He understood that the representatives concerned might feel upset, since they had invested a lot of resources, time and manpower in the preparation of the activities. The cancellation of activities had been a heavy blow for them. He was therefore pleased to see that the organisations had submitted applications for the organisation of the activities again this year. It demonstrated their determination to hold the activities, not to mention that they were among the first batch of applicants. Therefore, he did not consider it appropriate for the CLSAC to decrease the amount of allocation for Cantonese opera activities and allocate the amount to other applicant organisations. He considered it unfair if organisations that had demonstrated their determination to hold the activities were treated that way, particularly when it was suspected that some of them had been treated in an unfair manner due to maladministration of the Government. It was unnecessary for the CLSAC to set another hurdle for the applicant organisations at a time when it was unknown whether the activities could be held. He hoped that funds could be allocated to the organisations as soon as possible to give them more time to prepare for the implementation of anti-epidemic measures in light of the latest epidemic, for instance, separating clean zones from dirty zones and imposing restrictions such as only allowing admission for people who had received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine and with a proof of negative COVID-19 test results. It was obvious that the epidemic would not disappear naturally. After one and a half years, the number of infected people was still increasing. He had seen on the news hundreds of dead bodies floating in the rivers in India. Those who were living a better life, like himself, should be thankful. He asked if there was anything that the organisations could do to encourage more people to get vaccinated as it would be the only way our society could get away from the present predicament. Otherwise, the pandemic would go on until the virus killed all people it could kill. Therefore, he hoped that the applicant organisations would not be misled by the media and believed that the vaccines were killing people. He said that he had worked in the Education Bureau before and believed that statistical figures should be studied. Hong Kong had a population of 7.5 million people, and Government statistics showed that more than 40 000 persons were born and more than 40 000 persons died of natural causes each year, i.e., about 128 deaths a day. Currently, 10% of the population in Hong Kong was vaccinated. Therefore, among the 128 deaths each day, 12.8 persons should have been vaccinated. However, the media had focused on just two or three such cases and spread fear among the public, preventing them from getting vaccinated. He considered that Members should lead by example and get vaccinated themselves instead of spreading fear among people.

139. The Chairlady supposed that there might have been a lack of effective communication in respect of the carry-forward arrangement, which was the reason why the CLSAC had no knowledge of the carry-forward requests from the applicant organisations. She added that the financial resources available for the CLSAC were extremely tight and frankly disclosed to the attendees of the meeting that the Committee had a budget of only \$207,000 for the current year. She noted that Mr KAM Nai-wai had proposed to adopt the practice of the previous year and allocate an amount of \$20,000 across-the-board to each Cantonese opera troupe, while Mr YOUNG Chit-on had proposed to allocate the full amount applied for. As regards her proposal for an allocation of \$18,000, she decided to withdraw it. Therefore, there were two proposals for Members to consider: (i) allocate an amount of \$20,000 to each Cantonese opera troupe and apply for an additional allocation from the FC if the remainder of the CLSAC allocation was insufficient for other applications; and (ii) allocate the full amount applied for. However, Members should note that the total amount of allocation in respect of the latter proposal would be \$177,200, leaving just an amount of about \$20,000 for other activities, which would not be enough to invite a second round of applications. The Chairlady suggested Members should cast a simple vote to indicate their preferences in respect of the proposals. Members were invited to raise their comments, if any, at this point.

140. Ms NG Hoi-yan asked the Chairlady if Members would discuss and vote on the applications one by one or vote on all six applications in one go.

141. The Chairlady replied that Members would vote on the applications one by one, but before that, they would discuss the processing criterion for applications in the category of Cantonese opera first.

142. Mr YOUNG Chit-on clarified that he understood that Members were concerned about the issue of insufficient allocation for other applications if the full amount applied for were allocated to the six applicant organisations. He enquired the Secretariat about the total amount of spent allocation in respect of the successful applications last year.

143. The Chairlady replied that there had been a total of 12 applications last year, but all the activities in respect of the applications of the six organisations at the meeting had been cancelled due to the epidemic.

144. Mr YOUNG Chit-on wondered why Members had to calculate all the figures, given that the activities had been cancelled last year and were very unlikely to be cancelled this year. For organisations that had not submitted any applications so far, it was possible that they were so disheartened that they had no intention to hold any activities this year. Therefore, Members might as well just endorse all the current applications. He thanked the applicant organisations for their determination and courage in holding the activities despite the pandemic, and their

commitment to serving the senior citizens. As regards the issue of vaccination, he believed that members of the public should decide for themselves. Anyway, he hoped that the full amount applied for could be allocated to the organisations.

145. The Chairlady reiterated that the CLSAC had been grateful for the support of the applicant organisations and appreciated the efforts they had made. It was unfortunate that they had not been able to hold any activity since the outbreak of COVID-19 last year. However, the CLSAC must explain to them that some of the DC funds had been reserved for the organisation of district festival activities, resulting in substantial cuts in the resources allocated to the committees under DC. The CLSAC did not mean to give a hard time to the applicant organisations. It was just that the Committee had been working on a tight budget. Therefore, she suggested that Members should vote on whether they should allocate an amount of \$20,000 across-the-board or the full amount applied for to the applicant organisations in the category of Cantonese opera. Once the relevant criterion was confirmed, Members would discuss and vote on the applications one by one.

146. The Chairlady invited Members to vote on the allocation of an amount of \$20,000 across-the-board to each application in the category of Cantonese opera.

(9 affirmative votes by: Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille; Ms CHENG Lai-king;
Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin;
Ms NG Hoi-yan, Bonnie; Mr YIP Kam-lung, Sam;
Ms WONG Kin-ching, Cherry; Mr PANG Ka-ho;
Mr WONG Weng-chi)

147. The Chairlady invited Members to vote on the allocation of the full amount applied for to the applicant organisations in the category of Cantonese opera.

(1 affirmative vote by: Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy)

148. The Chairlady announced that since there were nine votes in favour of the proposal to allocate an amount of \$20,000 across-the-board, the criterion would be adopted when processing applications in the category of Cantonese opera. She then invited Members to discuss the application from Yuet Sing Chinese Opera. The name of the activity was “Melodic Chinese Opera Show in the Central and Western District” and the amount applied for was \$27,200. An across-the-board allocation of \$20,000 would be allocated. Members who intended to comment on the application were invited to switch on the indicator light.

149. In response to Mr YOUNG Chit-on who suggested that the applicant organisations should encourage the elderly participants to get vaccinated, Mr WONG Weng-chi pointed out

that the major target audience for the activities to be held by the applicant organisations at the meeting was the elderly and he did not want them to get vaccinated just because they wished to attend the activities. Instead, they should assess the related risks and decide for themselves, given that elderly people were generally at higher risk. Besides, he noticed that 230 tickets for the activity to be organised by Yu Sam Chinese Opera Troupe would be distributed by the DC, which he considered would be an effective way to reach out to different local communities. However, similar arrangement had not been made by some of the applicant organisations. He therefore encouraged the applicant organisations at the meeting to follow the practice. Noting that the target audience for activities that aimed at promoting traditional Chinese culture, such as the Cantonese opera and Beijing opera performances, was usually senior citizens, he suggested that the applicant organisations could consider inviting schools in the district to participate in the activities, so as to attract people with different demographic backgrounds. If they focused too much on the elderly, the goal of passing on the traditional culture would be difficult to achieve. Furthermore, the Committee also hoped that the funds allocated could be used to serve a wider range of people in the district, not just the senior citizens.

150. Mr YIP Kam-lung was concerned about the anti-epidemic measures for the activities and asked the District Office about the related arrangements. To his understanding, as activities held at places of public entertainment would involve the participation of the public, the staff members concerned were required to undergo a COVID-19 test in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance. He asked the District Office to confirm if staff members responsible for activities held at venues managed by the District Office were required to undergo a COVID-19 test before performing their duties.

151. The Assistant District Officer replied that staff members that belonged to the targeted groups specified under the law were required to undergo the test.

152. Mr YIP Kam-lung went on to say that the period of free testing for staff of scheduled premises or persons of targeted groups under the relevant ordinance would soon expire as the Government had announced in February this year that free testing would be provided for a duration of three months. As a result, staff members responsible for the performances might have to pay \$240 for undergoing the COVID-19 test. He enquired whether the expenses could be covered by the allocation from CLSAC.

153. The Assistant District Officer replied that it would depend on the breakdown of the expenses provided by the organisation. To her understanding, as DC funding was provided on a reimbursement basis, it would be possible for the organisation to be reimbursed for the testing fees if the fees were included as expenses for miscellaneous items or COVID-19 testing and given that such inclusion was accepted by the DC.

154. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked if the District Office could help people in the performing arts industry to get free testing. He remarked that the performing arts industry, including both the traditional opera and popular music sectors, had languished. He asked if the District Office could ask the departments concerned to waive the testing fees for staff members and whether staff members were required to pay for the tests themselves currently.

155. The Assistant District Officer said that the Government had an overall policy in respect of free testing for targeted groups. However, the District Office could relay the views of Members to the departments concerned.

156. Mr YIP Kam-lung believed that the applicant organisations at the meeting were all very concerned about the issue and had not expected that the period of free testing would end abruptly. Therefore, he hoped that the District Office could look into the issue, as many performing arts groups he knew were very concerned about it. In addition, he asked the Secretariat if testing fees could be included in the expenses for miscellaneous items for reimbursement.

157. The Assistant District Officer replied that they needed to look into the issue regarding the reimbursement of testing fees.

158. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that he had no further questions and hoped that the District Office would give a response to Members as soon as possible in respect of the waiving or reimbursement of testing fees.

159. The Chairlady hoped that the District Office would promptly inform Members and the applicant organisations once they had the answers to Members' enquiries.

160. Mr KAM Nai-wai was concerned about the arrangements regarding the anti-epidemic measures. Noting that the activity of Yuet Sing Chinese Opera would be held at Sai Ying Pun Community Complex at High Street, he asked the representatives of LCSD about the seating restrictions for performances held at LCSD venues. He further asked the representatives of the District Office whether the District Office had stopped lending venues managed by them to performing groups or they had adopted the restrictions on seating capacity implemented for the LCSD venues. He could not remember clearly whether the seating capacity had been reduced to half or two thirds of the original. In response to the suggestion of Mr YOUNG Chit-on that participants should be encouraged to get vaccinated, he pointed out that, just as many Members had mentioned earlier, some of the terrifying reports on vaccines were not groundless, not to mention that vaccines were injected into the body. Recently, the Government had announced that vaccinated people would be allowed to stay at bars and pubs till 2 am. He criticised the Government for bringing about its own destruction. People with a clear mind would know that such measures were impossible to succeed. They could only be implemented in an

authoritarian state but not in Hong Kong. They would only bring about adverse impacts in Hong Kong. Furthermore, the Committee should not shift the responsibility to the applicant organisations. The policy of the Government was to get people vaccinated. However, it should be up to the citizens to decide whether they had confidence in the Government and the vaccine. If only vaccinated people were allowed to go and watch a Cantonese opera show, he believed that no one would choose to watch it. At the current moment, people in India would not need persuasion to get vaccinated. They would scramble to get vaccinated as they were going to die anyway, whether or not to get vaccinated. The decision on whether to get vaccinated could be influenced by various social and environmental factors and could not be coerced. He hoped that the pro-establishment camp and the royalists would not jump to the conclusion that other people were carrying out a smear campaign against the vaccine. In his own case, to fight against tyranny, he would never install the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile application, unless he could not have meals outside or go anywhere without installing it. It was a matter of personal choice that should not be forced on anyone. In particular, people should not be forced to get vaccinated. There were advertisements on TV every day promoting vaccination but it would by no means enhance public trust in COVID-19 vaccination.

161. Ms LAU Sau-ping, Senior Manager (Hong Kong West) of LCSD replied that since 1 April, the maximum number of users allowed in performance venues managed by LCSD had been relaxed to 75% of the normal seating capacity. No more than four consecutive seats should be occupied.

162. The Assistant District Officer replied that there were also similar restrictions on the number of users for venues managed by the District Office but she did not have the relevant information on hand and would provide it later.

163. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that if the Assistant District Officer was so clueless, she should not sit there and claim that she was the person-in-charge. She had been unable to answer the questions, even questions about venues managed by the District Office. He doubted the need for her presence at the meeting. He hoped that other Members would not criticise him for telling people off in every meeting, but he wondered what the Central and Western District Office had been doing every day. The representatives of LCSD who attended the meeting were able to answer the questions; for instance, informing Members that the current seating capacity was 75% of the original. However, the Assistant District Officer did not even know the answer to such an easy question. He wondered how she could manage the whole District Office. The Committee convened the meeting to discuss the allocation of funding for activities to be organised in the district. Members needed to know the venue arrangements before they could endorse the funding applications. He wondered if the Assistant District Officer had prepared herself for the meeting, or she had intended to just sit at the conference table like “a ball of rice” and “feed at the public trough” without doing any work. He said that he got angry every time

he paid his taxes because the taxes he paid were spent on salaries for such people.

164. The Chairlady asked the Assistant District Officer to provide the required information as soon as possible, and if possible, after the statement of Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin.

165. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said she would provide additional information on the current situation of the community complex at High Street. She had learnt two days ago that an owners' corporation had rented the multi-purpose hall of the community complex at High Street for an owners' meeting. Unfortunately, the venue had been used as a temporary testing centre, so the meeting had to be cancelled. She had asked the representative of the owners' corporation about the restrictions on the capacity of the venue. The representative had told her that the maximum capacity was just 20 persons. She was very surprised, since it would be impossible to hold an owners' meeting if the maximum capacity was just 20. She pointed out that the restriction on the capacity of venues had a serious impact on the activities. Performing groups had to choose venues that could accommodate the size of the audience. It would not be possible for them to stage their performances at venues with a maximum capacity of 20 persons, since the number of performers would easily exceed the limit. Therefore, if the issue about seating capacity could not be clarified at the meeting, Members would not be able to endorse the funding applications. Even if the applications were endorsed at the meeting, the applicant organisations would not know how to arrange venues for the activities. Therefore, she asked the Assistant District Officer to provide Members with an answer as soon as possible, as she believed that staff members of the District Office were still at work.

166. Mr KAM Nai-wai recounted another absurd incident related to Sai Ying Pun Community Complex at High Street. Earlier, he had enquired about the parking arrangement at the complex, as he needed to attend a meeting held in the area. He had not asked the Secretariat to arrange parking for him. He just wanted to contact the person in charge of the community complex at High Street to enquire about the parking arrangement. However, the Secretariat had refused to provide the relevant information. He was shocked and wondered why the District Office and the Secretariat had become so ridiculous. He did not understand what they were doing. If they did not want to serve Members, they might just tell Members so. He had only asked for the name and phone number of the person in charge but the request had been rejected. He wanted to put on record the incident that he had encountered. He wondered if the staff of the District Office and the Secretariat had "gone berserk" in their confrontation with the District Council.

167. The Chairlady asked the Assistant District Officer to answer the enquiry about the anti-epidemic measures for venues managed by the District Office.

168. The Assistant District Officer indicated that she needed more time for the answer.
169. The Chairlady asked how long it would take.
170. The Assistant District Officer replied that it would be quicker if she could leave the meeting to make a phone call.
171. The Chairlady asked if the Assistant District Officer understood that the presence of a representative of the District Office was required at the meeting. She pointed out that the District Office had some other staff members that could help. She added that Members might need to wait for the information about venue arrangements from the District Office. She asked Members if they had further questions about the “Melodious Chinese Opera Show in the Central and Western District” to be organised by Yuet Sing Chinese Opera. If not, she suggested that Members should discuss other activities first and vote on the funding application concerned after they had the required information on venue arrangements. She invited Members to comment on the application of Yu Sam Chinese Opera Troupe. The name of the activity was “Chinese Operatic Songs Concert”. The organisation had applied for an allocation of \$30,000. However, Members had agreed to allocate an amount of \$20,000 across-the-board for each application in the category of Cantonese Opera.
172. Members had no questions or comments on this application.
173. The Chairlady said they would move on to the application of Elina Cantonese Opera Association. The name of the activity was “Chinese Operatic Songs Concert”. She asked Members if they had any questions or comments on the application.
174. Members had no questions or comments on this application.
175. The Chairlady invited Members to comment on the application of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe. The name of the activity was “Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe – Passing on the Tradition of Cantonese Opera”. The organisation had applied for an allocation of \$30,000 while the agreed amount of allocation for an endorsed application in the category of Cantonese Opera would be \$20,000 across-the-board.
176. Ms NG Hoi-yan noticed that the correspondence address of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe was the same as that of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, and the particulars on the two application forms were almost identical. She asked whether the two organisations would declare their relationship.

177. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe explained that the address that had been mentioned just then was the address of the office of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe. The troupe had allowed the Chinese Arts and Culture Association to use it as the correspondence address.

178. Ms NG Hoi-yan asked Ms CHENG Yuk-lan whether the office of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe was located in Sai Ying Pun or Yuen Long.

179. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe replied that the office of the troupe was situated in Sai Ying Pun, while she herself lived in Yuen Long.

180. Ms NG Hoi-yan said she understood and asked Ms CHENG Yuk-lan if it was correct that she lived in Yuen Long and had allowed the Chinese Arts and Culture Association to use the address of the office as correspondence address.

181. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe answered in the affirmative.

182. Ms NG Hoi-yan indicated that when Members discussed the application of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, she would further enquire about the relationship between the two organisations and why the Chinese Arts and Culture Association had used the address of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe while they had their own registered office.

183. Ms CHENG May-kee, Event Coordinator of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, replied that there had been occasions that the association had failed to receive the correspondence sent to the address of the office of the association. Therefore, the association had used the address of Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe as correspondence address.

184. Ms NG Hoi-yan asked if any benefits were involved in the relationship between them.

185. Ms CHENG May-kee of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association replied that there were absolutely no benefits involved.

186. Ms NG Hoi-yan asked if the association needed to pay for using the address.

187. Ms CHENG May-kee of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association replied in the negative.

188. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe about the number of organisations that had used the address of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe as

their correspondence address or office address. In addition, he asked if there were any overlapping in terms of personnel and membership between Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe, the Chinese Arts and Culture Association or other related organisations that had used the address of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe, or whether the two associations were composed of two entirely different groups of people.

189. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe replied that the troupe had allowed only one organisation, which was the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, to use their address. The persons-in-charge of the two organisations were two different persons. The Chinese Arts and Culture Association had hired Ms CHENG May-kee as their Event Coordinator.

190. Mr KAM Nai-wai said he did not fully understand what “Coordinator” meant. He noticed that for the activity organised by Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe, Mr CHENG Chi-keung was the person-in-charge of the activity while Ms CHENG Yuk-lan was the authorised person of the organisation. However, for the activity organised by the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, Ms CHENG Yuk-lan was the person-in-charge of the activity. He remembered that Ms CHENG Yuk-lan had mentioned the name of another person just then and had said that she was the Event Coordinator. He asked if they were the same person as they had the same telephone number and email address. He asked Ms CHENG Yuk-lan to further explain why she had said that only one person was involved in the overlapping of personnel but actually there was an overlap in the persons-in-charge of the activities.

191. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe explained that she had sometimes provided help in the handling of documents and emails, and there was nothing more.

192. Mr KAM Nai-wai wondered if Ms CHENG Yuk-lan was the Chairlady of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe or the person-in-charge of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association.

193. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe explained that in the past, there had been occasions where the Chairman of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association was not in Hong Kong, and she had helped the association in handling some issues or emails, etc.

194. Mr KAM Nai-wai pointed out that the offices of other organisations, for instance, Elina Cantonese Opera Association, were situated in the Central and Western District. However, for Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe, the address of the office was in Sai Ying Pun but the correspondence address was in Yuen Long. He enquired about the way the tickets for the activity would be distributed and how they could ensure that residents in the Central and Western District could enjoy the benefits.

195. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe said that 110 tickets for the activity would be distributed by the DC, while the remaining 200 tickets would be distributed to the centres for the elderly in the district. She added that the information had been provided in Part N of the application form.

196. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that he noted the method of ticket distribution, and asked whether tickets would be distributed mainly through organisations in the Central and Western District. It was not necessary for the tickets to be distributed via the DC or the Secretariat. He believed that it would be easier for residents in the Central and Western District to enjoy the benefits if the tickets were distributed through different organisations. He noted that it was stated in the application form that 150 tickets would be distributed openly by the applicant organisation to the public. Although he did not know about the method of ticket distribution, he could imagine that it would be easier for members of the applicant organisation or their friends to get the tickets. He asked the representative of the applicant organisation whether the proportion of tickets to be distributed in the Central and Western District, which was 350 out of 500 tickets, could be increased. In addition, he enquired if the applicant organisation could ensure that those tickets would be distributed in the Central and Western District.

197. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe said that it would be possible for them to make such arrangement.

198. Mr KAM Nai-wai proposed a ratio of 400 to 100 tickets.

199. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe reminded Members that the 500 tickets actually included those for staff members and performers. Therefore, only some 400 tickets would actually be distributed.

200. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired about the number of tickets reserved for staff members and performers under normal circumstances.

201. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe replied that as they were paid staff, they would not receive any tickets but would help distribute the tickets to the elderly.

202. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that regardless of the methods of ticket distribution, he suggested that 400 tickets should be distributed to organisations in the Central and Western District, such as DC Members or centres for the elderly, while the remaining 100 tickets should be distributed openly by the applicant organisations. He hoped that other applicant organisations would also undertake to make such arrangement. As such, there might only be 50 seats left. As the District Office was unable to confirm the seating capacity, Members could discuss the matter

later.

203. Ms NG Hoi-yan referred to the overlapping in persons-in-charge of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe and the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, and expressed her concern about the conflict of interest that might occur. Noting that it had been written in the application form that the activity would be held at Hong Kong City Hall or Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre, she asked the representative of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association if they had at the same time applied for funding from the Eastern District Council; and if the activity were to be eventually held at Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre, from which District Council the organisation would apply for funding.

204. Ms CHENG May-kee of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association replied that they would definitely apply for funding from the C&WDC. Due to the epidemic, performance venues available for booking were very limited. Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre was chosen as a last resort. Furthermore, they would require a venue like the City Hall for the setting up of the stage. They would have to reconsider it if it was a community hall.

205. Ms NG Hoi-yan said that she just needed one answer from the representative of the applicant organisation, which would be whether the organisation had submitted the proposal to the Eastern District Council for funding application. As it had been mentioned earlier, it would be more likely for them to successfully apply for the venue at Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre instead of Hong Kong City Hall. Therefore, she queried why the organisation had not submitted a funding application to the Eastern District Council.

206. Ms CHENG May-kee of Chinese Arts and Culture Association believed that Ms NG Hoi-yan had misunderstood what she had said earlier. What she had meant to say was that the organisation had been worried that the venues in Central and Sheung Wan would be closed for a year and they would be unable to find a venue even if the funding application was endorsed by the C&WDC. Therefore, they had added the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre as an option and it had nothing to do with the application for funding.

207. Ms NG Hoi-yan enquired again if the organisation had submitted a funding application to the Eastern District Council.

208. Ms CHENG May-kee of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association replied in the negative.

209. Ms NG Hoi-yan indicated that she had no further questions.

210. Ms CHENG Lai-king asked whether Ms CHENG Yuk-lan would be answering the enquiries of both applications. Noting that the average ticket price for the activity of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe was \$90, she asked if the organisation would pay for the tickets first before distributing them to the centres for the elderly in the district, or they would collect the ticket fees from the centres for the elderly directly.

211. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe said that they would not collect any money from the centres for the elderly.

212. The Chairman asked if Members had further questions for Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe. If not, she suggested that Members should move on to the next application. However, she would invite the Assistant District Officer to answer the enquiry about anti-epidemic arrangements for the venues concerned first.

213. The Assistant District Officer replied that for the community hall at High Street, the current maximum capacity was 50% of the original. As the venue could originally accommodate 300 persons, the maximum number of participants for an activity would be 150 persons currently. However, if the activity to be held was a performance, the District Office would relax the restriction to allow participants of up to 75% of the original capacity, i.e., 225 persons. As regards the arrangement for COVID-19 testing, the District Office only required performers who did not wear masks during the performance to obtain a negative test result seven days prior to the first day of the booking period.

214. The Chairlady invited Members to comment on the application of the Chinese Arts and Culture Association. The name of the activity was “Cantonese Opera Extravaganza”. The organisation had applied for an allocation of \$30,000, while the agreed amount of allocation for an endorsed application in the category of Cantonese Opera would be \$20,000 across-the-board.

215. Members had no questions or comments on the application.

216. The Chairlady moved on to the application of the Raines Cantonese Opera Troupe. The name of the activity was “Classic Cantonese Operas”. The organisation had applied for an allocation of \$30,000, while the agreed amount of allocation for an endorsed application in the category of Cantonese Opera would be \$20,000 across-the-board. Members who had questions to raise were invited to switch on the indicator light.

217. Members had no questions or comments on this application.

218. The Chairlady referred to the supplementary information on the capacity restriction of the community hall at High Street that the District Office had provided just then, and invited the

attendees to raise their queries in respect of all six applications in that regard.

219. Ms LI Mee-nar of Elina Cantonese Opera Association stated that they had chosen Sai Ying Pun Community Complex at High Street as the venue because Sheung Wan Civic Centre would not be re-open until May next year. She had made a booking of the venue for 19 September but was unable to confirm if her booking would be cancelled, even if she had repeatedly made enquiries of the District Office. She asked whether the DC would allow a change of venue for the activity to be held at Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre if all other venues in the district were fully booked. She wanted to know the arrangements as early as possible so that she could proceed with other preparation work such as making appointments for makeup services. She was particularly worried about the venue arrangement as the activity would be held on an election day and the venue concerned might be used as a polling station.

220. The Assistant District Officer replied that she needed to further look into the situation mentioned by Ms LI Mee-nar and the relevant ticketing arrangements but said that Sheung Wan Civic Centre was not a venue managed by the District Office.

221. Ms CHENG Lai-king asked the representatives of LCSD to respond to the enquiry about venue booking. She enquired if there were other venues in the district that the organisations could use if Sheung Wan Civic Centre would have to undergo renovation while the community complex at High Street might be taken up by the District Office. She wondered if all the activities concerned would have to be postponed till April next year. She added that Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre was not a convenient venue.

222. Ms LAU Sau-ping of LCSD said that the theatre and lecture theatre of Sheung Wan Civic Centre were currently closed for refurbishment and were expected to reopen on 1 April next year. Ordinary bookings for the theatre would resume in September this year.

223. Ms CHENG Lai-king noted that the community complex at High Street had been used as a polling station before. Given that the election had been tentatively scheduled on 18 September, she suggested that the District Office should take back the venue as soon as practicable, so that the organisation concerned could reschedule their activities.

224. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that the current situation was that Sheung Wan Civic Centre was undergoing renovation and that the community complex at High Street was also likely to be used as a polling station or a temporary testing centre. He found it understandable if the applicant organisations wanted to change the venues for the activities under such circumstances. However, he suggested that the applicant organisations should notify the C&WDC and get the consent of the DC in advance if they wished to hold the activities in other districts. He opined that such arrangement would allow more flexibility. He expected that some venues would be

used as polling stations on the election day even though it was just a “lousy” election. Therefore, he advised Ms LI Mee-nar to have two strings to her bow. Otherwise, it would be undesirable that her organisation was unable to organise any activities two years in a row.

225. Ms NG Hoi-yan supported the suggestion of Mr KAM Nai-wai that applicant organisations should be allowed to hold the activities in other districts due to issues related to the pandemic and election. She then enquired about the booking situation of Hong Kong City Hall.

226. Ms LAU Sau-ping of LCSD said there had been a strong demand for the venues at Hong Kong City Hall and the schedule was tight. As a major performance venue, the theatre was open for bookings 12 months in advance of any performance. Therefore, the possibility of securing the venue for the activity in the current year was low. However, the organisations could give it a try anyway.

227. Ms NG Hoi-yan asked if Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe and the Chinese Arts and Culture Association had submitted booking applications for the venue at Hong Kong City Hall.

228. Ms CHENG Yuk-lan of Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe replied that they had submitted an application but had not been approved.

229. In view of the potential impact of the epidemic, elections and major refurbishment works of venues, the Chairlady asked if Members had any objection to the suggestion of allowing the applicant organisations using venues other than those in the Central and Western District after giving prior notice to the District Council. If there is no objection, she invited the guests to take note of it. If there were any other concerns, please inform the District Council immediately. She invited members to vote on each grant application.

230. The Committee approved the following six applications for funding. The amounts of funding approved and the voting results were as follows:

Applicant Organisation	Name of Activity	Funding Applied	Funding Approved	Voting Results
Yuet Sing Chinese Opera	Melodious Chinese Opera Show in the Central and Western District	\$27,200	\$20,000	<u>Adopted</u> 10 affirmative votes 0 dissenting vote 0 abstention vote

Yu Sam Chinese Opera Troupe	Chinese Operatic Songs Concert	\$30,000	\$20,000	<u>Adopted</u> 10 affirmative votes 0 dissenting vote 0 abstention vote
Elina Cantonese Opera Association	Chinese Operatic Songs Concert	\$30,000	\$20,000	<u>Adopted</u> 10 affirmative votes 0 dissenting vote 0 abstention vote
Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe	Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe – Passing on the Tradition of Cantonese opera	\$30,000	\$20,000	<u>Adopted</u> 9 affirmative votes 1 dissenting vote 0 abstention vote
Chinese Arts and Culture Association	Cantonese Opera Extravaganza	\$30,000	\$20,000	<u>Adopted</u> 8 affirmative votes 2 dissenting votes 0 abstention vote
Raines Cantonese Opera Troupe	Classic Cantonese Operas	\$30,000	\$20,000	<u>Adopted</u> 10 affirmative votes 0 dissenting vote 0 abstention vote

231. Ms NG Hoi-yan said that as she could not dispel her doubts about the interests involved in the relationship between Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe and the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, she therefore had voted against the application and requested to put her opinion on record.

232. The Chairlady suggested that if carry-forward arrangement was involved in the future, it might be necessary for the Secretariat to prepare a memo for the applicant organisations to sign. She asked the Secretariat to take note of that. In addition, as regards the overlapping of persons-in-charge of the Choi Fung Cheung Opera Troupe and the Chinese Arts and Culture Association, she said that the issue had existed since last year. She hoped relevant personnel would clarify doubts on the relationship between them in the future. Otherwise, the Secretariat should remind Members to take note of the matter concerned.

Item 9: Report on the Organisation of Recreation and Sports Programmes in the Central and Western District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (C&W CLSAC Paper No. 11/2021)

(6:17 pm)

233. The Chairlady asked Members to take note of the content of the paper.

Item 10: Report on 18dART – Community Arts Scheme 2021-22 in Central and Western District, District Free Entertainment Programmes and Other Arts and Cultural Activities in the Central and Western District organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(C&W CLSAC Paper No. 13/2021)

(6:18 pm)

234. Ms LAU Sau-ping, Senior Manager (Hong Kong West) of LCSD, added that the opening performance of the “Project on Rebooting Arts in Central and Western District” had been originally scheduled for 30 May this year. However, as it had been suggested that more time should be allowed for publicity, it was proposed that the performance should be postponed to 17 July. The tentative venue for the performance would be the community hall at Sai Ying Pun Community Complex. Further information would be provided for Members once available.

Item 11: Any Other Business

(6:18 pm)

235. Members had not raised any further matter for discussion.

Item 12: Date of Next Meeting

(6:18 pm)

236. The Chairlady announced that the next meeting would be held on 22 July 2021. The paper submission deadline for government departments would be 30 June 2021 while that for Members would be 7 July 2021.

237. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

The minutes were confirmed on 28 October 2021

Chairlady: Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille

Secretary: Mr YEUNG Lok-san